JOURNAL WINS FOR COMMUTERS

Test Case at the Jersey Central in Which Detectives Are Routed.

Sharp Engagement Ends by Police Dispersing Mr. Platt's Express Company's Men.

Justice Douglass, of Greenville, N. J., Takes a Prominent Part.

PASSENGERS GRATEFUL FOR RELIEF

Have Been Held Up Indiscriminately by the Company's Orders When Carrying Packages from the City to Their Homes.

The Journal won a signal victory for the New Jersey commuters yesterday. The guard of detectives in the service of Thomas C. Platt's United States Express Company was broken down. A test case was made, and a clean-cut defeat of the Express Company's methods resulted. It is hardly probable that any other hold-ups of commuters will be attempted by this corporation. Jersey City police, who had been summoned by the express company to assist in its war upon commuters, were turned upon the guard of detectives who blocked the Journal reporter's way to the train, and helped to put the obstructionists to rout. Last night they quit the scene.

It had already been shown by the Journal that the action of the express company in holding up certain commuters with bundles and allowing others to enter the trains who had carried packages was flagrant discrimination, plainly forbidden by law. Notwithstanding this, several Jerseyites had been stopped, and in each case different reasons given for the act.

Therefore a Journal reporter was instructed to follow the identical course of procedure which resulted in the holding up of Elmer Runyon, president of the Elizabeth Nursery Company. He did it, and the detectives attempted to block his way. They were completely frustrated in the attempt, to the delight of a vast throng who looked on with intense interest.

Yesterday afternoon the reporter, imitating Mr. Runyon, engaged little Joe Sheppard to carry three small packages over to the Jersey Central depot and there deliver them to him. The force of policemen and the detectives were in waiting. One of the detectives, who had been following the messenger boy's footsteps for days, went over on the same ferry with him, the one leaving the slip at the foot of Liberty street on this side of the river, at 4:30 o'clock.

Barred by Detectives.

Upon the arrival of the ferryboat on the Jersey City side, the reporter met Messenger Boy Joe Sheppard at the gate and took the packages from him. The transfer was made in a closely packed throng, and was unnoticed by any one except the keen-eyed sleuth who had been on the boy's trail. This detective followed closely, and, as the reporter neared the entrance to the Plainfield accommodation, with a regularly purchased ticket and the bundles in his arms, the agent of the express company pointed him out to three other detectives—Ritterbush, Large and Blackford—and cried to them to stop him.

The detectives promptly barred the way to the entrance, as they had done in the case of Mr. Runyon, and ordered the reporter to stop.

"You can't get on this train?" they declared.

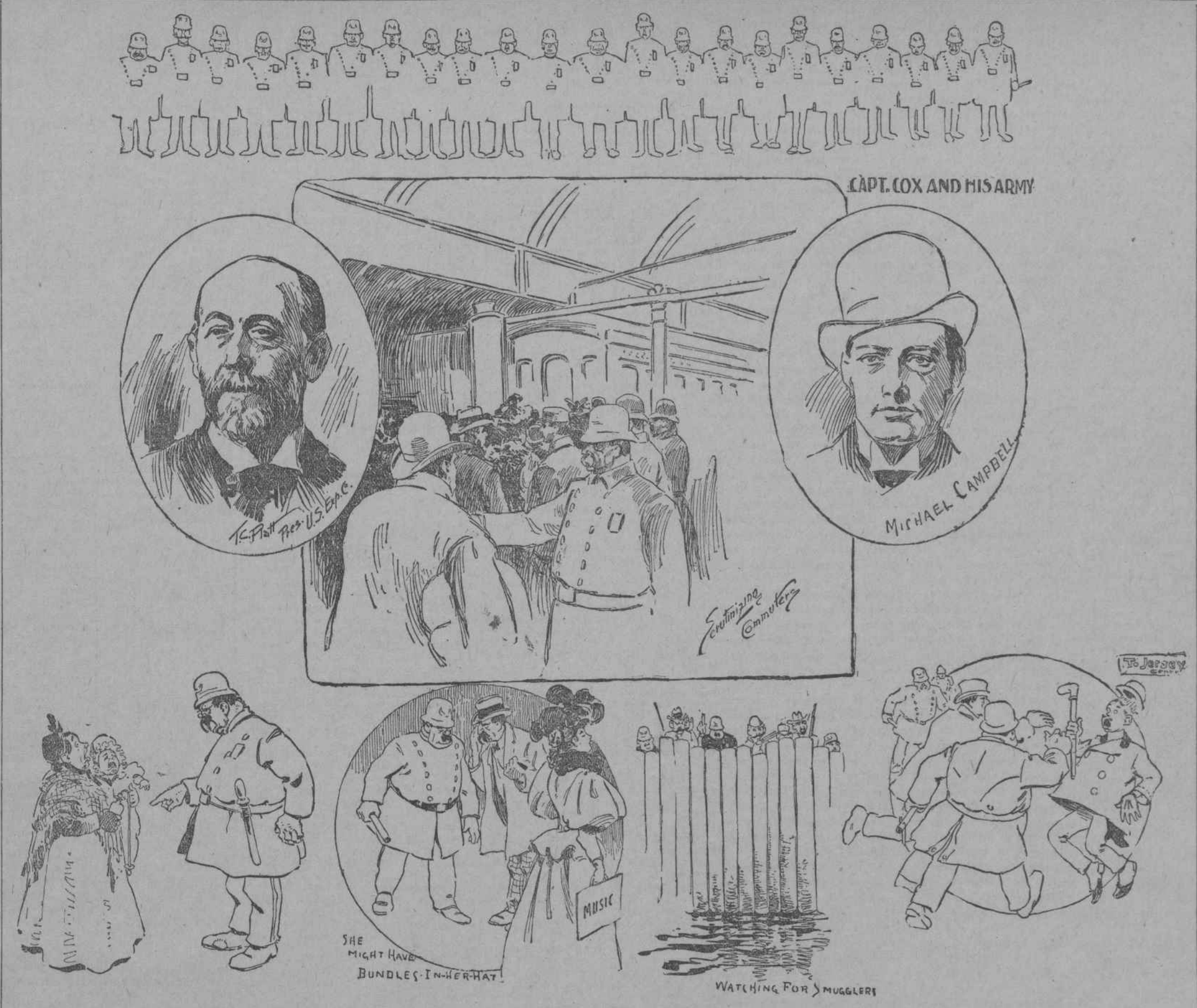
"Why not?" was asked.

"You just can't, that's all," replied one of the three men who blocked the passageway.

Turning to Police-Sergeant Wade, who was in charge of the squad of policemen, the reporter called to him:

"Sergeant, here are three men blocking my way to a train for which I have purchased a ticket. I do not know them, and they certainly have no right to delay or detain me. Will you kindly have them dispersed?"

By this time a large crowd had begun to gather, and the sergeant, ignoring the appeal that had been made to him, devoted his entire attention to pushing back bystanders. The demand was repeated to the officer, but he still worked with the crowd



HOW COMMUTERS WERE ANNOYED BY PLATT'S EXPRESS COMPANY UNTIL THE JOURNAL TOOK THEIR PART.

Michael Campbell was first prevented from boarding a train because he did a small express business for persons in nearby New Jersey. Then, in the effort to prevent any of the young man's parcels being taken aboard trains of the Jersey Central, commuters who have had to carry bundles to their homes have been rudely stopped and subjected to great annoyance by the orders of the company.

At this point Justice Douglass got behind the reporter and joined in a rush which the crowd also took a hand in. The railroad detectives were pushed back to the open gates.

Chief John K. Large, of the Jersey Central police, came to the aid of his men. Railroad men hurried to the assistance of the detectives. For a moment or two the result was in doubt.

The Justice Commands.

Justice Douglass himself caught hold of Detective Blackford and hurled him to one side. The detectives, however, quickly closed up their ranks. They were by this time almost nonplussed at the turn affairs had taken.

Justice Douglass had become incensed at the failure of the police sergeant to act upon his advice. Turning to one of the policemen whom he recognized, the Justice commanded:

"McGuire, move those men and let this passenger get to his train."

The command was spoken in no uncertain tones. The policeman glanced toward his sergeant, but the latter was too much confused to say anything. Then he looked at Justice Douglass, whose eyes flashed determinedly. McGuire hesitated but a moment. Then he plunged against those detectives like the star half-back of a crack football team, and the men fell away before him like so many ten pins. The reporter, following closely in McGuire's lead, was then allowed to go ahead undisturbed, and to hard the train with his armful of bundles.

The commuters who witnessed the test were not slow in expressing their approval and delight at the turn it had taken. They were enthusiastic, and discussed what they considered their own triumph all the way to their homes. Among those who witnessed the test was Elmer Runyon, who was also very much interested, because of his own experience of a few days before.

This will no doubt insure the people of New Jersey, who live on this road, relief from the annoyances to which they have been subjected for several days and which have stirred them to a high pitch of indignation.

overpowering the line of detectives, forced the lad on the train. For his part in that rush John B. Bissell, a lawyer and insurance man of Elizabeth, with an office at No. 59 Cedar street, this city, was arrested, and will be tried for disorderly conduct before Justice Potts in Jersey City next Wednesday.

The third traveller stopped by the cordon of detectives was Elmer Runyon, president of the Elizabeth Nursery Company. The reason given for stopping Mr. Runyon was that the packages which he carried had been brought to the depot, the detectives claimed, by Joe Sheppard. Mr. Runyon protested vigorously against his detention at the time, and has since engaged counsel to file a suit for $10,000 damages against the railroad.

Commuters Had to Submit.

Since the afternoon on which the commuters overpowered the detectives and rushed Joe Sheppard on his train the employes of the railroad and express company have been daily reinforced by a large squad of Jersey City police, and the commuters have been awed into submission to whatever the detectives chose to submit them. They knew that the express company was not acting legally, but the force of the servants of the law had been in some way turned over to the command of that corporation, and, as none of the people who are compelled to travel over that road to reach their homes cared to spend the night in the Jersey City police station, they quietly submitted.

Justice Douglass lives in Arlington avenue, in Greenville, N. J., and sometimes goes home by way of the Jersey Central. He went that way last night at 5:15 o'clock. He is a lawyer of thirty years' practice.

Detective Ritterbush said that the railroad company would proceed against the city of Jersey City because of the police interference. He made a note of Policeman McGurc's shield number, which was 211.

STRUCK HIS STEPDAUGHTER.

Little Girl Interfered to Save Her Mother and Was Badly Hurt.

Thomas Dooner, a truck driver, living at No. 746 Myrtle avenue, assaulted his fifteen-year-old stepdaughter, Mary McHugh, New Year's night because the girl interfered with him while he was quarrelling with his wife. The child was struck in the chest and became unconscious.

An ambulance surgeon, who was summoned, found the girl internally injured and she was taken to the Homeopathic Hospital. A policeman arrested Dooner, and yesterday Justice Goetting, in the Lee Avenue Police Court, Williamsburg, remanded him for trial.

Quick Time Aiken and Augusta.
New service via Pennsylvania & Southern Railway. New York office 271 Broadway.—Advt.

DOWN ELEVATOR SHAFT.

A Workman's Fatal Fall from the Top of a New Brooklyn Sky-Scraper.

William Farrell, a bricklayer, twenty-one years old, fell from the eleventh to the fifth floor of the Mechanics' Bank building, corner of Court and Montague streets, Brooklyn, yesterday, and was fatally hurt.

He was employed by Thomas Rutan laying bricks around the top of the elevator shaft. He used a "straight-edge" twelve feet long. While carrying this cumbersome timber he tripped against a broken plank and lost his balance.

For a moment his body swayed on the edge of the shaft, and then the weight of the timber carried him forward, and, with a yell, he plunged down the shaft.

His body struck the iron beams at each floor, and bounded right and left in its descent. It caught on the beam at the fifth floor, and was suspended in mid air. Other workmen reached out, took Farrell by the arm and dragged him from the shaft. He was frightfully mangled, but still alive. The body was lowered to the ground on a small mortar elevator.

The Rev. James Kelly, of St. James's Cathedral, was summoned, and administered the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. He was taken to St. Peter's Hospital, where he died soon after his arrival. Farrell lived with his father and mother, at No. 22 Pulaski street.

TWO SAVINGS BANKS FAIL.

Troubles in Chicago and Elsewhere Affected the Omaha Institution—Other to Close Its Doors in Michigan.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 2.—The Omaha Savings Bank failed to open for business this morning. Ex-Senator Manderson is president of the bank, and J. E. Wilbur is cashier. The bank was established in 1882. Six months ago its deposits were one million and a half, but withdrawals have reduced them to less than $900,000. The face value of assets almost reaches $1,100,000, and capital and surplus are $185,000.

The clearing house banks declined to assist the bank to the extent required, except on condition that the stockholders of the failed bank would themselves advance $100,000 and take that amount of real estate off the bank's hands. The failure was due to the rapid withdrawals of deposits during the past three weeks, caused by excitement resulting from bank failures in Chicago and elsewhere.

Bank's Collapse Causes Excitement.

Whitehall, Mich., Jan. 2.—Bank Examiner Angell this morning closed the Whitehall State Savings Bank, posting a notice on the door that he had taken possession. Much excitement prevails. According to the last report issued by the bank, it shows about $80,000 in deposits and about $2,000 on hand; loans and discounts, $92,000; stocks, bonds and mortgages, $4,500; surplus, $1,000. The officers of the bank have made no statement.

Paper Bag Company Assigns.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The Western Paper Bag Company, of Batavia, Ill., one of the Van Nortwick plants, was placed in the hands of a receiver at noon to-day by the United States Court. William G. Stevens, of Chicago, agreed upon by the counsel on both sides, was appointed the receiver, [illegible] a [illegible] of $100,000. The defendant [illegible] admits itself to be insolvent, [illegible] a schedule of assets a[illegible]

BRAM GUILTY OF TRIPLE MURDER.

Jury, After Long Balloting, Brings in a Verdict Against the First Mate.

Only After Twenty-six Hours' Deliberation Was the Decision Reached.

Trial Has Been in Progress in Boston Since Monday, December 14, Last Year.

CLOSE OF A STARTLING CASE.

Doomed Man Is Convicted of Having Killed Captain and Mrs. Nash and a Fellow Officer of a Vessel on the High Seas.

Boston, Jan. 2.—The jury in the Bram case, the trial of which has lasted since Monday, December 14, 1896, came in with a verdict of guilty at 3:40 o'clock this afternoon, after having been out twenty-six hours and a half. During that time they had come in once for instructions and twice to report inability to agree. Their final agreement seems to have been due to Justice Colt's advice to them at 2:30 o'clock.

"The only mode provided by our Constitution and laws for deciding questions of fact in criminal cases is by the verdi[illegible] of a jury," said the Judge. "Although th[illegible] verdict to which a juror agrees must, [illegible] course, be his own verdict, the result [illegible] his own convictions and not a mere acq[illegible] esence in the conclusion of his fellows, [illegible] in order to bring twelve minds to a un[illegible] imous result you must examine the qu[illegible] tions submitted to you with candor [illegible] with a proper regard and deference to [illegible] opinions of each other.

Instructions to the Jury.

"In conferring together you ought [illegible] pay proper respect to each other's opin[illegible] and listen with a disposition to be [illegible] vinced to each other's argument. And [illegible] the other hand, if the larger numb[illegible] your panel is for a conviction, a disse[illegible] juror should consider whether a do[illegible] his own mind is a reasonable doubt. [illegible] makes no impression upon the minds [illegible] many men equally honest, equally [illegible] gent with himself, and who have hea[illegible] same evidence with the same att[illegible] with an equal desire to arrive at the [illegible] and under the sanction of the same [illegible]

"And, on the other hand, if a m[illegible] are for acquital, the minority oug[illegible] ously to ask themselves whether th[illegible] not reasonably and ought not to d[illegible] correctness of a judgment which [illegible] concurred in by most of those wi[illegible] they are associated, and distrust th[illegible] or sufficiency of that evidence wh[illegible] to carry conviction to the minds [illegible] fellows."

The delay had been due to di[illegible] opinion. The jury were very [illegible] about the testimony of Charles [illegible] to his ability to see through the [illegible] dow. It was discussed [illegible] jury, and several ballot[illegible] the discussion. In all, there we[illegible] six ballots taken. These were tak[illegible] ballots at a time.

Seven to Five on First Ballot.

The first ballot was taken immediately the jury went to their room. The ballot then stood seven to five. No further ballot was taken for three hours. When this was taken there were eleven for conviction and one for acquittal. The one vote, it is said, was cast by Juror Howes, of Chatham. At intervals through the night other ballots were taken in batches of three. The vote fell back to eight to four. This morning before breakfast a ballot was taken, and the vote stood nine to three. After breakfast it was again eight to four. So it fluctuated all through the day, until at length a verdict was reached at 3:40 o'clock.

"It was totally unexpected to me," Prisoner Bram stated to a reporter. "I was quite confident all day that it would be acquittal or disagreement. My conscience does not trouble me in the least, for I am innocent of the charge. Some day I know I shall be vindicated, but, of course, I cannot tell when."

"Have you any hope of a new trial?"

"Mr. Cotter tells me he thinks it possible," was the response.

"Yes, I am innocent, as God is my judge, I would not stand here and say to you all this if I did not mean it."

The only sign which betrayed the horrible ordeal the man was undergoing was a profuse perspiration which fairly streamed out of every pore. He did not weaken perceptibly, and his step was as firm as a man's as he walked from the Marshal's office.

Lester H. Monks, the student wi[illegible] and passenger on board the Fuller [illegible] mained away from the court-room all [illegible] but to-night, at his father's home in [illegible] line, expressed entire satisfaction [illegible] surprise at the verdict.

The popular interest in the case [illegible] almost without precedent. Not[illegible] the corridors of the Federa[illegible] crowded, but the stairs in f[illegible] newspaper offices were throng[illegible] ple eager for the final anno[illegible]

Lawyer Cotter, for the de[illegible] given two weeks in whic[illegible] ceptions and the District [illegible] in which to consider t[illegible] the prisoner will rem[illegible] jail, where he has been [illegible]

Down among the [illegible] opinion expressed [illegible] righteous verdict [illegible]

The full s[illegible] on the h[illegible] Bram, o[illegible]

SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OF OUR STRIPED LEISURE CLASS.