

# WORK OF THE LEXOW COMMITTEE.

## Frauds Exposed in the New York Police Department.

### MANY OFFICIALS ON THE RACK.

Serious Charges Were Made by Witnesses Against Three Commissioners, Three Inspectors and Twenty-two Captains—Superintendent Byrnes Explains How He Became Wealthy—Dr. Parkhurst Greatly Aided the Investigation.

The committee appointed by the senate of the state of New York to investigate alleged corruption in the police department of New York city has ended its labors. Senator Clarence Lexow, chairman of the committee, says of its work: "The result of the labors of the committee have far exceeded any expectations formed by any of its members at the outset. We came to the city without even a trace of confirma-



CLARENCE LEXOW.

tory proof showing corruption in the department, and all that has been elicited since has been secured through channels opened by the representatives of the committee, aided, of course, by those instrumentalities that were at the command of Dr. Parkhurst, whose experience was undoubtedly of the greatest value in the work that we had in hand.

"I do not believe that, with the exception of those initiated and those participating in the revenue of crime and vice, anybody in this entire community had the faintest appreciation of the real condition of affairs. They believed that toll and tribute were levied sporadically, according to the pressing necessities of officials, but no one appreciated that corruption had been reduced to such a perfect system, extending throughout every precinct of the city, and was so systematized that upon the transfer of captains not even the conversations with wardmen were necessary in order to lippress upon them their duty as collectors of unlawful revenue. This has been proved to be the true state of affairs, not apparently the creation of months, but of years, during which undoubtedly the evil has progressively increased until we find it in its present condition of perfect development.

"The testimony of Superintendent Byrnes, which may be regarded as a fitting climax of the conditions which have been revealed, shows conclusively the necessity for radical and basic reorganization, especially because it compels the conviction that, in default of this, an amelioration would prove to be only temporary. It shows the absolute necessity of placing in the hands of the executive head of the department such enlarged disciplinary powers as will make the superintendent absolutely responsible for the efficiency, discipline and resultant purity of the police force. We have the material now upon which to base remedial legislation, which will enable the people to hold somebody responsible for any future demoralization and inefficiency of the police system of New York city."

Attorney John W. Goff, who was recently elected recorder of the city of New York, the senior counsel of the committee, speaks warmly in praise of Dr. Parkhurst's aid in the work of investigation. He said: "But for Dr. Parkhurst, my associates Mr. Jerome, Mr. Moss and myself would never have been counsel to the committee. Everything was so discouraging. The outlook was exceedingly gloomy. The fate of previous investigating committees was before us. In our hands there was not a scintilla of evidence that would prove an act of corruption on the part of any member of the police department. The air was filled with rumors of political deals. Every man who spoke of the matter warned us of the danger that concerned such an attempt and of the utter futility of making an effort to expose bribery and corruption in the police department. One voice rang out clear and above all others. It urged action. It foretold success. It appealed so eloquently that it was irresistible. That voice was the voice of Dr. Parkhurst.

"Business men who had for years suffered the impositions of the police asked us why they should go forward and antagonize that most powerful department. They said they would not do it. Each man was perfectly willing that his neighbor should go to the front, but he most positively declined to go to the front himself.

"Dramatic situations were involved from the very nature of things. Phases of commercial life were revealed which, if written by a novelist, would be ascribed to his great and inventive brain.

"But the realities came in rapid succession until before the summer recess the public was absolutely satisfied by positive proof on the witness stand, corroborated by facts, details and circumstances that could leave no room for doubt, that the police department of the city of New York was not only corrupt, but that it was oppressive and repulsive to a degree beyond endurance.

"When the fact of the general corruption was established, we considered it prudent, indeed necessary, to follow it through all its ramifications.

"I have no hesitation in saying that to give detailed evidence of all the sources, methods, plans and devices of police corruption, bribery and oppression in the city of New York would occupy the investigating committee two years longer. The mine was inexhaustible. Its extent was only limited by the boundless sources of New York to yield wealth and power to the men who were extracting it.

"The method which we adopted was not haphazard or accidental. It was carefully thought out and planned. Had it failed it would have been condemned as a

bad method, but having succeeded it is entitled to the credit due all success."

The following brief review of the work accomplished by the committee gives a complete summary of its 73 days' session: The committee was appointed during the first month of 1894 and has sat about 75 days in all. It was appointed on a resolution offered in the senate by Senator Lexow. Then Senator (now Lieutenant Governor) Charles T. Sexton, presiding officer of the senate pro tem., appointed the committee, which consists of Clarence Lexow of Rockland county, chairman; George W. Robertson, Westchester county; Edmund O'Connor, Broome county; Charles T. Sexton, Wayne county; Charles W. Pound, Niagara county; Daniel Bradley, Kings county, and Jacob A. Cantor, New York county. The committee in its preliminary work had a couple of meetings at the Hotel Metropole.

The committee did nothing of particular importance except to think until March 10.

On that date the first session was held. Lawyer W. A. Sutherland of Rochester acted as counsel and investigated the political end of the affair. It was prior to the appointment of two Republicans as police commissioners. Dr. Laney Nicoll represented the police department at that time, though he wasn't permitted to do anything by the committee.

On March 18 Chairman Lexow announced formally that Messrs. Goff, Jerome and Moss had been selected as counsel to investigate the police department.

The committee did a considerable amount of examining early in its career under the guidance of Mr. Goff, but it first began to reach something tangible on May 23. Then direct charges against Police Commissioner John McClave were made by his son-in-law, Gideon Granger.

Mr. Goff occupied two days more in questioning Mr. McClave in the severest possible manner. He went into McClave's private books and dealt especially with Mr. McClave's administration of the police funds, which were in his charge as treasurer of the police board.

McClave could not account for certain deposits in his bank account, and Mr. Goff endeavored to prove connection between these deposits and the appointment of certain police captains by McClave. The commissioner denied that they had any relation to each other, but could not explain fully about the deposits and his method of drawing checks against them. A week later Granger was still in hiding, and Mr. Goff devoted the day to minor testimony.

At the next session he began to get into the subject of police protection and had several witnesses testify to the corruption in the department. It was on June 3 that a number of bawdy keepers testified to having paid for protection, and as a result of the day's work four captains—Cassidy, Cross, McLaughlin and Devery—were involved.

Tuesday, June 5, was a field day in the committee's history. A number of police officers of various rank were accused of levying or receiving blackmail, and a bawdy keeper charged Civil Justice Roesch with dealing in protection. She was Mrs. Augusta Thurow, who for six years kept a house of ill repute at 23 Second avenue.

She swore that she paid protection money to Wardmen Bissert, Hoch and Mehan under Captains McCullagh and Doherty. She also said that she personally arranged with Captain Doherty for paying blackmail. Mrs. Thurow's most sensational testimony, however, was given when she said that for \$150 Civil Justice Roesch agreed to arrange matters with Wardman Hoch, who had become extraordinarily extortionate in his demands on her.

She described minutely the practice of paying money to police sergeants in order to induce them to accept her as bondswoman for girls arrested in disorderly houses. In this way she brought in Sergeants Clark and Liebers. She swore, too, that she paid money to Central Office Detectives Jacobs and McManus. She gave patrolmen on her beat \$2 a week and mentioned Lang, Murdock, Hughes and Morris as among them.

Katie Schubert, who ran a house at 144 Chrystie street, swore that she had paid money to police captains—\$500 and \$50 a month to McLaughlin, now inspector, the same to Captain Cross and the same to Captain Doherty.

When the committee convened again on the following day, interest in paying the police for protection was dwarfed by the reappearance of Gideon Granger, who went on the stand and swore that he had five times personally handed to Commissioner McClave money to buy promotion or favor. He denied the charges of theft made by his father-in-law and also some of those of forgery.

The testimony of Mrs. Thurow and Mrs. Schubert was followed up on June 7 by the still more sensational story of Mrs. Lena Cohen, a bawdy keeper at 328 East Houston street. She said that she paid



JOHN W. GOFF.

\$500 to the police for what she considered a permit to open the place. The money was paid to Wardmen Brennan and Farrell.

Captain Siebert was at the head of the precinct. She had to borrow the money at exorbitant rates, and the police closed her house when Dr. Parkhurst became active. The next session of the committee was devoted to torturing Civil Justice Roesch, who said that Mrs. Thurow was his client, and that he took the money from her as a retainer. He denied that he ever paid for police protection.

He acknowledged that he had advised Mrs. Thurow to mention his name if she ever had any trouble in getting her girls out on bail. He had had several keepers of disorderly houses as clients. He acted in their behalf as a lawyer and not as a district leader.

Mr. Roesch gave some interesting testimony about \$5 tickets to the Seventh District Tammany club's chowder. He underwent a very severe examination and was decidedly glad to leave the stand. Mrs. Amelia Zentz swore on the same

day that she had paid \$5 a month blackmail to Wardman Charles Sherman when she kept a saloon at 732 Cortlandt avenue in 1889 and 1890.

More stories of bribery came out on the following day, when Captain Price's wardman, Wagner, was accused of taxing the unlicensed Alhambra concert hall. Morris Jacobs swore that he had paid money to the John J. Ryan association in an attempt to get on the police force. Flora Walsh said she ran a cafe with girls and paid \$15 a month to Captain Doherty's wardman, Hoch.

After a recess of a few days the stories of bribe giving were continued on June 13. Jacobs told more about his futile attempts to get on the police force. Mrs. Henrietta Hensing swore that she paid money to Wardman Hoch, Sergeant Bush and Detective Mallon. Caterer Otto Brizzolari of 17 East Seventeenth street said he paid \$150 to a police sergeant in uniform for permission to sell liquor all night at a ball.

An interesting feature of the session was the testimony of Port Warden Louis Munzinger, who produced the books of the Pequod club and said that 1,000 \$5 tickets had been sold for a chowder party. The good work went on on the following day with testimony to the effect that there was no rebate when police protection failed to protect.

Ex-Assemblyman Philip Wissig was accused of taking money to influence the police.

Carl Werner, who ran a house of ill repute at 6 Delancey street, said that at Captain Devery's request he made arrangements for protection with Wardman Glennon. He paid \$600 and \$50 a month.

Almost the whole of Friday, June 15, was devoted to green goods revelations made by George Apos, the son of a notorious Chinese criminal by a white woman. He described the swindle at full length and said that McNally and Hadlock were at the head of the syndicates operating in this city.

Ida Bell, who ran a disorderly house, swore that she paid \$150 a quarter for ten years in the Tenderloin. She paid the wardmen, one of whom was Burns, Captain Schmittberger's man. Williams, Rolly, McLaughlin and O'Connor were also captains of the precinct within the ten years.

Parkhurst Agent Whitney testified that he paid bribes to Captain Killilea and Killilea's wardmen. The following day was noticeable in bringing to light the now famous word "pantata."

Joseph Pospisil, a Bohemian saloon keeper at 1370 Avenue A, told about the leaving at Wardman Campbell's house of \$300 raised by a club of liquor dealers. He said that entries in his books referring



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to the payment of certain sums of money to "pantata" meant to Campbell, but that the word meant in every case "head man" or "the old man."

There was another sensation on Wednesday, June 20, when Bunko Man Clarke said Police Justice Diver's saloon was the headquarters of the green goods business in this city. He accused Diver of starting Ed Parmeley in the business and of keeping the bank roll in his safe at night.

Joseph Kovar of Pospisil's Bohemian club told about giving \$100 to Captain Strauss and \$25 to his wardman as Christmas presents.

Harry Hill went on the stand on the next day and gave vent to his old grudge against Police Captain Murphy. Ida L. Morton, housekeeper for Lucy McCarthy of 104 West Forty-ninth street, said Mrs. McCarthy had paid patrolmen and Captain Devery's wardman.

Steamship men took the stand on June 23 and told of extortion by the police. They accused the Leonard street police of collecting \$25 a year from each house whose goods block the sidewalk. Patrolman Beech described how he gave \$10 of his extra fee from steamship companies to Sergeant Taylor.

William Mayston, a peddler, said the police blackmail even street fakirs. On the next day there were more stories about the Leonard street police renting out the sidewalk for cash.

John T. Stephenson was captain during part of the time. H. Schubert, a German, also made direct charges that Inspector Williams, when captain, demanded protection tribute. On Wednesday, June 27, Leroy M. Lyon, a fruit dealer at 279 Washington street, told more about the Leonard street police. He said when he objected to having his protection raised once the wardman told him that there was a new captain, and that they had to raise \$15,000 to pay for his promotion. A number of other produce merchants told of paying blackmail.

On Saturday, June 30, the committee took a recess until Sept. 10. It wound up its first period of work in sensational style. Patrick Ryan testified that he had paid the police by check. He had given \$100 to Captain Stephenson. Witnesses testified also that the Church street police blackmail push cart peddlers.

The committee resumed its sittings on Sept. 10, when William Applegate, an assistant of King McNally, told more about the green goods business and said he bribed central office men. On the next day James H. Perkins, a retired contractor, swore that he gave Captain Williams \$500 in cash. Captains Price and Meakin and Detective Hay were accused of taking money from green goods man McNally, and it was charged that Detective Hanley was the green goods men's agent at the central office.

Another recess was taken from Sept. 16 to Oct. 1. On Oct. 1 Contractor George W. Carpenter said he paid bribes to Captain Stephenson's wardman. Several days were devoted to taking testimony about policemen accused of clubbing. On Oct. 5 a witness said he used to send cash in boxes of cigars to Captain Reilly.

Susanne Martin, who ran a house in Elizabeth street, said she paid money to

Williams and to the wardmen for Captains Cassidy, McLaughlin and Cross. She had paid \$8,000 or \$10,000.

The first policeman to squeal—Patrolman De Gann of the steamboat squad—testified on Oct. 10 that he was transferred because he would not give up all the \$10 a week that the French line paid him. He had a ways given up half to collectors for various captains. Agent Forget of the French line acknowledged that he gave Schmittberger \$500 at one time.

On Oct. 11 Vincent Majowski told about police protection of policy shops and said he saw Captain Doherty receive bribes.

On Oct. 26 Commissioner Sheehan was examined, but Mr. Goff got little from him. He had no better luck on the next day. Mr. Sheehan refused positively to produce his bankbooks. Mr. Goff got little out of him on the third day. The commissioner only said he believed there was corruption in the department, but it was Superintendent Byrnes' duty to find it out. Mr. Goff spent another day with Mr. Sheehan and then finally excused him.

During November and December an immense number of witnesses were examined before the committee. The work dragged considerably during November, and little of really startling interest developed. In December, however, the committee learned by far the most important facts brought out in the whole investigation.

Commissioners, inspectors and captains were directly implicated in the last few weeks, and the story of police corruption has been told from the inside. It really began with the confession of Captain Timothy J. Creeden, who, after once denying that he bought his captaincy, finally acknowledged that he paid \$15,000 for the place. He borrowed the money from his friends, among them Congressman Elect Henry C. Miner. William Snell, a Grace Democracy leader, held the money.

At the proper time he paid it over to John W. Rappenhagen, another Grace Democracy leader. According to Rappenhagen's confession, made after he, like Creeden, had once sworn that he knew nothing of the purchase of the captaincy, he gave \$10,000 to ex-Assemblyman John Martin and kept the other \$5,000 for himself.

Martin was very close to Police Commissioner Voorhis, then the leader of the New York Democracy. Voorhis appointed Creeden. Creeden said he bid \$15,000 because Sergeant Wiegand, who was also after promotion, had bid, so he was informed, as high as \$13,000.

The testimony of ex-Sergeant Taylor of the steamboat squad, given a few days before Creeden's, implicated ex-Inspector Steers. Taylor said he paid to Steers part of the blackmail which he collected in his district.

Creeden's confession paved the way for that of Captain Schmittberger, who, to save himself from prison, told all about the blackmailing system and said he had divided the profits with Inspectors Williams and McAvoy.

He implicated Commissioner Sheehan by saying that Sheehan threatened to shut up Daly's gambling house if the police refused to let his friend Proctor run one. He also implicated Commissioner Martin, who, he said, protected disorderly houses on Forty-sixth street, and who ordered him to apologize to Sadie West, a woman against whom complaints had been made, for sending a policeman to her house.

Inspector Williams, who was on the stand three days and more, denied Schmittberger's charges. He denied all the corruption stories and made only one admission—that Fleiss, a stockbroker, had given him \$6,000 for nothing.

Police Commissioner Martin's examination was productive of little beyond the fact that he thought there was corruption in the department, and that it would stay there.

During its sessions witnesses before the committee have made serious charges against three commissioners, one ex-commissioner, three inspectors, one ex-inspector and 22 captains and ex-captains, besides a number of sergeants, detectives, wardmen and patrolmen.

At the final session of the Lexow committee Superintendent Byrnes and Inspector McLaughlin were witnesses. After testifying that he had accumulated property to the value of \$350,000 through investments made for him by Jay Gould and his son George, Superintendent Byrnes made public his letter of resignation, which had been sent to Mayor Elect Strong Dec. 13.

Inspector McLaughlin denied that he had received money except his salary.

Police Justice Voorhis of New York sent to the Lexow committee an affidavit making a denial of the charges made by Captain Creeden and others that he received money for his action in the promotion or transfer of any police officer while he was a police commissioner.

Anthony Comstock, who was charged by Louis F. Strep before the Lexow committee with having received bribes, in an open letter to that committee denied the charges and brands Strep's testimony as false in every particular.

### Different Standpoints.

The late dowager Duchess of Montrose once won a big race, and, as was her custom on such occasions, she had invited a large party of guests at short notice to celebrate the event. Everything was got ready. The table decorations were especially fine, and they pleased her so well that she promptly ordered her head gardener, who had personally undertaken the arrangements, to go for a week's holiday at her expense. The favored retainer promptly obeyed the order and had what he thought was a splendid time. Returning at the end of his week, he was asked by the duchess to submit his list of expenses, and he did so, sending in what seemed to him a respectable bill. Her grace scanned it for a moment and then said:

"Look here, I told you to enjoy yourself thoroughly, and it is plain from this you have not done so. Mind, the next time I send you for a holiday I shall expect my instructions to be obeyed."—London Letter.

### When You Eat Ice.

A boy eats two ounces of ice. Let us see what is the approximately thermodynamic equivalent of the work he has made his interior do, assuming he takes five minutes to eat it. In melting the ice he will require 18 units to reduce it to water. To raise it in temperature to that of his inside he will require seven more units, or a total of 25 British thermal units. Taking the mechanical equivalent as 777 foot pounds, this will be equal to 19,425 foot pounds. If the boy weighs 100 pounds, he will have called upon his stomach to do as much heat work as would, with a machine having unit efficiency, raise him 194 feet high, or a rate of heat extraction equal to nearly an eighth of a horsepower.—Engineer.

# THE PRESIDENT INDORSED.

## CLEVELAND'S HAWAIIAN POLICY APPROVED.

### SENATE PASSES VEST'S RESOLUTION.

It indorsed the President's course and advised non-interference—The vote was 24 to 22—Hot Language From Senators Lodge and Frye—Vote in Detail.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28.—The journal of yesterday's proceedings in the senate was so voluminous, relating to the Nicaragua bill, that immediately after the gavel fell Mr. Kyle of North Dakota secured unanimous consent to dispose of its reading. Mr. Hoar asked that the rules be amended to permit the presence of members-elect of the house on the floor. Mr. Harris, who was in the chair, said that such was the rule, but Mr. Hoar said that some of the doorkeepers did not so understand and so the senate declared, at his request, that the privilege should be extended.

Mr. Allen of Nebraska presented a resolution authorizing the secretary of the treasury to exercise his discretion in redeeming all forms of paper currency in silver as often as he should be convinced that a systematic effort was being made to deplete the gold reserve and force an issue of bonds. It went over under the rules.

Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts, then arose to reply to the charge of Mr. Mills that the fact that New England held Hawaiian bonds was the motive inspiring New England senators in their interest for the Hawaiian republic. He declared that the bond story was a miserable falsehood. The original statement purported to be based on a letter in the possession of a Democratic senator. He expressed doubt as to this and said that it would be an easy thing for the senator to produce the letter.

Mr. Frye of Maine followed Mr. Lodge and it soon became evident that the New England senators were deeply incensed at Mr. Mill's speech of yesterday and intended to resent it vigorously. First he read the original charges that a Democratic senator had received a letter from Hawaii charging that cheap Hawaiian bonds there were being floated in New England and that this was the motive behind the enthusiasm of the New England senators for Hawaii.

Then turning to the Democratic side he said: "If a Democratic senator now present has such a letter I ask him to send it to the clerk's desk and have it read." The Democratic senators looked at one another but there was no reply and he proceeded: "If the senator is not here then I will ask him when he comes to produce that letter."

Mr. Frye turned his attention to the detailed charges made in the original article quoted by Mr. Mills and pronounced them falsifications throughout. He then referred to an editorial appearing in a New York morning paper to-day. "There is intimation made in this article of some peculiar disclosures likely to come as to certain New England senators," he proceeded. "Then the names of Frye and Boutelle, and I think Senators Lodge and Hawley, are used with such suggestive absence and mixture of given names as to avoid a direct charge. So far as the Frye family of Maine is concerned, there is but one that I know of, and I belong to it. Perhaps some Democratic senator will present a letter that I am the one who has received Hawaiian bonds in consideration of my action here."

Mr. Frye read from the report of Mr. Mills' speech wherein the latter suggested that perhaps it would be well to have a senatorial investigation of these charges against New England and her senators, and went on: "I had hoped that the senator who made that suggestion would be here. I wish he were in the senate now."

Then raising his voice until it rang through the chamber the senator added: "But I now charge, in the absence of the senator—I make the charge so he will read it in the Record—that he conveyed this information to the New York correspondents that he himself is the Democratic senator who has the letter. The absence of this senator prevents me from saying more. I will say the rest in his presence. I expect him to say to the senate whether he gave this information to the correspondent and whether he has any information as to New England senators having Hawaiian bond interests."

Mr. Frye declared that the only indebtedness of the Hawaiian government held outside of Hawaii was \$1,000,000 of bonds held in England, which commands a premium and which the people of Hawaii had tried in vain to get back so as to hold them themselves.

The Vest substitute on the Hawaiian question indorsing the course of the administration and advising non-interference was then adopted by the vote of 24 to 22, as follows:

Yeas—Bate, Blackburn, Blanchard, Caffery, Butler, Call, Cockrell, George, Gibson, Gray, Harris, Hunt, Irby, Jones of Arkansas, Lindsay, Martin, Mills, Pasco, Pettigrew, Ransom, Turpie, Vest, Villas and Walsh. Total 24.

Nays—Aldrich, Allen, Allison, Cameron, Carey, Chandler, Cullom, Davis, Frye, Gallinger, Hale, Higgins, Kyle, Mitchell of Oregon; Peffer, Platt, Pritchard, Proctor, Sherman, Stewart, Teller and Wolcott. Total 22.

A 2 o'clock bankruptcy bill was taken up, but was formally laid aside and minor matters considered.

### The Text Book Problem.

TOPEKA, Kan., Jan. 28.—One of the big fights of this session of the legislature will be over the various school text book measures which have been introduced in each branch. In the senate the committee has agreed on a substitute for all. In the house the committee has not yet acted.

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