

Byrne Is Awarded M. E. Smith After Bidding \$1,830,000

Competitor Takes Over Assets of Once Great Dry Goods House; Fight Is Spirited.

(Continued From Page One.)
me that I may bid another \$25,000 for the assets. I therefore bid \$1,825,000. It was just \$110,000 more than an original bid submitted several days ago, but it did not suffice.
Hall rose and again enacted the little drama in which he had played a leading role throughout the day. "I bid \$1,830,000."
"I will go no higher," Mr. Crofoot said, simply, and stepped from beside the table to a place among the spectators.
It was the cue for A. A. Memhard, attorney for New York creditors. An hour before he had been closeted with Crofoot.

Hall Speaks Again.
Now he pleaded with the court to accept the Crofoot bid. The creditors believed they would receive more money under the bid. It was best for Omaha that the bid be accepted, and the creditors were eager that the business be continued.
Again Hall arose, and again what he said drove an actor to the audience.
"These were his lines, a bit longer than before."
"The cat's out of the bag now. The question of the continuance of this business is not a matter before this court. The court cannot look into that. The court is bound to accept the best bid."

A brief plea from Sanford Otis, attorney for the noteholders, favoring the Crofoot bid; a word or two from Referee Dunham, awarding the assets to Hall's clients, and the curtain was rung down.
Byrne's Statement.
Later, T. C. Byrne stepped from the prompter's post to say the following: "On account of the failure of M. E. Smith & Co. and the Burgess-Nash company, and the long delay in finding a solution of their problems, the general business of this section of the west has been seriously damaged and credit of merchants generally, both wholesale and retail, in all branches of business, has been seriously hurt."
"We are convinced it has been best for us to acquire the assets of M. E. Smith & Co., and so far as we know

now, practically all employees will be retained and the business continued in the present quarters, at least temporarily."
Employees Stunned.
Employees of M. E. Smith, who had marched to the courtroom with banners, protesting the sale to others than Crofoot; employees who had sat there since 9 in the morning; employees who sat with stricken faces as Referee Dunham handed over to another the business which has furnished them with a livelihood, did not hear him. Perhaps their faces would have brightened, at least, until he spoke the last three words in his lines.

DISABLED VETS LEAGUE SCORED
Washington, March 3.—The special committee which investigated the National Disabled Soldiers League reported to the house today it was of the opinion that part of the funds raised by the organization had been diverted to improper uses and personal gain.
It was recommended that the Department of Justice be asked to refer the matter to a federal grand jury.
"The committee agrees," the report said, "that the league has not kept faith with the public in fulfilling the statements which it made in circulating its appeals for funds."

Freight Loadings for Week Show Increase
Washington, March 3.—Revenue freight loadings increased 22,418 cars during the week ending February 21, to a total of 925,295. As compared with the corresponding period 1924, the American Railway association announced tonight, the figure represented an increase of 79,596 and a gain of 35,198 over the same week in 1923.

Great Stadium Planned.
Philadelphia, March 3.—Mayor Kendrick signed a bill for the construction of a \$2,000,000 stadium adjacent to the Philadelphia navy yard which, it is expected, will be the largest structure of its kind in the world.

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