GRAFT DISCUSSED IN PULPIT

Pittsburg's Civic Unrighteousness is Topic of Easter Sermons by

BANKERS CALLED TO TESTIFY

Officials of Six Concerns Involved in Alleged Bribe Case Summoned Before Grand Jury—Councilmen to Resign.

PITTSBURG, Pa., March 28.—The Lenten season which ended yesterday has been too short a season of penitence for Pittsburg and it will be continued, with promise of even more startling confessions and disclosures of graft this week.

In several hundred churches today an unusual feature of the Easter services was the reading of a circular letter issued by a civic committee yesterday urging the members of every congregation to attend a huge indignation mass meeting to be held some day this week.

Sermons, too, were designed to arouse public condemnation of such practices as have been revealed and on such a text as "Truth crucified will rise transfigured." Lessons in civic cleanliness were drawn by many pastors.

It having been pretty thoroughly established, according to District Attorney William A. Blakley's claim, how at least $36,000 was used in influencing legislation, the source of the money and the dispensers of it are to the focus of the grand jury's attention when that busy body resumes tomorrow morning after a two days' recess.

A considerable portion of the big bribe fund is charged to certain banks which sought to get the city deposits. They succeeded, but it is the desire of the grand jury, as pronounced in its report of Friday last that the bank deposit ordinance be rescinded and the banks, if found guilty, be deprived of the use of city money.

Bankers Are

It is known that some representatives of the banks are to be called tomorrow to testify. The six banks which have been named by the grand jury as involved in the scandal are the Columbia National, the German National of Pittsburg, the Farmers National Deposit bank, the Second National bank, the German National bank of Allegheny and the Workingmen's Savings and Trust company.

The directorate of the Farmers National has announced that it will comply with the district attorney's call for information and the Second National has prepared a certified statement which is to be presented to the grand jury tomorrow. The other banks have taken no action.

It was still unlearned tonight whether or not Charles Stewart yesterday in his talk with District Attorney Blakley, told all that he is believed to know about the men higher up. Stewart is a former select councilman, who was declared by the grand jury in its presentment Saturday to have been the man to whom $65,000 of bribe tainted money was given at Hotel Imperial in New York.

The city's councils meet tomorrow night; twenty of the present members of the council are under indictment in connection with the graft cases. It is expected that some will protest their innocence, but the majority are expected to hand in resignations quite as meekly as they confessed last week.

While the big show continues there is a lively side feature in a crusade against all varieties of graft and wrong doing in Pittsburg. Disorderly houses are being closed up and every night lately has seen a round-up of women in the tenderloin district.

At a meeting of citizens in the Fort Pitt hotel, at which a committee was formed a further the mass meeting plan, it was openly charged that the graft collected in the red light district of the city amounted to $1,000,000 a year.

John F. Klein, whose confession and exposure of others has netted such a scandal, has been muzzled and is now kept in a room at the Fort Pitt hotel, pending disposition of his case. He is under sentence of three and one half years. Yesterday he issued an emotional postcard appeal for clemency and aid for his family. The authorities have forbidden him to give out further public statements.

Governor Stubbs Lauds Prohibition

Kansas Executive "Puts His Foot on the Necks" of Those Who Argue Otherwise.

CHICAGO, March 28.—Governor Walter R. Stubbs of Kansas City, in a speech here yesterday, "put his foot on the necks" of those who maintain that absolute prohibition would bring commercial ruin to the community. He cited the experience of Kansas as showing how state-wide prohibition precluded "race suicide" and encouraged savings banks accounts.

"Prohibition in Kansas is not a result of atmospheric conditions," said Governor Stubbs. "The climate had nothing to do with it. Reason was at the bottom of it all. As a result the Kansas people today are better fed, better clothed, have finer homes, larger families and bigger bank accounts.

"The cry of anti-prohibitionists that wiping out the saloons would bring business stagnation has been utterly refuted. I have proofs by which, figuratively speaking, I think I have my foot on the necks of those who circulate anti-prohibition talk. It was said three years ago that the wiping out of Wichita's 150 saloons would ruin the town. Today, with no saloon, that town has doubled its population, more than doubled its bank account, has better people, less crime, more schools and more intelligence. I have just received letters and telegrams from the mayors of twenty cities and towns, from twenty-nine district judges and from chiefs of police, and they all agree that the day statewide prohibition went into effect in Kansas was the brightest day in that state's history."

Governor Stubs offered to escort a delegation of Chicago business men over Kansas to prove his contentions.

Some Things You Want to Know

The Comedie Francaise.

"If Louis XIV and Napoleon had not lived and the Comedie Francaise had not been created by royal decree, there would not be much of historical interest in France" remarked an American tourist a short time ago upon his return from Paris.

While the generalization is extravagant, it is a fact that the names of these two great rulers and of this powerful dramatic organization are more closely associated in the public mind with the French nation than any other array of personages or group of institutions.

The Comedie Francaise occupies a place of pre-eminence in the world of dramatic art, and has maintained the position almost since its creation by Louis XIV, when he decreed that the three rival theatrical organizations, the King's Company, Moliere's, the company of the Marais theater, and the Royal Company should combine in 1680. It is practically the only royal institution of France which survived the revolution. Napoleon gave it a new home and revived it by his decree from Moscow in 1812. Its handsome theater, a treasure house of records, was burned in 1900, but was rebuilt with a government appropriation.

It is governed in a most peculiar manner. In fact, no one seems to know exactly what its code is. Its laws are rather a common law which have grown out of tradition. When a promising young student graduates from the Conservatory, the national training school for actors, he may be employed at a yearly salary to play minor roles. After he has been in the employ of the theater for several years, shows aptitude and there is finally a vacancy, either through death or retirement, he is elected one of the "associates." As an associate he shares in the annual profits of the institution, which are sometimes considerable, as the institution receives an annual subsidy of 50,000 francs from the government, and in addition receives the theater free of rent and taxes. One of the best features of the organization is that actors cast for minor parts do not quit in disgust. They know that while they may be playing the parts of maids and menservants today, tomorrow they may be cast for principal roles, as one play is seldom given more than two days in succession, and three days a week for the same play is the limit. By this means of rotating the actors and actresses, the ensemble excellence of the casts is made easily the finest in the world. One reason why actors do not complain of appearing in minor roles is that they are given a small extra stipend for every performance in which they take part. There is no business or "temperamental" illness there. When an actor has grown too old to do capable work he is retired on a pension. In the division of the annual profits the actors are ranked according to length of service.

One of the features of the Comedie Francaise which strikes Americans most forcibly is its uncompromising attitude in opposition to the "starring" system, which is such an integral part of the stage in both England and America. And this antipathy to "stars" is well founded at the Comedie, for its one experience in that direction was fraught with much artistic and financial distress. The single exception was the great Rachel, who packed the theater to the doors every night that she appeared, bringing into the box office 10,000 francs upon each appearance, all of which went into her own pockets. On the nights which the star did not appear, however, the theater was practically empty. On one occasion it is recorded that "Tartufe" and "Legacy," the two masterpieces of Moliere and Marivaux, were produced without the star and the receipts were 67 francs, or $13.40. But Rachel had been elevated to the position of a star because in the opinion of her associates she was the greatest actress in the history of the world. One critic, Mr. Lewes, described her thus: "Rachel was the panther of the stage; with a panther's terrible beauty and undulating grace she moved and stood, glared and sprang."

It is not generally known that the honor of discovering this great artiste belongs to an American. When Edwin Forrest was in Europe in 1834 and 1835 he was asked by the manager of a Paris theater to give his opinion of an actor of whom the manager expected much. At the conclusion of the performance Forrest said he thought the man only mediocre, but he added, "but that Jewish looking girl, that little bag of bones, with the marble face and the flaming eyes—there is demoniacal power in her. If she lives and does not burn out too soon, she will become something wonderful." And it was not long before the "bag of bones" arrived, but there was lots of work before she reached the top. M. Legouve, the author of "Adrienne Lecouvreur," relates that on one occasion she worked with him for three hours over the reading of a single line in "Louise de Lignerolles."

Another of the greatest names associated with the Comedie Francaise was Mlle. Mars, who, unfortunately for her sensibilities, tried to reign too long as the mistress of her art. She continued to appear in the roles of heroines long after she had passed the half century mark and one night a heartless brute threw a wreath of immortelles upon the stage at her feet, and shortly after this incident she was hissed and had to come before the footlights to make this pathetic apology: "Messieurs, Mlle. Marie (her part in the play) is only 16 years old. Mlle. Mars, alas! is sixty."

Next to Mlle. Mars and Rachel, the Comedie gave to the French people that wonderful comedienne, Mme. Arnoud-Plessy of whom the following amusing story is told. Mme. Plessy, having achieved every possible honor in comedy parts, yearned to win new laurels as a tragedienne and so she enacted the role of Agrippina in Racine's "Britannicus." At that time Francisque Sarcey, the greatest dramatic critic of France, was living and in his review a few days later he wrote: "I shall not say the Mme. Plessy is mediocre. With her intelligence, with her natural gifts, with her immense authority over the public, she could not in any way be mediocre. She is not, therefore, mediocrely bad. She is bad to an inexpressable degree." A few days later he was calling at a friend's house and seeing Mme. Plessy in the drawing room he tried to hide behind a palm, but she came straight toward him and holding out her hand said: "You are right, you might have told the truth more amiably but it was the truth. I shall not again risk myself in a tragic part. I thank you." And with a bow she walked away leaving Sarcey stupified.

All celebrities of the Comedie have not received adverse criticism with such good M. Got, the immediate predecessor of the grace, however, as witness the case of lamented Coquelin as the head of the National company. Got's first appearance as a member of the company was a pitiful failure and two days later he read a scathing criticism by Charles Maurice, a clever tree lancer, who if he were living today would be termed a press agent of the most virulent type. On the night after Got read the article he met Maurice and the latter said: "Well, young man, why have you not been to see me? In France it is customary for an artist to call on a writer to thank him for kindly criticism." Got, with the sting of the review still rankling in his breast replied: "The fact is, sir, I am poor and I have no money to pay the claque." The journalist never forgave the actor. He was ever after that Got's bitterest enemy.

Another "bag of bones with a Jewish look," who has added lustre to the Comedie is the incomparable Sarah Bernhardt, whose final enrollment under the banner of the institution was accomplished only after great difficulty. Even the youthful Sarah's education was gained only after many trials, for she was expelled four times from a convent. When she had finished the prescribed course, capturing many prizes she was undecided whether she wanted to be a nun or an actress. She finally decided on the latter profession and entered the Conservatory, being engaged at the Theater Francaise in due time, but she was of such an obstreperous disposition that she had to leave after having slapped the face of one of the principal players. She became quite an eccentric personality and acquired a large following in the less important theaters of Paris. She early showed a remarkable genius for the press agency and of her art and she was the most talked-of woman in Paris even before she was re-engaged at the Comedie where she won distinction in spite of the fact that all the older members were antagonistic to her. She was aided in her fight for pre-eminence by the fact that she had an extremely thin figure, while her chief adversary was inclined toward embonpoint, which precluded the effective enactment of poetic roles.

The last of the really great figures of the Comedie Francaise died only a short time ago at the moment when he hoped to achieve his greatest triumph in the title role of Edmond Rostand's latest play, "Chanticleer"—Coquelin, aine. Coquelin's engagement at the Comedie was attended with an unusual incident. After graduating at the Conservatory with first honor he was assigned a part in a new play, but his joy was of short duration, for it was soon taken away from him and given to the son of an old actor. To console the young Coquelin the manager offered him the privilege of choosing any part he wished and he selected the valet, Figaro, in "Marriage of Figaro." It is said that during the first four acts he was so frightened he played most stupidly, but in the last act, having regained his nerve, he achieved such a notable triumph that he was for many years cast for all the important valet parts in Moliere's great comedies in which serving men have the center of the stage.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Tomorrow—Quick Lunch Rooms.

Quake Feared on Sicily's Isle

Mount Etna Still on Rampage and Experts See Sign of Impending Catastrophe.

CATANIA, March 28.—While the quantity of lava from the craters of Mount Etna continues to decrease, the internal activity of the volcano was stronger today than yesterday. Frank A. Perret, the American volcanologist, believes the decrease in the flow of lava is due to obstructions in the new craters which prevent its flowing freely, and that later, either in a few days or perhaps in a week, the molten mass either will force a passage or an earthquake will result.

Mr. Perret went today from Micolosi to the Alpine club refuge, which is situated near the craters, and later telegraphed down as follows:

"The activity of Etna today is stronger, but the lava is slower. Terrific explosions in the interior of the mountain continue."

ELECTION IN BLACK HILLS

Polling Events Arouse Early Interest at Deadwood and Neighboring Towns.

DEADWOOD, S. D., March 28.—(Special.)—Interest in the local civic elections to be held in the Black Hills towns April 18 has eclipsed all other political questions, but candidates for county offices are not neglecting their opportunities and numerous petitions have already been filed with the county auditor. All the present officers who have not served two terms in succession are candidates for renomination, several of them thus far having no competition.

Of the new men who want office there is John Baker and Fred Beaumaw for county assessor; Neil Hall and Madison Ballantyne, both of Lead, for county treasurer; Charles Hardin of Two Bit, former Sheriff Harry Trathen and Andrew Bray, both of Deadwood, for sheriff; Walter L. Vercoe of Lead for state representative, and Nels Brakke of Spearfish for register of deeds, all republicans.

Among the democrats State Attorney Heffron is opposed for renomination by M. H. Eustace of Spearfish.

There is no talk of stalwartism and insurgency and it is a generally recognized fact that the factional party lines will not be drawn so far as the Black Hills are concerned this year, as public sentiment is strongly against a continuance of the fight in the party.

Persistent advertising is the road to Big Returns.

Sad Sequel to Wreck.

CRESTON, Ia., March 28.—(Special.)—An extremely sad sequel has been furnished to the death of Harry Pennington, a former Creston boy, killed in the Green Mountain wreck near Marshalltown, in the death of his young wife and 2 days' old baby, at Albert Lea, Minn., where he was going at the time of the accident which resulted in his death. His home was at Galesburg, and at that place yesterday took place the funeral of Pennington, his wife and baby. Mrs. Pennington was formerly Miss Opal Tolton of this city.

YOUTH HELD AS GIRL'S SLAYER

Albert Wolter Now in Tombs Charged with Atrocious Murder.

FEMALE COMPANION ARRESTED

Both Suspects Deny Guilt of Bloody Crime—Victim was Killed and Body Burned in Fireplace.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Albert Wolter, the youth in the fireplace of whose rooms were found Saturday portions of the burnt body of Ruth Wheeler, the young stenographer, who had been missing since last Thursday morning was committed to the Tombs without bail today charged with the girl's murder. At a continuation of the police quiz, to which he was subjected last night, he persisted today in his denials that he had ever seen the girl, ever had written to her or knew how her body came to be on the fire escape outside his window or why fragments of human feet, hands and arms were found in the ashes of his fireplace.

Katie Miller, or Katchen Mueller, the girl with whom he lived was arrested today as she approached the house, where the murder was committed. She was reading the details in a German newspaper as she walked and smiling as she read. During a long cross-examination by the police she held sturdily to a consistent story that she knew nothing of the crime until she read of it in the newspapers.

Thursday night when she returned from work at the laundry, where she earned $8 a week and gave it all to Wolter, she said she noticed that the stove in front of the fireplace had been moved, the fireboard newly painted and a colored lithograph pasted over the hole, where the stovepipe formerly entered. When she asked Wolter why he had done this, he had answered, that summer was coming and they would not need the stove.

Girl Denies Story.

She had not even known that Wolter had received a visitor, she says until Pearl Wheeler, the dead girl's elder sister, had called Friday morning to ask if Ruth had been there. Wolter had denied it, but the Mueller girl says he was uneasy after the interview and that she became jealous and accused him of harboring another woman in the flat. Again he denied it. Friday morning she went to work again and that afternoon Wolter was arrested. The girl was committed to the house of detention as a material witness.

An autopsy today showed that Ruth Wheeler had been killed in the manner indicated by the first superficial examination. First she had been strangled with a rope and then the bones of the arms and legs were broken to admit the body more readily to the narrow throat of the chimney. Why the cuts on the body were made does not appear.

When she was shown the nightshirt in which part of the charred body had been wrapped the girl positively identified the garment as Wolter's.

"That letter 'W,'" said the girl, indicating an initial worked on the shirt, "was embroidered by Albert's mother."

She also identified the gunnysack in which the head and trunk of the victim had been placed as having been used by her and Wolter to hold kindling wood.

KILLS HERSELF BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T PAY DEBTS

Creston Woman Takes Poison Rather Than See Company Take Away Furniture.

CRESTON, Ia., March 28.—(Special.)—Because she owed $16 as an installment on furniture, which she was unable to pay, Mrs. Lillie Johnson, a boardinghouse keeper of this city, committed suicide at her home early Saturday night by taking poison. She did this rather than see the furniture company take away the furniture, as it had threatened. It is not improbable that domestic trouble had something to do with the woman's rash act, as she had been twice married and divorced from James Johnson, and he was boarding and rooming with her, and, according to the testimony of witnesses, had endeavored to force her to marry him again. Mrs. Johnson had been despondent for some time, as she had been unable to make her boardinghouse pay, and had threatened taking her life on several occasions. In company with her former husband she came to this city from Clinton, Ia., about a year ago. She leaves two small children, a boy and a girl. She was a comparatively young woman, being only a little over 30 years of age.

RIVAL DANCES CALLED OFF

Union and Nonunion Members of Lead Society Restrained from Competing.

LEAD, S. D., March 28.—(Special.)—Rival dances between the union and non-union members of the Finlander Good Templar society, a temperance organization of this city, will not be permitted, according to the terms of a temporary injunction secured by the officers of the society in the circuit court. The society is divided in its union and non-union sympathies, the trustees siding with the Homestake and also some of the members.

The union members advertised a dance in the Finnish hall belonging to the society and gave notice that only union members would be permitted to attend. The trustees then sought the aid of the courts and got a restraining order preventing the members from discriminating between union and non-union at their dances, and also preventing the members named in the order from taking possession of the hall.

YOUTH ENTERS WELLESLEY

Armenian Mingles with Co-eds and Sacred Tradition of Girls' School is Broken.

WELLESLEY, Mass., March 28.—The most sacred tradition of Wellesley has been broken. Into the classes of this institution, formerly exclusively of the female sex, there was recently admitted a young man, Diran Hagopian.

He is an Armenian, and it is said he comes of royal blood. He escaped from Turkey over a year ago, following the massacres at Adna. He worked his way to this country and finally settled in Wellesley. After working about the college, one of the teachers became interested in Hagopian, and eventually the faculty gave him permission to attend the lectures and recitations in certain courses. The faculty is as yet undecided as to whether Hagopian will be awarded a degree upon completion of his studies.

Silver Wedding at Creston.

CRESTON, Ia., March 28.—(Special.)—At their home in this city Friday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Craig Armstrong, well known residents of Creston, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. A number of relatives and friends were present, the occasion being in the nature of a 7 o'clock dinner.

Aviation Rules Are Prescribed for Sky Pilots

Laws Are Designed by French Aero Club for Men Above and Men Below.

PARIS, March 28.—Rules and regulations controlling the navigation of the air designed to meet the new and complex problems arising from the development of aviation have been formulated by the Aero club of France, and have been submitted to the French government as the basis for a national law. The code, elaborated after much study, aims to meet the rights and interests of all—of the aeroplanist and balloonist flighting through space and of man and man's property on the earth below.

Following are some of the club's suggestions: Aerial craft, whether aeroplane or dirigible balloon, must not circulate lower than 150 feet above private property. Flighting above cities requires a permit from the municipalities. Flighting in fog is not allowed and the transportation of explosives, except hunting ammunition, is prohibited. The fixation of general aerial rules is recommended as a way of avoiding collisions and aeroplanes and dirigible balloons should keep off a certain distance from spherical balloons to the end that if explosions or other accidents happen to the dirigible machines the spherical may not be endangered.

For the protection of the aeronaut it is recommended that proprietors of high buildings and other structures be required to illuminate their property at night at each level of 250 feet and all electric wires and conduits strung 150 feet above the ground should be marked each 600 feet with a white flag by day and a white light by night. Other suggestions relate to the establishment of aerial "ports of access" to large cities.

The project is now being studied by M. Miller and the ministry of public works.

Iowa News Notes.

NEVADA—Alleging that he has been maliciously slandered by George Cole, a liveryman of Boland, Fred C. Rogers has filed a petition in the district court by which he claims $5,000 damages.

LAKE CITY—The board of trustees of the Carnegie library Saturday officially accepted the new building, the contractors having made the necessary changes and additions to comply with the specifications.

ONAWA—Miss Stella Wiley, who has been the efficient librarian of the Onawa Carnegie-Oliver library, has tendered her resignation, to be effective after April. Miss Wiley resigns to accept a position in the Grinnell city library at an increased salary.

FORT DODGE—Small boys set fire to the big Colby stables at Mineral City Driving park Saturday morning early, knowing they were outside of the city limits and no fire-fighting could be done. The stables, valued at $3,000, with their contents, made a big bonfire. Only $1,200 insurance was carried and the buildings were practically new.

LAKE CITY—At a joint meeting last week, the members of the Monday club, Shakespeare club and P. E. O. resolved to unite the three organizations under one head for the purpose of furnishing the new Carnegie library with chairs, pictures, etc. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. John Jacobs; vice president, Mrs. R. L. McCord; secretary, Mrs. G. G. Hutchison; treasurer, Mrs. O. E. Brownell.

FORT DODGE—The work of dismantling the $75,000 federal building, scarcely fifteen years old, a structure of considerable beauty of architecture and well built, began in this city Saturday, in spite of repeated efforts on the part of citizens to save it from destruction because a larger building is needed. The efforts of influential men, including Senator Dolliver, could not change the decree of congress that this, like the majority of other government buildings, must be destroyed rather than sold by the government, although it was hoped to secure it for a city hall.

ONAWA—The municipal election which will be held here Monday promises to be the warmest in years. The main issue is the saloon question and the wets and dryes are lined up for the fray. Both sides have tickets in the field, and street-corner conferences are being held in all parts of town. The four saloons which have been operated in Onawa for years were closed January 1 by the action of the city council in refusing to grant a renewal of the licenses, and since that time both sides have been busy framing up their respective campaigns for the new administration. Challengers will be stationed at all polling places, and should there be any attempts at illegal voting arrests will be made and prosecution will follow.

Automobiles Burned.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., March 28.—Twenty-two automobiles were destroyed and eighteen were damaged when fire today swept the garage of Brokaw, one of the largest in the state. Loss $100,000.