

# SUES TENANTS FOR USING ROOF

### Landlord Says Crowd Watching Picture Show Damages Building.

New York.—Whether a landlord has a right to prevent tenants from congregating nightly on the roof with from 100 to 200 friends for a free view of an outdoor moving picture show next door is to be decided in the Supreme court as the result of a suit filed by Jacob London, owner of the two six-story tenement houses at 54 and 58 West One Hundred and Sixty-ninth street, adjoining a theater, which operates an outdoor moving picture show on the roof all summer.

Mr. London in his complaint asks for an injunction restraining fifteen tenants, all named as defendants, from congregating on the roof at any time to witness moving picture performances; from holding meetings or assemblies on the roof for social or amusement purposes; from occupying windows connected with the common halls to witness moving picture performances; from inviting, soliciting, encouraging or urging persons to assemble with them, either on the roof or in the halls, on the stoop or at the hall windows to witness moving picture performances or for any unlawful purpose, and from continuing to perpetrate alleged damage, injury or loss to plaintiff's property.

Many Views Shown Free. Isaac Stanislaw, agent of the property, said in an affidavit that there are 24 tenants in each of the houses, which were built 17 years ago. The roofs were recently covered with a plastic slate rubber at a cost of \$700.

The agent said that each night from 11:30 to 1:30 o'clock the defendants congregated on the roof adjoining the theater, paying no heed to the watchman who ordered them away. They took chairs, boxes and other objects to the roof, he said, and invited friends and relatives, sometimes as many as 200, to see the show for nothing.

"The roofs are not rented to the defendants," said the agent, "and are the exclusive property of the plaintiff. None of the defendants has license or authority to go on the roofs for any purpose, and defendant has made vehement protest."

Alleged damage done by the nightly roof parties, he said, was as follows: "Coping on westerly wall of No. 58 entirely broken; rent pipes broken from their bearings; bricks over the stairway leading to the roof demolished."

Reports Building Damaged. The agent said it would be necessary to remove the entire roof covering and raise the roofs to the proper level, because they had sagged under the weight of the film watches. He said there was danger of damage from water leaking through the broken roof into the buildings. Repairs must cost thousands of dollars, he added.

The agent said that when he first learned of the roof parties, he found 85 persons there, but they would not move when he asked them to, saying "they would go up there as much as they pleased, and if the landlord didn't like it he could sell the house, for they would not stay off the roof for anybody." The agent got a policeman, but the tenants refused to budge until threatened with arrest, the agent said. Since then, he said, "the tenants had been up there every night, and had broken down all the barriers he put to keep them off."

The janitor said in an affidavit that the roof-going tenants threatened him with bodily harm if he interfered, and attacked the theater watchman, who tried to get them off.

# Sues Husband Who Hurlled Pies at Her

Chicago.—Because she objected to being a test of her husband's versatile employment, Mrs. Joseph Fronsak has filed suit here for divorce.

She declared she was used as a sparring partner because her husband was an amateur boxer, and as a target for pie throwing rehearsals because her husband was a substitute comedy actor in the "movies."

# SIGNED SHIPS' PORT PAPERS

### Task Performed by Early Presidents Is Now Done by Others—Executives Too Busy.

Washington.—Modern presidents may have a large amount of routine work devolving upon them, but there are some details attended to regularly by their early predecessors, that are hardly considered important enough nowadays to refer to the White House.

Among these, according to Charles Kohlen, Washington philatelist and document collector, was the trilling detail of signing ships' clearance papers. Among a number of ancient documents Mr. Kohlen recently picked up were two such clearances for small vessels, one signed "G. Washington," the other bearing the large, scrawling signature of John Adams.

Washington Paper Dated 1794. The paper signed by Washington in September, 1794, attested to the fact that the 82-ton schooner *Eliza*, of New York, was owned by citizens of the new nation and was duly allowed to set sail for the West Indies with a cargo of flour, hoops, onions, staves, shingles and scantlings. The form was made out in English, French and Dutch.

The document signed by President Adams bore also as a countersign the signature of Timothy Pickering, secretary of state; was dated August, 1798; showed the proper nationality of the small sloop *Endeavour*, and gave leave to depart from Portland, Me., to Demerara, with a cargo of boards, oars, butter, fish, flour, tar, pitch and beef.

Pray for Recognition.

The most interesting section of these clearance papers was an attest at the bottom of the sheet praying that "most serene, serene, most puissant, puissant, high, illustrious, noble, honorable, venerable, wise and prudent lords, emperors, kings, republics, princes, dukes, earls, barons, schepens, justices, councillors" and a long list of other officers "of all the good cities and places who shall see these presents or hear them read" to recognize the American registry.

Mr. Kohlen has also a number of envelopes showing the difference in postal rates and speed of service since the early days of the postoffice. One contained a letter signed by James Madison as secretary of state, in 1804, to James Sheafe of Portsmouth, N. H., and bore a stamp showing the fee for the trip to have been 10 cents.

Another carried a letter from the recent Amundsen polar expedition, addressed to President Harding, which was sent by airplane mail to Nome, Alaska, and thence across the continent to Washington for 12 cents, including registration fee.

Tells of Fairfax Estate.

Another interesting document in this collection is one relating to the history of the famous Lord Fairfax, who was granted large estates in Virginia by the king of England during early colonial history. Lord Thomas prayed the sheriff of London county, which adjoined his estates, to take into custody Ann Seward who was charged with trespassing upon the Fairfax estate in 1763. According to the yellowed, torn manuscript, the said Ann had wrought damages estimated at 500 pounds, for which the said Lord Thomas required payment.

# Man Tossing Nickels to Boys Halts All Traffic

New York.—A well-dressed henchman appearing man of about 30 appeared at Broadway and Sixty-sixth street recently and tossed a nickel toward two boys near the curb. They scrambled for it and he threw another. More boys appeared and the stranger, entering into the zest of the game, went into a drug store and got \$1 worth of nickels from Miss Grace Willey, the cashier.

By this time the crowd of boys numbered a score or more and the wild scramble for the coins caused the stream of automobiles to halt and threatened to tie up traffic. The stranger threw \$2 worth of coins before the supply in the drug store was exhausted and then he asked the boys in to have strawberry sodas. There was only five seats and there was a near riot.

The disturbance attracted Patrolman Cassidy, who put the dispenser of nickels on an uptown surface car after the latter had told the policeman he once lived in the neighborhood and wanted to encourage young American manhood.

# Belgian Queen Gets Pardon for Princess

Paris.—Intercession of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium for Princess Louise has ended the ban of more than twenty years against the return of the eldest daughter of King Leopold to her native land.

An allowance sufficient to enable her to live comfortably also has been granted the princess. The first installment reached her in time to permit her to bury the body of Count Mattachine, the Austrian nobleman and army officer, for love of whom she sacrificed everything 20 years ago.

# THE TRUTH OF HISTORY

Ever since the surrender at Appomattox in 1865 the story has been circulated that Gen. Lee "rendered his sword" to General Grant at the formal surrender and that General Grant decided to accept the sword of honor and send it back to the Confederate commandant. The story has been authoritatively denied again and again by persons present on that historic occasion, and denied by General Grant himself in his memoirs. But notwithstanding the denials, the old tale reappears on all occasions. And the worst of it is that it isn't circulated by irresponsible and ignorant people out by people who should have some knowledge of history and repeatedly printed in newspapers whose editors should know better. And more astonishing still, this story of something that never happened and which has absolutely no foundation in fact seems to have most life in the South of all places. At least it is constantly appearing in North Carolina newspapers, it is accepted as a fact by school teachers and passed on to the children. Pictures of the Confederate Commander handing his sword to the victorious and magnanimous Union commander frequently appear and tend to fix in the public mind an incident which never took place.

The hoary fable is referred to here not with any hope of stopping its repetition. That seems hopeless. But to call attention to what Gen. Grant said about it, in the hope that those who prefer the truth of history will fix the facts in their minds and pass this statement of the highest authority in a convenient place for reference.

An examination of Gen. Grant's Memoirs, Vol. II, chapter 25, pages 344-346 will reveal the following:

"No conversation—not one word—passed between General Lee and myself either about private property, side arms, or kindred subjects. The much talked of surrender of General Lee's sword and my handing it back this and much more that has been said about it is the purest romance. The sword and side arms were not mentioned by either of us until I wrote it in the terms. There was no premeditation and it did not occur to me until the moment I wrote it down. If I had happened to omit it and Gen. Lee had called my attention to it, I should have put it in the terms precisely as I acceded to the provisions about the soldiers retaining their horses."

General Grant's reference to side arms means that he voluntarily wrote in the terms of the surrender as those present have testified and as history shows, that the Confederate officers were to retain their side arms, which of course included swords. His reference to the provision about the soldiers retaining their horses means he first inserted a provision that the cavalry horses were to be surrendered under the impression that they were the property of the Confederate government. General Lee called his attention to the fact that the horses were the property of the soldiers who rode them and that the men would need the animals to make a crop. Without a word General Grant struck out the provision of the surrender of the horses.

This is printed in the hope that the young people will fix in their minds the truth of history. The story of the tender of the sword and its refusal is a pretty one. Possibly that's why it lives, notwithstanding it is as General Grant said, "the purest romance."

# REGULATION VS. DESTRUCTION

The Supreme Court of Illinois has rendered an important decision in the case of a motor bus company seeking to operate in competition with electric railways.

The opinion of the court contains certain truths showing the effect of duplicating transportation facilities and destroying real service.

The bus company wanted a franchise to operate in certain towns with considerable population which was opposed by the electric railroad system connecting these towns.

After a full showing the lower court held that the operation of the bus line was not a necessary transportation facility, though granted by a public service commission.

On appeal the supreme court shows that it is not the policy of the public utility law of Illinois to promote competition as a means of providing service.

It holds that where one company can serve the public conveniently and efficiently to grant a competing franchise is to make the public pay more if both companies are to earn a fair return on their investment.

The court says that to authorize bus lines to carry passengers at a lower rate in the same territory where an electric line is charging a reasonable rate is against public interest.

It says a public service corporation has no right to make an order regulating a public utility which amounts to a confiscation of its property.

# HOUSE IN WHICH POET ONCE LIVED

### Homes in Old New England Intimately Connected With Life of Longfellow.

Cambridge, Mass.—The three fine old New England houses which are intimately connected with the life of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow should not be forgotten at this time when Bowdoin college, his alma mater, is planning a centenary institute in 1925 to celebrate its share in making possible the work of America's most popular poet and that of his classmate, Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Crucible house on Brattle street, Cambridge, the picturesque and state Revolutionary mansion to which Longfellow came in 1837 as a young professor and where he lived for three years, is best known of the three. With the "House of Seven Gables" and the "Old Manse" alone it shares the honors among historic New England houses.

Two "Shrines" in Portland.

Portland, Me., claims the other two Longfellow shrines. First comes his birthplace, a square three-story house on the corner of Fore and Hancock streets. In its day it was a fine house, the home of Capt. Samuel Stephenson. In those days only the doorway, the street, and a little beach lay between it and the water. But for 50 or more years now it has fallen upon hard times. The water has receded and buildings have sprung up, hemming it in on all sides.

The poet's parents were spending the winter in this house, visiting his aunt, Mrs. Stephenson, when he was born on February 27, 1807. A little more than a year afterward they moved to the third house, which is today known as a Longfellow house. There, in the old Wadsworth home on Congress street, the poet spent his childhood and youth. Perhaps the two houses are best known as they were in the Monitor on September 1, when a photograph of the Congress street house was described as his birthplace. There is no question about it; the honor belongs to the less well-known house on Fore street. But the interest still centers on the Congress street house, for it is bound up with memories all have shared by reading "The Rainy Day," "My Lost Youth," and other poems.

Longfellow's Boyhood Home.

The Congress street house in Longfellow's boyhood was not in the heart of the business district as it is now but on the outskirts of the town, in the midst of the fields. From the windows of the boys' room one could look then over the cove and the farms and the woodlands toward Mt. Washington; from the eastern chambers the view was unobstructed across the bay to White Head, Fort Preble and the lighthouse on Cape Elizabeth. Happy days were spent there with music and books and brother and sister. Nearby were Deerling woods, where the poet tramped and bathed and dreamed. The woods have been preserved as a city park and the house has been refurbished as nearly as possible as it was a little more than 100 years ago and is now open to the public as a museum. It is perhaps well that the three Longfellow houses should have different destinies; the birthplace, in other hands; the boyhood home, a museum; and the Cambridge house still in possession of the family.

# Bermuda's Only Auto Is Destroyed by Accident

New York.—Announcement of the destruction of the only automobile in Bermuda, a horse-drawn vehicle at that, was brought to this city recently by Dr. M. E. Mahardi, surgeon on the liner Fort Victoria.

The car, owned by a hotel proprietor, came under a ban when the island passed a law barring motor vehicles. The engine was removed and used for pumping purposes and the car was converted into a carriage.

On his last trip Dr. Mahardi and a party of friends were riding in the conveyance when it toppled over on a hill leading to Hamilton pier. The horses escaped, but Dr. Mahardi suffered a sprained wrist.

# Prisoners Flog Police Chief in County Jail

Marion, Ill.—Monroe Owens, chief of police of Pittsburg, near here, charged that prisoners in the county jail handcuffed him to a cell and gave him 25 lashes. Owens was arrested recently on an assault charge and placed in jail in default of bond. Nine other prisoners, two of whom had been arrested by Owens on liquor charges, held a "kangaroo court" over Owens for "breaking into jail." He was fined \$10, but refused to pay. The flogging followed.

# Triplets Victims of Auto Accident

Peekskill, N. Y.—Triplets were victims of an automobile accident here recently when John Morley, thirteen years old, was killed and his sisters, Mabel and Mildred, injured. The car in which they were riding, driven by William Gilbert, was overturned.

# MORTALITY RATE FOR MEN LOWER

### Women Fast Losing the Advantage They Formerly Had, Statistics Show.

Washington.—Women are fast losing the advantage which they have possessed in the past of a lower rate of mortality than men, it is indicated by life insurance statistics. The excess mortality of men over women, it is said, has been one of the supposed fixed relationships in vital statistics.

In the United States the death rate of males has always been found to be higher than that of females at every age period from birth till death and this condition has prevailed quite generally throughout the civilized world. In recent years, however, the mortality of females has actually been higher than that of males among the industrial policyholders of the insurance companies in the United States and Canada. In 1911 the mortality of white males insured in one company was more than 13 per cent higher than among females. While the actual excess in male mortality varied somewhat from year to year, the condition continued up to and including 1918.

Change Also Noted in Negro Race.

The year 1919 was marked by a sudden drop to about 5 per cent, and by 1920 a reversal in the relationship had become a fact, with the female mortality 2.6 per cent above that of males. In 1921 it was 12.2 per cent higher. In 1922 the condition was again changed to an excess of 1.2 per cent in male mortality over that of females.

In the negro race the difference between the death rate of the two sexes was never so strikingly marked, but, nevertheless, between 1912 and 1918 the excess of male mortality was continuous, varying from 2 to about 10 per cent. The year 1919 was the first year in which the mortality of females actually exceeded that of males, and this condition has continued since, including the year 1922.

The fact that reversal appears among both white and negro lives is considered significant. Very similar relationships in the mortality rates of males and females are apparently indicated. It is pointed out, in the figures for the registration area during the corresponding years, and light is thrown on the possible factors by consideration of the age periods of life where these changes were most pronounced.

Greatest at Child-Bearing Age.

It is shown that among white persons the excess of female mortality was entirely limited to the ages of twenty to thirty-four in 1921 and to fifteen to thirty-four in 1922. Among the negroes it occurred between the ages of ten and thirty-four in 1921, ten and twenty-four in 1919 and one and thirty-four in 1920. After age of thirty-five the male mortality has continued to be higher than the female throughout the rest of life.

The ages, says the report, are definitely those of child-bearing. They are also the ages at which the influenza epidemic made its greatest inroads and in which tuberculosis showed the most pronounced decreases during the last decade. It is entirely conceivable, comments the statistician, that each one of these three items played an important part in the phenomenon under consideration. Attention has been repeatedly called in recent years to the excessive mortality among women from causes incidental to pregnancy and child-bearing, these excessive maternal death rates having shown, it is said, the greatest reluctance toward improvement.

The influenza epidemic, beginning with 1918, it is thought, may have

been the exciting cause for much of this increased maternal mortality, it having been noted early in the influenza outbreaks that women at the child-bearing ages suffered excessively from the disease. This condition has been marked with each new outbreak of influenza. It is further brought forward that there is no question as to the greater reduction of tuberculosis mortality among males than among females, and this is strikingly marked in the ages under consideration.

# Tenth Child Brings Prize of 150 Francs

Paris.—In these days of the depleted French birth rate it is not strange that the press of Paris should have devoted considerable space to Mme. Just of the Nineteenth arrondissement, who presented her husband with their tenth child, which consequently entitled her to a prize of 150 francs awarded by the municipal authorities.

The prize was not carelessly bestowed nor was the ceremony private. The happy father, who is thirty-five, with his wife thirty-two, attended by the ten children and hundreds of their neighbors, proceeded to the Mairie of the arrondissement, in response to an official summons. The attendance of the entire ten was necessary for the bestowal of the prize. There consequently was much formality. Beginning with Albertine, aged sixteen, the names of the ten, their ages, places of birth, etc., had to be properly verified by the mayor's clerk; when the last, Gaston, only a few days old, was reached, the clerk gave a sigh, the crowd a cheer, and the money was handed over to madame, who trustily handed it to monsieur.

# THE ROMANCE OF WORDS

"BEDLAM" the word by which we now designate a lunatic, an excited crowd or an uproar, has been derived not from "Babel," as might be expected, but from "Bethlehem," the name of an insane asylum in London and formerly one of the most abominable torture-houses of the British capital.

"Bethlehem" itself dates back to 1247, when Simon Fitz-Mary, a sheriff of London, founded a priory dedicated to St. Mary of Bethlehem. Everyone connected with this institution was compelled to wear a black robe, with a single star on the breast, in memory of the star which guided the Magi to the stable at Bethlehem. Some three centuries later a London tailor named Stephen Gennings offered to start a fund to purchase the House of Bethlehem and turn it into a hospital for the insane, but it was not until Henry VII made a gift of the house to the city of London that it became an insane asylum.

Owing to the fact that lunatics were considered at that time to be possessed by devils, Bethlehem was made a place of chains, manacles and stocks, while all manner of hideous tortures were devised to rout the evil spirits which haunted the bodies of the living. During the Sixteenth century the place became so filthy and loathsome that no one would enter it and it fell into decay, to be renovated in 1675, when a stone image of madness, carved in the likeness of one of Cromwell's doorkeepers, was placed on the outer wall. In the literature of the day we find that the name of the asylum is shortened, first to "Bethlem," then to "Bedlem" and finally changed to "Bedlam," in which form it remains.

(© by Wheeler Syndicate, Inc.)

## SPECIAL

A few of the Thousands of Bargains we are offering for the next two weeks.

Men's Winter Union Suits	98c
Ladies Winter Union Suits	89c
Children's winter union suits	45c
wool mixed hose	19c
Dozen safety pins	2c
Dozen pearl buttons	2c
Men's Lisle hose	19c
Men's suspenders	19c
Crib blankets	45c
Cups and saucers each	4
Sewing thread, a spool	2c
Cotton flannel gloves	10c

For more bargains see our big illustrated circular.

### Davidson Dept. Store