

## FLAME AND FLOOD

### Greatest Downpour on Record Makes a Temporary Venice of Jersey City and Hoboken.

### LIGHTNING AND WIND

#### Marvellous and Mischievous Pranks of a Storm That Lasted Only Fifteen Minutes.

### SLAUGHTER OF SPARROWS

#### One Thousand Killed by a Single Bolt—Children Try to Revive the Birds in Van Vorst Park.

### MANY HOUSES DAMAGED

#### North Hudson Motor Burned Out Forces Many Heights Residents to Wade Home.

### FLOOD AND HAVOC

#### Ravine Road a Raging Torrent—Power House Struck—Houses Wrecked, People Drenched.

The city was visited by a freak storm early last evening. The rain fell in sheets downtown, converting the streets into miniature lakes. The Bergen and Hudson City sections were drenched. Greenville, south of Claremont avenue, wasn't even sprinkled, and the Celeryville folks were very skeptical about the stories of the storm damage which came from Hudson City, where a house was unroofed by lightning and the Ravine road sewer was wrecked by the great pressure of water which swept through it from the flooded streets.

Hundreds of cellars were filled with water to a depth of six inches to as many feet, and innumerable panes of glass were smashed in all over town, excepting Greenville, by the force of the driving rain. The damage will amount to thousands of dollars.

The storm lasted only a few minutes. It was preceded by an intensely sultry hour, and it was a great relief to the sweltering community.

#### LAKES IN THE STREETS.

For several minutes after the storm ceased there were a dozen or more street intersections down town which were covered with several inches of water. The receiving basins were closed up and it was sometime before the miniature lakes disappeared.

There was one particularly deep body of water in front of Police Headquarters. Small boys who tried to ford it had to roll their knickerbockers far above their knees. The water came up to the axles of the trolley cars and for a time blocked travel. Good sized whirl pools formed over the receiving basins as the water rushed down into the sewers. The rain smashed in a large window in Charles K. Inness's cigar store at the triangle formed by Van Vorst and Gregory streets.

#### An Old and Well Tried Remedy.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays the pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents per bottle.

the foot of Franklin street, in an effort to save car fare daily, from reaching the steps. These were obliged to turn back to the nearest station of the elevated structure at Jefferson street, Hoboken, to Jersey City, known as the Henderson street station. During "rush," or "commission" hours at all times, these stations are crowded and one is fortunate if he does not have to wait while he sees several cars of the particular line he is waiting for, pass before the conductor considers it safe to stop and open the gates of the car platform for the reception of more passengers. With this usual crowd augmented by the crowd unable to climb the "one hundred steps," the jam last night was simply awful. Then came the stalling of cars while the knocked-out dynamo in the power house at the top of the hill was replaced with a new one. At all the stations along the structure and at the top of the Hill where the lines separate for various localities, great crowds were jammed. Hundreds, tiring of waiting, even before the storm had subsided, left the elevated station platforms and filed singly between the up and down tracks in an effort to reach the Hill.

But by this time a new dynamo had taken the place of the one knocked out by the lightning, and cars began to glide up and down the structure, but they were so crowded that no stops were made at the way stations for some time. So those who were practically walking ties to the top of the hill felt satisfied with the journey they had undertaken. No such scene has ever before been witnessed in the history of the structure.

#### CELLARS FLOODED.

At the top of the hill, notably in the vicinity of Perry street, New York avenue, Franklin street and Webster avenue, the receiving basins were unable to carry away the surface water and it ran in the streets two and three feet deep, submerging cellars and doing more than considerable damage. P. Bulger's saloon cellar, diagonally across from the Webster avenue police station, was submerged with seven feet of water.

When the lightning struck the tall chimney of the power house at the elevated structure of the North Hudson County Railway Company in Palisade avenue, the little waiting room was packed with people, anxious to reach their homes. A lady fainted and was caught in the arms of Democratic Committeeman George Hoffman, who was as badly scared as the lady was herself, but still exhibited the degree of gallantry for which he is noted.

Outside hundreds stood in the drenching rain. Up at No. 234 Sherman avenue, a two story building, lightning struck and tore off the roof, setting the house on fire, but the drenching rain quickly subdued the flames. The roof was thrown into a rear yard, and the upper apartments of the house, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Stroh and their three children, were drenched. The family were obliged to take refuge for the night with Mr. Stroh's brother-in-law, Otto Dall, of No. 24 South street. Mr. and Mrs. William Taube occupy the first floor. Mrs. Stroh, who has a summer kitchen in the rear of the house, was in the cellar when the bolt struck. One of her children was with her. She had a lighted lamp in her hand. She says she felt an electrical shock. She blew out the lamp, hardly knowing what she was doing, and grabbing up her child, groped in the darkness from the cellar. A tree on the opposite side of the street was knocked down by the same bolt.

It was supposed to be only an unusually heavy shower. For an hour previous to the downpour the western and middle sky and the condition of the atmosphere bore every indication of a normal electrical display. While the shower was at its height some said it was a fall of rain such as people of this section have seldom witnessed. But it lasted comparatively only a few minutes, and after it was apparently over people who had sought shelter downtown ventured forth again to continue their journey home. For it happened at an hour of the day when people generally were homeward bound. Most of these were bound hillward. They knew little of the damage that had been done on the Hill in the few minutes down-pour.

In the Hudson City section it seemed from reports gathered from other sections of the city late last night, that the damage was greatest.

The Ravine road down and around which the big five-foot sewer fed by four of the principal sewers of that section runs was torn and swept by a flood such as has not been known there for many years.

#### EIGHT GYSERS.

The pressure of water in the big sewer forced sewer gratings and a hanhole, and when curious residents of the vicinity climbed down the road to see what damage had been done they were greeted with a spectacle of eight gysers spouting ten feet high with brick and cement as an element. The road was thus flooded, and the streams of surface water pouring down from the foot of streets converging at the foot of the Palisade avenue bridge, under which the Ravine road winds, mingled with that escaping from the big sewer, and together they poured in a torrent down the hillside. A shanty near the tracks of the D. L. & W. Railroad was bowled over and swept with the tide, and the occupant, John Smith, a watchman, had to swim and struggle to reach a place of safety.

Hundreds of spectators were gathered there after the storm was over.

#### TRAFFIC STOPPED.

Meanwhile traffic at the very busiest hour of the day was at a standstill on the elevated structure of the North Hudson County Railway Company. Lightning had struck the tall chimney of the power house at the Palisade avenue station, sending a shower of bricks down into the engine room and putting one of the largest dynamos "out of business."

The flood occasioned by the bursting of the Ravine avenue sewer had prevented many hundreds of workers who habitually climb the "one hundred steps" at

## NAILED THE COMMISH

### John O'Brien Caught by Law and Order Men Selling Liquor on Sunday.

### WARRANT OUT FOR HIM.

#### Mayor Fagan Much "Grieved"—The Sort of Example the Reformer Sets to the Rum Trade.

The troubles of Excise Commissioner John O'Brien, which began shortly after he gave up the quiet life of a saloonkeeper for the glory of an official career and \$1,000 emoluments are increasing. A short time ago the "Commish" got into hot water with the Street and Water Board because an erratic water meter in his Grand street saloon worked backward instead of forward, the figures on the apparatus decreasing as the volume of water which poured through it increased. The Commissioner lost many hours of sleep explaining that he didn't know why the meter should cut up such a caper and put him in the position where people had an excuse for suspecting that he had tampered with the machinery.

Now more trouble stares him in the face, and he will have to do some more explaining. This time he will do it in a court of law.

Three or four members of the Law and Order League spent several hours on Sunday getting evidence against downtown liquor dealers, visited the First Criminal Court this morning. They said that they were interested in an effort to have the excise laws observed and were anxious to swear out warrants for several offenders.

#### WARRANTS SOUGHT.

Julius C. Frank, of 338 Third street, had a talk with Police Justice Hoos and Clerk J. P. McCormick, and lodged formal complaints against these saloonkeepers:

John O'Brien, Excise Commissioner, Newark avenue and Barrow street.  
Patrick McArdle, No. 7 Exchange place.  
Basford & Glenn, Exchange place.  
Charles Reers, No. 45 Montgomery street.

The complaints set forth that the excise laws were violated by the sale of intoxicating liquor (beer) on the Sabbath Day.

The warrants were turned over to Captain Cody, of the First Precinct, for execution. Mr. O'Brien and his alleged fellow offenders will probably be arrested before the sun goes down. They will give bail for their appearance before Justice Hoos in the morning.

#### THE EVIDENCE.

One of the witnesses to the alleged violations of the law which Mr. Frank says took place, was Robert McCrum, who accompanied the Law and Order League man to court.

Commissioner O'Brien's saloon on Newark avenue, which the complaint sets forth was open on Sunday, is directly opposite the saloon of Mrs. Elizabeth Sanford, who was put out of business by O'Brien and his colleagues, who have refrained so far from making public any specific reason why they refused to grant her a renewal of her license. Mrs. Sanford says that she believes O'Brien worked to close up her place so he would have a monopoly of the trade in that section. His receipts, it is said, have nearly doubled since Mrs. Sanford's license was taken away.

The news that O'Brien was again in trouble traveled rapidly, and several people went on the still hunt for him to offer their sympathy and volunteer to go on his bond.

The "Commish" could not be found by a "Jersey City News" reporter.

#### VERY ANGRY.

It was said that O'Brien is very much provoked at the audacity of the temperance people in making a marker of him when there are so many other liquor dealers in town who will sell liquors on Sunday.

The temperance crusaders, it is said, claim that O'Brien should, in his capacity as an official of a reform administration, act as a bright and shining example to his fellow saloonkeepers by closing his barrooms and obeying the excise laws, which prohibit the sale of liquor on Sunday.

Mayor Fagan was much grieved over his Excise Commissioner's predicament and the news was carried to his office this afternoon.

It is rumored that the "Commish" has expressed a belief that he would get more fun out of living by retiring to private life.

## RUVANE ARRESTED

### As Sequel to Donnelly Girl Assault He Is Charged With Sunday Selling.

### MORE MONEY FOR THE STATE

#### Articles of Incorporation Filed With County Clerk for New Companies.

In the County Clerk's office today were filed articles of incorporation for a number of new concerns. They were as follows:

Dickson-Oliver Company, capitalized at \$300,000, divided into 1800 shares; 750 shares of the 3,000 are preferred and 2,250 are common stock. The objects of the company are to buy, sell and manufacture wall papers, window shades and deal in general merchandise. The incorporators are—Howard S. Dickson, of New York City, Garrett H. Oliver, of St. Louis, and Alvah Trowbridge, of Hackensack.

Kutz Incubator Co., with a capital stock of \$75,000, divided into 750 shares of \$100 each. The company will manufacture incubators, and the incorporators are George Kutz and H. T. Gould, of Easton, Pa., and John H. Avery, of New York City.

West Side Amusement Co., Bayonne, with a capital stock of \$6,000, divided into sixty shares of \$100 each. The objects of the corporation are to build bowling alleys, gymnasiums, skating rinks, and structures for athletic games and shooting matches. The incorporators are—David C. Ryan, Michael P. Ryan, James A. Reilly, James H. Murray, George W. Russell, John J. Ryan, M. T. Cronin, W. J. Ryan, J. A. Warnock and W. F. Higgins. The offices of the company are at No. 16 West Thirtieth street, Bayonne.

Sledge & Wills Co., of Jersey City, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The company will manufacture burlap and bags of all kinds. The incorporators are—Reuben M. Sledge, John Linsay Wells and Oliver D. Sledge, of Memphis, Tenn.

Stationary Manufacturing Co., with a capital stock of \$150,000. The company will deal in stationery and the incorporators are—Ernest L. Kittridge, J. W. Rubel and A. O. Hodge.

## GLEVER THIEVES CAUGHT.

### One of Their Victims Did Not Know He Had Been Robbed Until Police Told Him.

Chief of Police Murphy said this morning that Robert Foster, George Williams and Charles Phillips, who were arrested at the Erie depot by Detective Brown, of the Erie, and Patrolman Corlies, of the Second Precinct, on Sunday, on suspicion of stealing pocketbooks belonging to Maennercher excursionists who were on their way to Shohola Glen, constitute a trio of the cleverest "graffers" ever captured within this city.

The Chief has a clear case against Foster, in whose possession two pocketbooks were found, and he hopes, he says, to connect the other men with Foster's operations.

One of the pocketbooks contained a commutation ticket on the Jersey Central Railroad between Plainfield and New York, bearing the name of Charles Van Middlesworth. He lives in Brooklyn. He visited Chief Murphy today in response to a telegram asking him to come over and claim his property. He didn't know that he had been "touched" until the pocketbook and ticket were returned to him. He said that he went on the excursion.

When Foster was placed in a cell in the City Prison he wore an imitation Panama hat, which has since disappeared. The Chief says that he can't imagine what Foster did with it, or why he wanted to get rid of it. The police found a torn cap, so-called, a "ringer" in its stead.

A score of newspaper clippings of future excursions, evidently furnished by a clipping bureau, were discovered among the prisoner's effects.

He will be accorded a hearing to-morrow.

#### SECOND BAND CONCERT.

The second band concert will take place this evening at River View Park, Ogden avenue and Bleecker street. The band of Louis Bekort's will furnish the music.

## THE TRUE FIGURES

### Budget as Given Out Today Looks Like a Surprise Party.

### LOWER THAN EXPECTED

#### Nothing to Show That an Assessment of Ninety-nine Millions Is Needed.

The Board of Finance will meet to-morrow afternoon and formally approve the budget work. The amount it has decided upon to give the different Boards is \$2,558,463.29. This is only \$3,972.27 more than was allowed last year, and last year there were not any Hospital Trustees to provide for.

The railroad and canal tax amounts to \$375,000; franchise tax, 1902, \$40,000; franchise tax, 1901, \$12,000; State school moneys, \$248,753.18; poll tax, \$3,500, and unexpended special receipts, \$22,414.06, making a total of \$701,867.24. Deducting this amount from the appropriations leaves a balance of \$1,856,596.05. Adding one-ninth in conformity with provisions of "an act concerning cities of this State," approved March 27, 1884, \$206,316.67, makes the amount to be collected in taxes \$2,063,206.72 for city purposes only.

#### THE ALLOWANCES.

A schedule of the amounts appropriated for each Board as compared with the amounts they asked for and received this year follows:

Board	Amount Requested	Amount Received
Board of Aldermen	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
Board of Common Council	400,000.00	400,000.00
Board of Fire Commissioners	400,000.00	400,000.00
Board of Education	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Board of Health	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Works	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Sanitation	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Street Commissioners	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Tax Assessors	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Water Commissioners	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Waterworks	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Sewerage	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Street Cleaning	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Health	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Safety	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Welfare	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Education	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Amusement	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Parks	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Buildings	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Works	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Utilities	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Transportation	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Safety	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Welfare	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Education	100,000.00	100,000.00
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Board of Public Buildings	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Works	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Utilities	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Transportation	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Safety	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Welfare	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Education	100,000.00	100,000.00
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Board of Public Buildings	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Works	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Utilities	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Transportation	100,000.00	100,000.00
Board of Public Safety	100,000.00	100,000.00
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