

# A RIFT IN POLICE GLOOM

## ANNUAL REMINDER THAT THERE ARE SOME HEROES.

### Recognition of Deeds of Bravery and of Excellent Police Duty Done by Members of the Line in the Day's Work of a Year Is Given at Headquarters by Commissioner Waldo.

For meritorious conduct or valor performed in line of duty, 105 members of the Police Department were singled out for recognition to-day by Rhinelander Waldo, Commissioner. Recognition included all grades of honor, from honorable mention, with medal for the most conspicuous acts of bravery, to commendation for smaller deeds, and there were more than 150 other members of the force who were approved for "excellent police duty."

Such recognition usually is awarded at the time of the police parade, but this year the Commissioner has a special reason for hastening it. The three first grades of recognition carry with them points to the credit of the men in civil-service examinations: "Honorable mention, with medal," three points; "honorable mention," two; and "commendation," one. A patrolman's examination for promotion to the grade of sergeant will be held within a week, and this is the Commissioner's extra gift to those who have deserved recognition in 1912, and up to February 17 of this year. The medals will probably be presented at the time of the annual police parade.

While there was no ceremony at Headquarters, and the men were not called out from the line to receive their honor, it was a more cheerful day for the police force than the men have known in many a month. There were many who had almost adopted the notion of Emil Spies, the traffic policeman, who saved Dr. Seward Webb last week. He said that he had been standing on his post on Fifth Avenue, thinking, after all that he had been told about the rottenness of the police force, that patrolmen were "not worth twenty cents a barrel." Within five minutes he had a chance to do a conspicuous act in the regular line of duty, and did it. Well, the rehearsing of the old stories of bravery and simple performance of duty, some of them in the back files of newspapers, and others not there, put a different face on the day. The long list of honorable recognitions seemed to be a pretty good record, after all.

#### PLUCKY MOMENTS LIVED OVER

In the General Orders No. 2, which carried the notice of the awards to the force, the Commissioner retold the deeds for which the men were called out of line. There were plenty of plucky moments to be lived over again. In the list of the six patrolmen who won honorable mention with medals, there was the story of Walter Thornton, shield No. 7459, Eighth Precinct, who went off the end of a North River dock in March, at night, to save a drowning man.

Thornton was standing on fixed post at Canal and West Streets, at one o'clock in the morning, when some one told him that there was a man in the river. He blew his whistle and ran out on the pier. He heard a moan in the water just off the end of the dock, and, snatching off his boots, went over the side into the stream in the dark. It was cold, for there was heavy ice running in the river, but Thornton got his man. Another patrolman, who had heard his whistle, came and helped him out. Thornton was in the icy river thirty minutes, and remained in the hospital for many a day.

#### FACED MANY BULLETS

William J. McMillen, shield No. 6618, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Precinct, braved the pistol fire of Sabannano, a striking fireman in Brooklyn, who had just dropped a strike-breaker and two patrolmen with his bullets, on July 8. Sabannano, a vicious character, had been trying to persuade a fellow-employee to strike, and, after an argument, shot him. He ran through Hamilton Avenue, with Patrolmen Williams and Hanley after him. He shot Williams as he ran. Hanley tripped, and Sabannano turned and shot him through the back as he lay on the ground. McMillen came, and, although Sabannano was behind the protection of a fence and fired twice at him, he got his man. For this McMillen gets a medal and an honorable mention.

Thomas J. Lawlor has a double need of praise. This patrolman of the Fifteenth Precinct, wearing shield No. 2942, is listed with the first-honor men and with those who receive honorable mention as well, for two separate deeds of daring bravery. Both were at fires in the tenement district. In October at the fire in the tenement at No. 167 East Fourth Street, where five lives were lost, Lawlor saved many, and, besides, risked death in a spectacular manner in a last successful effort to save the life of Patrolman John T. Sheehan, who likewise gets a medal and honorable mention.

After carrying down a score of people on fire escapes, and rescuing one man hanging from a window on a sheet, Sheehan was overcome by a blast of flame from a window as he stood on the fourth-floor fire escape. Lawlor, on the roof of an adjoining building, saw him drop. He climbed over the rickety cornice, and, hanging five stories high, swung himself until he could himself ten feet through the air and drop on the fire escape. From there he carried Sheehan down to safety.

Once more Lawlor's name called in the list of the honor roll. In January of last year, at a fire in a tenement at No. 170 Suffolk Street, he saved three women, and was severely injured. Two women on a fire escape were about to jump, and the ladder could not reach them. It seemed too dangerous even then to risk going up. Lawlor raised the ladder, and held it up with his chest, until one of the women dropped a few feet to the rungs, and climbed down to safety. The other woman's foot was caught. Two minutes before it had seemed impossible to brave the flames going up, and now the fire was fiercer. Lawlor ran up the ladder, swung himself to the escape platform, and released her foot. Then he took off his coat, protected the woman from burning as he carried her down through the flames to the ground. He was severely burned about the face, neck, and hands, and his chest was injured in this deed.

Linked together in the roll of patrolmen

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named for honorable mention with medals are Peter J. F. Murray, shield No. 6972, and Patrick F. O'Connor, shield No. 8270, both of the Twenty-eighth Precinct, for bravery in a pistol fight with a negro in a dark back room of a saloon. They had pursued the negro there, and, as he entered, he shot O'Connor in the wrist. O'Connor was shot again after he had gone through the door, this time in the chest, and dropped to the floor. Murray and the negro fired three times at each other, and the fugitive then tried to escape past O'Connor, lying on the floor. O'Connor lifted himself up and struck the negro with his baton, felling him.

This ends the list of the six first honor men, who will henceforth wear a medal as well as a shield. In the roster of those picked for honorable mention are Sergeant John W. Donnelly and Patrolmen Matthew J. McGrath, Lawlor, George W. Bestwick, Edward W. Bartish, Samuel W. Noble, John Williams, Patrick S. Hanley, Frederick Nau, and James A. Glynn. There is a story in every one of these names, from Nau's, who ran in and snuffed the burning fuse of a bomb, to the last of those who braved pistol fire or rescued people at a fire.

One other man gets honorable mention—Edward Shelvey, of the Detective Division. He was in the rooms of the Bureau of Criminal Identification at Headquarters when William McInerney, a prisoner being examined, bolted and jumped through a window. Shelvey leaped through after him, fifteen feet to the sidewalk, and ran directly in the line of the detectives' fire until he got hold of the fugitive.

Then follow the names of the ninety-four men who were commended, and the others listed on the records for excellent police duty. Most of the special deeds commended were for bravery at fires or in making arrests, and a large number for taming runaway horses.

## SUFFRAGE PARADERS VS. POLICE.

### Senate Committee Hears More from Both Sides About Parade Disorder.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 11.—Investigation of the responsibility of the police for the disorders which attended the woman suffrage parade on Monday, March 5, was continued to-day by the Senate Committee of Inquiry, with witnesses present representing the suffragists and the police. It was the intent of the police witnesses to show that their efforts to preserve order were sincere, but they were handicapped by the immense crowd and lack of patrolmen. Witnesses for the suffragists were to testify that the police were opposed to the parade and did not attempt to protect the marchers against insult and danger.

Edward S. Droop, president of the Washington Board of Trade, was the first witness. He declared that half an hour before the parade began he believed Pennsylvania Avenue was clear.

Dr. James Mythen, a clergyman, of Baltimore, who marched in the Maryland division, said that the marchers were forced to walk in single file and that they were greeted all along the line by jeers and shouts and obscene remarks from the bystanders. He gave the numbers of several police officers who, he said, neglected the work of keeping the crowds back. One officer to whom he complained, he said, told him to "Go to hell." Dr. Mythen said that the police generally had become a part of the crowd and did nothing to restrain those who insulted the paraders. He testified that he had been told that Mary Melvin, a blind girl, who marched in the parade, had been pulled out of line by rowdies and that her guide had difficulty in rescuing her.

John A. Johnston, Commissioner of the District of Columbia, who has charge of the Police Department, was the next witness. He played in the record all of the correspondence between his office and the suffrage leaders, relating to the issuance of the parade permits and the protection of the parade.

Commissioner Johnston made a general defense of the conduct of Superintendent Sylvester and the police force in the disorders during the parade. He said the Superintendent framed comprehensive orders making complete arrangements for the protection of the marchers. That the execution of the plans failed, he said, could not well be explained, nor could the responsibility for the disorder accurately be placed.

Commissioner Johnston further declared that the crowd was disorderly "in a good-natured way," and that it looked upon the parade in a "light vein." He said that the police officers in the streets did "prodigious physical work," and that he saw no policemen whose actions called for reproof, nor did he hear remarks of an insulting nature from the crowd.

The Commissioner took occasion to praise Major Sylvester as the "most efficient Chief of Police in the United States" in the handling of large crowds.

## THREE OUT OF KEENE, N. H., JAIL.

### Prisoners Overpower Turnkey and Lock Him In.

KEENE, N. H., March 11.—The authorities are searching to-day for three prisoners who escaped from the county jail last night. The men overpowered a turnkey, robbed him of his keys, and locked him in the cell-room. All were being held for the grand jury. They are Harold F. Eastman, charged with the larceny of \$1,150 from the Winchester National Bank, while the money was in the care of an express company; Clowson Bragg, accused of burglary; and Edward Patenod, held for highway robbery. Eastman was arrested at Lewiston, Me., last November after a long pursuit.

## Glens Falls "Times" Burned Out.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y., March 11.—Fire of unknown origin to-day wrecked the plant of the Glens Falls Publishing Company, publishers of the *Daily Times*. The publication of the paper, it is announced, will be continued in the plant of the Glens Falls Post Company.