

PROPOSE CLEARING HOUSE FOR CHARITY OF THREE CREEDS

Darwin R. James Re-elected President of Brooklyn Bureau of Charities.

That negotiations which have been in progress for some time may result in the practical creation of a joint clearing house for Roman Catholic, Jewish and Protestant social service work, became known last night at the annual meeting of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities held at the new home of the organization, 335 Schermerhorn st. It was learned that Catholic and Jewish charitable agencies have been approached with a view to having the offices of these groups occupy two floors in the new building on Schermerhorn st., which are not required for the work of the Bureau of Charities. If the plan becomes effective the program will result in placing under one roof the three major charitable forces now maintained separately by the different creedal units.

James Re-elected President. Darwin R. James was unanimously re-elected president of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities and told of the plans to liquidate the \$550,000 cost of the recently-acquired building on Schermerhorn st. Dr. Thomas J. Riley, the executive secretary, reported on the general work of the organization during the year.

More than 40,000 men, women and children who are blind, crippled or tubercular were helped by the bureau during the year. The interesting information was elicited by a report submitted by Frederick E. Pratt, head of the Brooklyn Tuberculosis and Health Association which is an integral part of the bureau. That tuberculosis has now been relegated to third place in the list of major causes of deaths in the borough, the "White Plague" has given first and second place to heart and cancer diseases.

Although 254 more families were under the care of the bureau during the past year as compared with the preceding 12 months, the organization attributed the increase to the normal increase in the population of the borough. The bureau has maintained 11 district offices throughout the borough during the year.

Un-reached Boy. Former City Magistrate W. Bruce Cobb described the work that is being accomplished for the "un-reached boy" and Joseph H. Fink, secretary of the housing committee, presented statistics regarding the number of houses that are occupied in which violations of the Tenement House Laws exist. The situation, according to the report, has been materially helped since Jan. 1 by the appointment of 25 additional tenement house inspectors.

Brooklynites purchased \$112,000 Christmas seals last December to aid the bureau's work for the tubercular and the organization made possible 1,500 health examinations during the year. More than 300 handicapped persons were placed in supporting positions in industrial establishments during the same period. The treasurer's report indicated that the substantial sum of \$500,000 had been expended in the borough for all services during the year. This fund was secured from voluntary contributions, special activities and endowments.

Other Officers. In addition to the re-election of Darwin R. James to the presidency of the Bureau of Charities, the following officers and directors were unanimously selected: Frederick E. Pratt, James H. Post and Alexander M. White, vice presidents; Edwin P. Maynard, treasurer; Gilbert H. Thirkield, associate treasurer; Dr. Frank E. Jennings, medical adviser; Hersey Eggington, counsel and Edward H. Wilson, associate counsel. Board of directors: William Hamilton Child, Mrs. Mary C. Draper, William F. Heisenbuttel, Frank C.

Winners in Poster Contest



Here are the three prize winners in the Poster Contest conducted by the "Cleaner Brooklyn" committee. From left to right they are Joseph C. Cascio of Brooklyn Technical High School, who won first prize; Ted Sandler, Alexander Hamilton High School, second prize, and Frank Sullivan, Bushwick High School, third prize. Each is holding his own poster.

B. Page, Thomas H. Roulsen, Frederick C. Peck, George William Smith, Mrs. Florence Baker Stafford and Adrian Van Sinderen. Executive committee: William F. Atkinson, Mrs. Mary C. Draper, William L. Frothingham, Herbert F. Gunnison, Walter Hammett, Ralph Jonas, Charles Pratt, George William Smith, Mrs. Florence Baker Stafford and Herbert K. Twitchell.

LECTURE ON USURY

The Lex Club of prominent East New York lawyers heard its colleague, Myron Wilson, in an address on "Usury as It Affects Mortgages" at the monthly meeting last night in the Law Library, 330 Stone ave. The certificate of incorporation accepted at the last meeting was adopted and signed. Edward Larkin presided.

EVENTS TONIGHT

Card party and reception of the Catholic Women's Benevolent Legion of New York. New Jersey and Connecticut combined councils at the Hotel Pennsylvania. Banquet in honor of General Sessions Judge Otto Rosinsky and Supreme Court Justice Mitchell May by the United Patriotic Appeal at the Hotel Astor at 7 o'clock.

"Springtime Frolics," under auspices of the Flatbush Harmonious Club at the Academy of Music at 8:15 o'clock. Reception to the Rev. Henry T. Stiemke at Trinity Lutheran Church, Desraw st., near Citiado.

"Turn to the Right," under auspices of the Hanson Place Baptist Church at Central "Y" auditorium at 8:15 o'clock. Pilgrimage by the churches of the Congregational Association of Greater New York to the Church of the Pilgrims, Henry and Remsen sts., at 8 o'clock.

Spring concert by Plymouth Choral at the Academy of Music at 8:15 o'clock. Banquet of the General Society of the Daughters of the Revolution at the Hotel St. George at 7 o'clock. Flatbush "Y" campaign dinner at Erasmus Hall H. S. Circus at Nostrand and Clarkson aves. Annual meeting of the Brooklyn Section of the National Council of Jewish Women at the Unity Club, Bedford ave. and Dean st., at 8 o'clock. Graduation exercises of the Nurses Training School of Bushwick Hospital at St. Thomas Parish House, Bushwick ave. and Cooper st.

ting for him at the Dedham trial and gave him a clean bill both as a man and as an employee.

An unprejudiced inquirer is met at the outset with the indisputable fact that Vanzetti was first convicted of an attempted robbery at Plymouth before he and Sacco were brought to trial on the South Braintree charge, the charge upon which they stand condemned to death.

No Record of Trial

It is impossible, however, to make an inquiry into the 1919 water trial because the District Attorney has no record of it. Astounding, this appears, the fact remains that a letter is on file with District Attorney Wilbur acknowledging that these records may be had only in the stenographic notes taken during the trial Vanzetti charged before. The writer assumes that this stenographer still is alive, but he did not trouble him to re-transcribe his notes, if he still has them.

Similar Difficulty

A similar though not so extensive difficulty is encountered when the investigation will be made into the Dedham trial of the South Braintree crime for Governor Fuller. Dudley P. Ranney, the Assistant District Attorney now in charge for the Commonwealth, told the writer that the record he had sent to the Governor, at the Governor's request, was incomplete, that the summation of one of the defense attorneys is missing from that file. But more about that later.

One in Boston brings forward the Plymouth conviction in discussing the present circumstances. It has been lost sight of by the public. The official record he was sentenced two weeks ago, that his attorney in that trial, John Vahay of Plymouth, "betrayed him." No reply from Mr. Vahay has been made publicly as far as the writer knows. Mr. Vahay was at one time a law partner of Frederick G. Katzmann, the District Attorney who prosecuted at both trials—at Plymouth and later at Dedham.

"Convicted Before Trial Began." However, the defense now alleges, and supports the allegations with quotations claimed as taken from the now missing record, that the same tactics used to convict in the Dedham trial were employed at Plymouth, that the prejudices and emotions of the jurors were played upon as at Dedham, and that, though Vanzetti had ample alibi, he was convicted before the trial began.

Presided at Both Trials

Judge Webster Thayer presided over Vanzetti's trial at Plymouth and later presided over the trial of Vanzetti and Sacco at Dedham. The assertion has been made and widely circulated that Judge Thayer, whose personal prejudices are blamed for the alleged unfairness of the Dedham trial, asked to have the trial at Plymouth held under his magistracy.

Judge Thayer's version cannot be presented here because he has denied himself to reporters—late. In any event, both Judge Thayer and District Attorney Katzmann were aware when the trial at Dedham began on May 31, 1921, that Sacco and Vanzetti were radicals, that they were labor leaders and that they had evaded the draft during the war.

Both Had Taken Prominent Parts

in strikes and disputes between employers and employees. Vanzetti had been foremost in the walkout of workers of the Plymouth Cordage Company, the dominant factor in Plymouth life and affairs in 1915, and he was the only employee not taken back when the strike ended. Sacco had been very active in the strike of the Millford foundry workers.

Gave Earnings to Children

Vanzetti was a handy laborer and for a year or so preceding his arrest had been a fish peddler in Plymouth. He was recognized as a steady and hard worker. Having no wife or children and no personal responsibilities, he saved no money. Much of his earnings he gave away to children. Sacco was an expert shoe edger and had long been steadily employed. He is married and has two children, the second born a few months after his incarceration. His employer testified for him at the Dedham trial and gave him a clean bill both as a man and as an employee.

An unprejudiced inquirer is met at the outset with the indisputable fact that Vanzetti was first convicted of an attempted robbery at Plymouth before he and Sacco were brought to trial on the South Braintree charge, the charge upon which they stand condemned to death.

ing the war. It is on this basis that the charges of unfairness and deception are made.

The next strips of background are the stories of the arrests and the detention of the two men, published in the Boston newspapers, including the trial at Plymouth. These newspapers are widely circulated in Dedham and Norfolk County, and, as there is not only a liberal newspaper in Boston, either acknowledged or avowed, the atmosphere of the community is easy to judge.

The Eagle correspondent was informed that the courthouse at Dedham, at the start of the trial and afterward, was guarded by State police and court officers, virtually all of them armed, to protect the judge and the prosecutor and "to insure a fair trial." William H. Ripley, the foreman of the jury, stood armed upon entering the courtroom.

Lawyer Denied Search

All persons entering the courtroom were searched before admission. It was permitted to it. During the trial William G. Thompson, now the chief of the defense, one of the most highly respected and aristocratic lawyers in Massachusetts, went to the courtroom one day. An officer attempted to search him, but he stood on his rights as an American citizen and a pleader at the State bar and was not further molested.

The selection of the jury was a long and difficult process, 700 veniremen and talsmen being summoned before it was completed. Knowing the social, political and theological views of the jury, Judge Thayer then said to the first group of talsmen:

"It is not a sufficient excuse that a juror has business engagements and other duties more profitable and pleasant than he would rather perform, for you must remember the American soldier had other duties than he would rather perform than those that resulted in his giving up his life upon the battlefields of France; but he with undaunted courage and patriotic devotion that brought honor and glory to humanity and the world rendered the service and made the supreme sacrifice. He answered the call of the Commonwealth."

"So, gentlemen, I call upon you to render this service here that you have been summoned to perform with the same spirit of patriotism, courage and devotion to duty as was exhibited by our soldier boys across the seas and let no juror decline this call of the Commonwealth, excepting in such cases that he can wear in fact and in truth, before man and Almighty God, that his conscience will not permit him to find a defendant guilty of a crime punishable with death."

Tense Atmosphere Increased. The defense contends that this sounding of the patriotic note would not be objectionable in an ordinary case, but that having the knowledge that he had of the views and history of Sacco and Vanzetti, Judge Thayer subtly added to the tense atmosphere of the courtroom the prejudice of the men in the dock.

In support of this view, Professor Felix Frankfurter of the Harvard Law School, who has written a book, published by Little, Brown & Co., analyzing this case, has called for it a Federal court decision, reviewing a prosecution, which says:

"On these dates (1918) it was not necessary to inflame the passions of jurors by talking about the enemies of our country; rather was it a time to caution jurors against allowing their prejudices and patriotism from swaying their judgment. But the Assistant United States Attorney so far transcended his duty as a prosecutor that he was clearly of the opinion that the conviction of the defendant ought not to stand. The language used speaks for itself. It must have produced a situation in the minds of the jurors that destroyed a calm consideration of the facts."

rights of the defendant. The United States cannot afford to convict her citizens in this manner."

(Professor Frankfurter gave The Eagle permission to quote from his book.)

"Government of Laws." After sounding the patriotic trumpet, Judge Thayer said:

"In this age of freedom of thought and of speech an individual is entitled to have his own private views upon all social, religious, political and economic questions, but he should never bring them with him to the jury room, especially when they might operate in the least degree to the prejudice of either party, whether in civil or criminal cases; for the majesty of the law and obedience to the law must be supreme and must control the individual will; for, as has been many times said: 'This is a Government of laws and not of men.'"

More Prejudice Charged. The defense contends that even in this direction Judge Thayer subtly inserted, at the end, remarks prejudicial to anarchists, who were not being tried for anarchy but for murder in highway robbery.

Whether Judge Thayer realized the effect of his remarks upon the jury may be speculated upon, but in view of the affidavits recently filed with Governor Fuller, accusing him of expressing prejudice to those whom he mistakenly believed to be his friends because the men on trial were anarchists, the friends of Sacco and Vanzetti contend that he did know what he was about.

Further allegations of unfairness and prejudice by Judge Thayer will be discussed in tomorrow's article.

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