FAREWELL TO WILLIAMS

Retired from the Police Force at His Own Request.

RUMORS THAT BYRNES WILL WITHDRAW

The Chief of Police Will Not Discuss Rumors About Himself—Williams's Varied Record as a Policeman.

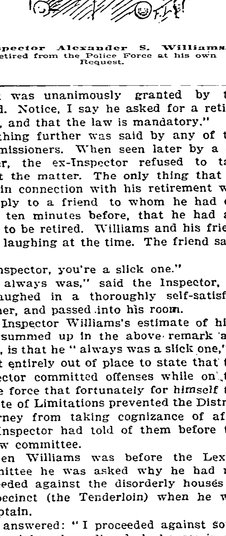
The public will know Alexander S. Williams no longer as a police officer.

The Inspector was retired from the police force yesterday, upon his own application, on a pension of $1,750 a year. He is fifty-six years old, and his salary as a Police Inspector was $3,500 a year.

It was rumored about police headquarters yesterday that Chief Byrnes would be forced to retire, but neither he nor the Commissioners would discuss the rumors.

In announcing Inspector Williams's retirement, President Roosevelt of the Board of Police Commissioners said:

"Inspector Williams has asked for a retirement. The law is mandatory, and his request was unanimously granted by the board. Notice, I say he asked for a retirement, and that the law is mandatory."



Inspector Alexander S. Williams.
Retired from the Police Force at his own Request.

Nothing further was said by any of the Commissioners. When seen later by a reporter, the ex-Inspector refused to talk about the matter. The only thing that he said in connection with his retirement was in reply to a friend to whom he had denied, ten minutes before, that he had applied to be retired. Williams and his friend were laughing at the time. The friend said: said:

"Inspector, you're a slick one."

"I always was," said the Inspector, as he laughed in a thoroughly self-satisfied manner, and passed into his room.

As Inspector Williams's estimate of himself, summed up in the above remark and reply, is that he "always was a slick one," it is not entirely out of place to state that the Inspector committed offenses while on the police force that fortunately for himself the Statute of Limitations prevented the District Attorney from taking cognizance of after the Inspector had told of them before the Lexow committee.

When Williams was before the Lexow committee he was asked why he had not proceeded against the disorderly houses in his pecinct (the Tenderloin) when he was a Captain.

He answered: "I proceeded against some of the eighty-three disorderly houses in my precinct, but I cannot remember what houses or the names of the owners. I made no attempt to close all of them."

Then came these questions and answers:

Q.—Why? A.—Well, they were fashionable.

Q.—Can't you give any better answer than that? A.—No, I can't say anything else about it. They were always there. When they were closed up they would open again.

Q.—Then you, the police officer charged with carrying out the laws, and paid by the people for so doing, say that you left these houses open because it was fashionable? A.—Yes.

Q. (By Chairman Lexow)—Don't you know that that is an extraordinary answer? A.—Well, I haven't any other.

That is part of the record that this "slick" Inspector will take into retirement with him, and for his ability to make it and to prevent the authorities from acting upon misdemeanors known to the public until they were outlawed the city will pay him $1,750 a year so long as he shall live.

Inspector Williams strenuously denied all yesterday morning that he had applied for retirement, although his application was then before the Commissioners.

The Commissioners held their regular open meeting yesterday, and, after having dispatched the routine business, went into executive session and considered Williams's application for retirement.

The matter had undoubtedly been fully considered, for after a few minutes the board called Williams before it and informed him that his request had been granted.

Williams did not remain in the board room over two or three minutes, and within five minutes after his exit the Commissioners opened the doors and made the announcement of his retirement.

Inspector Williams was born in 1839 on the Island of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. He came to New-York when a boy, and learned the trade of ship carpenter. He was afterward in the employ of W. H. Webb & Co., the well-known shipbuilders. When a young man he visited Japan, Mexico, and other countries. He says he is the first white man who laid the keel of a ship in Japan. After his return to the United States he entered the employ of the Government for a time, and engaged in raising a sunken ship off the coast of Key West, Fla.

Williams was appointed to the old Metropolitan police force on Aug. 3, 1866, by Commissioner Bergen. His first assignment was to the Forty-seventh Precinct, Brooklyn. He remained there until 1868, and was then transferred to the Broadway squad in New-York. He was made a Roundsman on July 10, 1871, and on Sept. 23, 1871, he was promoted to a Sergeantcy and placed in charge of the mounted squad, which had just been organized. He was made a Captain on May 31, 1872, and was assigned to duty in the Twenty-first Precinct in East Thirty-fifth Street. Later, he was transferred to the Eighth Precinct, and in 1874 he was sent to the Fourth Precinct. He was placed in charge of the Twenty-ninth Precinct (the Tenderloin) on Sept. 30, 1876. There his energetic action at popular gatherings gained for him the title of "The Clubber."

After about two years' service in the Tenderloin District, Capt. Williams was detailed as Superintendent of the Street-Cleaning Department. He was sent back to

Continued on Page 5.

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FAREWELL TO WILLIAMS

Continued from Page 1.

the Tenderloin on June 15, 1881, where he remained until he was made Inspector on Aug. 9, 1887. He has since been in charge of the First Inspection District, which includes all the precincts on the east side of the city from the Battery to East One Hundred and Fourth Street.

It is said that by carefully husbanding his meagre salary for years Inspector Williams has grown rich. He is said to own a town house and a country house, and a handsome yacht, in which he can travel from town to country place.

It was freely rumored about Police Headquarters yesterday morning that Chief Byrnes and Inspector Williams would be forced out of the police force. The Commissioners, through President Parker, announced that they declined to either deny or affirm any of the rumors, and Commissioner Andrews, after Inspector Williams had been retired, said that the latter had not been forced to retire.

Whether an effort is being made to get rid of Chief Byrnes, as rumored, could not be ascertained yesterday, but that he has not the full confidence of the Police Board is well known.

This lack of confidence in Chief Byrnes is shown by the action of the Board in taking important and almost revolutionary steps without his knowledge, and by making public such letters as the following, from Thomas McGregor, which was read in open meeting yesterday:

"Will the result of the McLaughlin trial cause Superintendent Byrnes to disconnect himself from the Police Department? Undoubtedly this should be the case. McLaughlin is not half as guilty as Byrnes in the minds of all fair-minded men who know anything about this city. There is no question about McLaughlin's guilt. He is worth $200,000 or $300,000, all made in the department. Byrnes contends that he was worth $1,500,000. He was not asked how much more than that amount. The fact is he is worth $1,500,000, and every dollar of it was wages of blackmail and corruption. He has any number of collectors in the department, McLaughlin being the chief one of them. But he was cunning enough to feather his own nest in the meantime.

"The Police Department can never be improved with Byrnes at the head. It is getting worse every day, and no matter how hard you and your associates labor for its improvement it will be of no avail. The rank and file will never believe in Byrnes.

"Murderers and thugs continue to wave their own way and bunko steerers and confidence men feel certain that they are safe in plying their business, knowing that Byrnes and McLaughlin have got a great share in the swag.

"Byrnes has seen the handwriting on the wall for some time, and has, therefore, been making every effort to perpetuate himself in office and get beyond the power of anybody to remove him."

When asked to deny or affirm the rumor that he had been asked to apply for retirement, Chief Byrnes declined to say anything upon the subject.

Whatever his intentions are, they are as well secreted as are those of the Commissioners.

One-half of the rumors current yesterday morning were shown to be correct before the day was over, and many persons at Police Headquarters expect new developments before many days.

Ex-Roundsman Jacob Pratt, who left the police force to organize the Police Department of Canada in 1858, and was lately been reappointed to the force, was at Headquarters yesterday. It was said that the Commissioners wish to make him a Captain. He is a veteran of the late war.

Mrs. John Flynn, widow of a policeman, sent a letter to the board asking to be given work. She said she was in need and destitute. The Commissioners all agreed that widows of police officers should be employed in the department wherever there is work for them. President Roosevelt said it should be a rule.

Commissioner Andrews brought up the question of reappointing former members of the force. He said that large numbers of applications had come in from men who want to get back. The Commissioners decided to send all the applicants before the Board of Examiners to be examined as to their physical qualifications.

All who are reappointed will first have to sign a release of all claims for arrears. The board expressed its opposition to the bill increasing the pay of doormen from $1,000 to $1,200. There is to be a hearing on the bill at the Mayor's office on May 29, and a committee of doormen applied for permission to appear at the Mayor's office in favor of the measure. The board refused the permission asked, and will notify the doormen that any arguments they may have in favor of the bill should be presented to the board. President Roosevelt said that the board should make it a rule that no member of the uniformed force hereafter shall appeal for or against legislation, except through the board. The Commissioner said:

"I will present a resolution to that effect now, to be laid over, if you like, to be acted upon at the next meeting."

The following suggestions made by Gen. Rodenbough, Chief of Elections, for the examination of applicants for the position of election officers, were adopted by the board:

"First. The list of persons named for the positions of Inspectors, poll and ballot clerks must be accompanied in each case by a written application in the usual form as to name, age, residence, political faith, occupation, and place of business, in the handwriting of the applicant, together with a certificate signed by two reputable citizens that he is known to them to be of good character.

"Second. Immediately after the said lists have been filed with the Board of Police, each person named thereon shall be furnished by the Chief of the Bureau of Elections with a copy of the election laws and a circular containing instruction as to its use.

"Third. Within six days thereafter said person shall be notified to appear at the Bureau of Elections on the day and hour specified for examination as to his fitness to perform the duties of the position for which he is an applicant, said examination to be in method somewhat similar to a non-competitive civil service form, with a view especially to test clerical ability and familiarity with the more important sections of the election law.

"Fourth. For the purposes of said examination, the courtroom shall be used daily during the period from the 1st to the 15th day of September, except Thursdays, the settees therein to be fitted up with the adjustable shelf, submitted to the board.

"Fifth. The examinations to be conducted under the supervision of the Chief of the Bureau of Elections, with the clerical force at his disposal, and such other assistance as the Board of Police may authorize.

"Sixth. It is estimated that by devoting six hours a day, (two in the morning, two in the afternoon, and two in the evening,) to the work—giving Inspectors one hour each—that 1,080 Inspectors, or 2,160 poll and ballot clerks could be handled per day, thus, upon a basis of 1,400 Election Districts, the examination of 11,000 election officers, (making an allowance for failure to appear,) could be completed within ten days."

BYRNES WILL NOT TALK.

Nothing to Say About a Story the Board Wants to Get Him Out.

Chief Byrnes refused last night to discuss the statement published in an evening newspaper to the effect that the Police Commissioners had determined to force him out of the department with which he had been connected for over thirty years, nor would he give any intimation as to what course he would pursue under the circumstances.

It had been current gossip in police circles for some time that at least three of the Commissioners—Messrs. Roosevelt, Andrews, and Parker—had made up their minds to oust Chief Byrnes, but that Commissioner Grant was not in accord with them in this determination. The position of Byrnes is, however, well night impregnable. He is a veteran of the war, and can only be removed on charges, and it has been conceded that there is no good ground for charges against him. He can, of course, sever his connection with the force by resignation, or by asking for retirement from active service on a pension. Such a request must, under the law, be granted, as he has been in service more than twenty-five years.

It is a well-known fact that Chief Byrnes, immediately after the last election, placed his request for retirement in the hands of Mayor Strong, to be used at Mr. Strong's discretion, and it was at the urgent request of the Mayor that this application for retirement was subsequently withdrawn. Mr. Strong asked Mr. Byrnes to remain at the head of the police force, and Mr. Byrnes conceived it a duty he owed the public to comply with this request, to hold the police force together, and prevent utter demoralization. It is also well known that since the advent of the present Board of Commissioners he has been ignored, and has never been consulted as to the necessary methods to be adopted for the proper reorganization of the police force, on which subject the Chief had decided and practical opinions. This would seem to indicate that a majority of the Commissioners had determined to render the position of Chief Byrnes so uncomfortable that he would, in self respect, ask to be retired.

The Commissioners yesterday refused to either affirm or deny the published statement that they had determined to get rid of Byrnes.

The retirement of Inspector Williams was brought about much in this way: After reading the statement in the evening paper that he must go, the Inspector went to see the Commissioners, and asked them plainly whether they had determined to force him out of the department. The interview is said to have been very stormy, and resulted in the request for the Inspector's resignation. Williams refused to resign, and told the Commissioners that as he had been more than twenty-five years in the department, he demanded his right under the law to be retired on half pay. Notwithstanding the statement heretofore made by the Commissioners that no member of the police force who had been smirched by testimony brought out by the Lexow investigation would be permitted to retire, but would be called upon to defend himself against the charges made against him, the request for retirement was immediately granted.

LIBRARIES ARE CONSOLIDATED

The Name Will Be "The New-York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations."

The agreement of consolidation between the Trustees of the Astor Library, the Trustees of the Lenox Library, and the Tilden Trust was filed yesterday in the office of the County Clerk.

The agreement was executed on Thursday by Thomas M. Markoe, the President of the Astor Library; John S. Kennedy, the President of the Lenox Library, and Alexander E. Orr, the Vice President of the Tilden Trust. The name of the consolidated corporation is to be, "The New-York Public Library, Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations."

The Trustees of the new library are Thomas M. Markoe, Henry Drisler, John L. Cadwalader, Henry C. Potter, S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, Stephen H. Olin, Edward King, Daniel Huntington, Frederick Sturges, Alexander Maitland, John S. Kennedy, William Allen Butler, George L. Rives, John Bigelow, Andrew H. Green, George W. Smith, Alexander E. Orr, Lewis Cass Ledyard, Samuel P. Avery, and Philip Schuyler.

The purposes of the new corporation, as set forth in the agreement, are to establish and maintain a free public library and reading room in this city, with such branches as may be deemed advisable, and to continue and promote the several objects and purposes as set forth in the respective acts of incorporation of each organization.

The first meeting of the Trustees is to be called by John L. Cadwalader, George L. Rives, and Lewis Cass Ledyard, or any two of them. At this meeting an organization is to be effected by the election of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Trustees shall enter on behalf of the new corporation, receive and enter into possession and management of the libraries of the several corporations, and also of all the property owned by each, and the Board of Trustees of each corporation shall take such action as may be found necessary in order to transfer to the new corporation the title to all real estate, securities, and all other property standing in their names or owned by them.

It is provided then that the Boards of Trustees shall meet and carry out the purposes of this agreement, and the Trustees of the new corporation shall adopt suitable by-laws for the general management and conduct of the new corporation.

Edward King, when visited last night, expressed much satisfaction at what he styled the happy outcome of the efforts of those who have been so energetic in bringing about the consolidation of the libraries.

The meeting of the Trustees, he said, would be held Monday afternoon at the Astor Library. Then organization would take place and action would follow.

When asked where the temporary home of the consolidated libraries would be, Mr. King said:

"I have no doubt that the action of the board, when it meets, will be to carry out the expressed desire of the Trustees of the three libraries, which is to make the Lenox a home for the three libraries for the present.

"No one," he added, "of the three libraries could individually carry out the objects for which it was established. In union there is strength, and I, for one, am much gratified in knowing that the consolidation is now a fact accompli."

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