

was employed as maid by Mrs. Harvey Bassford, who, in trying to save the girl when the latter's dress caught fire from the kitchen range, was herself fatally burned, dying in the hospital here on Monday afternoon. Mr. Bassford has taken charge of the body and will attend to the funeral arrangements.

HEALY LOSES DOG SUIT.

Municipal Court Jury Awards Setter to Mrs. Ross, but Appeal Will Be Taken.

Justice Seaman of the Twelfth Municipal Court, Broadway and One Hundredth Street, yesterday tried a case involving the ownership of an Irish setter, which P. J. Healy of 617 West Eightieth Street declared belonged to him, while Mrs. Mahila Ross of West End Avenue and Eighty-first Street was equally positive that it belonged to her.

The dog in question was a setter, who answered impartially to the names King and Celt, wagged his tail with equal friendliness on plaintiff and defendant, and even tried to make up to a court officer. Among the many persons present were dog fanciers and breeders and judges at bench shows. Some brought their dogs with them, so that at the opening of the proceedings it seemed that the dogs might get to wrangling. Peace was assured by clearing the court of all dogs other than setters. Several of these remained as exhibits.

Mr. and Mrs. Healy were accompanied by their young son, who was born on the same day as the dog which disappeared, and which, when the boy was a baby in California, found the little fellow when he was lost. Their counsel was J. E. Connelly. W. H. Ross and his wife were near by with their attorney, P. M. Brown.

Mr. Ross told of his purchase of a dog and described him in detail. Mrs. Ross also described the dog minutely, telling of its purchase in the Fall of 1895, which made its age a little over eight years. She told of losing the dog about the time Healy brought his dog from San Francisco, and later of finding it wearing a collar bearing the name P. J. Healy. Mrs. Healy, whom she did not doubt thought the dog her own, had taken it from her maid while she had it out for an airing.

Dr. Stephen Mulvey, who boards and cares for the ills of dogs, and who was put in charge of the dog Celt, or King, after the case was decided against Mr. Healy by Magistrate Ommen on Dec. 8, was called to testify as to the age of the dog. He asserted that no man could tell the approximate age of a full-grown dog, and announced that he would bet \$100 to support that contention. His remarks were interrupted by the Justice, who told him that he was not in a poolroom. William Wallace agreed with Dr. Mulvey.

Mr. Healy told of buying the dog Celt in San Francisco when it was a pup, and of how he had brought him here. It disappeared, and was found in the possession of Mrs. Ross's maid by Mrs. Healy, who took it home. He described the dog and offered in evidence its pedigree, showing it to be about five years old. Mrs. Healy testified, corroborating the statement of her husband.

Prof. Gill of the New York Veterinary Hospital testified that there was no difficulty in telling the age of a dog that was not past six years old. On examination he declared that the dog in question was about five years old, and that it could not therefore be the dog of Mrs. Ross. W. H. Simmons, who has owned at once time as many as sixteen Irish setters, examined the dog of the dispute and said that it was about five years old.

Magistrate Ommen was called to the stand. He said that he had summoned Mr. Healy on the complaint of Mrs. Ross. He had decided in favor of Mrs. Ross, but Mr. Healy refused to stand by his judgment, and said that he would go to jail before he would give up his dog. The Magistrate had thought that he would accommodate him, but then it was agreed that the dog should be put in the custody of a keeper.

The jury, after an hour's deliberation, awarded the dog to Mrs. Ross. On information from Mr. Connelly that he would appeal on exceptions the dog was continued in the custody of Dr. Mulvey. He left with the animal, smiling contentedly at the decision, because boarding dogs is his business. Mr. Healy said that he would fight for the dog "to the bitter end."

FAVOR LARGER COMMITTEE.

The plan of increasing the membership of the Republican County Committee from 217 to 500 and reducing the annual dues from \$25 to two-fifths or three-fifths of that sum was approved by the Executive Committee at a meeting held yesterday afternoon.

This move is credited with being an idea of Gov. Odell and his advisers in this city. Its aim is to popularize the committee with the Republican voters of the county and also to make it a more effective working force than at present.

Chairman William Halpin of the Ninth presided. Alexander T. Mason was recognized as the executive member from the Twenty-ninth, the notice of the meeting having been sent to him instead of to Alderman Franklin B. Ware, who was apparently leader of the district as a result of the vote of the Schwarzler forces in the district Executive Committee, until a court action challenged his right to hold the title of leader.

The committee holds, as the Executive Committee of Tammany holds, that it is the judge of its own membership under the ruling of the Court of Appeals in the Devry case.

The question of choosing a Treasurer was discussed at great length. It was declared that Cornelius Vanderbilt had been approached to accept the place.

According to a competent authority, Mr. Vanderbilt has no intention of succeeding to George R. Sheldon's position. Frank H. Partridge, President of the Plaza Republican Club of the Twenty-ninth District, was also discussed as a successor to Sheldon, but it is doubted if he would accept an election.

At the meeting of the County Committee at the United Charities Building to-night, a Treasurer will be elected if the managers can in the meantime find somebody who will accept the honor and the work attached thereto. It is expected that the "Greater County Committee scheme" will also be discussed by the members and perhaps adopted.

Preparations for having the Republican Party represented in the Congressional election in the Twelfth District, where W. Bourke Cockran will, on Feb. 23, be chosen to succeed George B. McClellan, will be made. The leaders intend to have the full party vote in the district polled. Of course it is conceded that the Republican nominee cannot possibly be elected, the adverse plurality being expected to be at least 10,000.

May Launch Hanna Boom at Dinner.

A rumor was in circulation yesterday that the dinner to be given at the Waldorf-Astoria on Jan. 29, the sixty-first anniversary of Mr. McKinley's birth, by the West Side Republican Club to some of the most noted Republicans in the State and city might become a medium for the launching of a Hanna boom. A resident of Canton will deliver the eulogy of the late President, from the standpoint of a personal friend. It is expected that Gov. Odell and Senators Depew and Platt will be present, in addition to other Republican leaders, local and National.

AGED FLORIST DIES IN HUT.

A mounted policeman attached to the Liberty Street Station found Theodore Paitz, an aged florist of East New York, dead in his little hut at Williams Street and New Lots Avenue yesterday afternoon. Dr. Loew of the Bradford Avenue Hospital decided that the man had died of heart disease, but that is not quite certain.

The old man had once been rich, so the story which has long been told in the neighborhood runs, and it is not yet clear what may develop out of the investigations into the case by the police. This much is certain, however, that his horse, Croesus II., died about the same time as the master. As the two for many years have journeyed together selling the flowers which Paitz grew it may be that there is something in the story told in the neighborhood last night that Paitz had found his horse dead in the barn and that the shock had killed him.

That he was peculiar all those who knew Paitz agree. His flowers and his horse occupied his entire attention. He was considered close at a bargain, so that he was often spoken of in the neighborhood as the florist "miser," but that, his friends insist, was unjust, as he was known to have done many little acts of kindness, especially for children.

Paitz is known to have sold some land lately, for which he is said to have received \$4,000. The police having heard this story, made an investigation of the old man's house, but found no money. They did find a lot of papers which showed that the aged florist had once dealt extensively in real estate.

Paitz lived entirely alone in the little hut. He was sixty-eight years old. He is known to have been married, but through illness his wife is said to have left him many years ago. He is also said to have had a daughter living in Tremont, but last night she could not be found. The police will look into the case carefully.

Mrs. Bassford's Maid Dies from Burns.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Jan. 20.—Marie Gerren, a German servant, died in the hospital here to-day from the effects of burns received at Hartsdale on Monday last. She