

## TO HEDGE OUT PRYING EYES

### Mrs. Asiel Will Build a Four and a Half Story Fence.

#### SAYS MEALS WERE WATCHED

Neighbors Hung Curious from Sixteen Windows, She Declares, and Threw Rubbish Into the Garden.

Plans were filed yesterday with the Department of Buildings for a four-and-a-half-story sheet-iron fence to be erected in the rear of the three-story and basement dwelling at 140 East Eightieth Street, owned by Mrs. Hannah Asiel, and occupied by herself and Jacob Asiel, her husband, who is a dealer in coal. The reason Mrs. Asiel advances for raising this fence is the curiosity of the tenants of the five-story apartment house at 142 East Eightieth Street, which she avers is acute and very painful to her.

The dwelling which Mrs. Asiel purposes to darken has a twenty-foot front on East Eightieth Street, and extends down Lexington Avenue the full length of the lot. Consequently it juts above all one side of Mrs. Asiel's dwelling and the yard in the rear. Piercing its sides are sixteen windows, directly over the yard. Mrs. Asiel complains that when her husband and herself dined under their juniper tree and fig vine, as they were wont to do during the hot months, the tenants of the apartment house would congregate at some or all of the sixteen windows and watch the progress of the meal to their own apparent entertainment, but to the great embarrassment of the diners. She further asserts that they were accustomed to shake and beat their mats and rugs from the windows overlooking her yard, and that the dust and dirt settled on her plants, drifted into her kitchen, and in divers ways made life a burden too hard to be borne with meekness.

Solomon Davidson, the owner of the apartment house, began its erection last December. The Asiels entered their present home eleven years ago, when houses were comparatively few and unpretentious in the Yorkville district. In those days the goats ate posters and discarded bric-a-brac from the same pile without dissensions, and the neighbors visited one another in a pleasant way. Times changed; the goats are historical subjects, and few know their neighbors. Mrs. Asiel has become resigned to the bustle and aggressiveness of the new order of things in the main, but she still insists that her own rights and privileges be not transgressed one jot or one tittle.

She is a pleasant-faced German woman of about fifty years. Yesterday afternoon she told with a trace of sadness in her voice how she had always lived on pleasant terms with her neighbors for the eleven years she had occupied her present home, and that she always desired to live at peace with all the world. She said she had warned Mr. Davidson when he started to build the house that she would maintain the privacy of her backyard. He had given her scant attention, she said. In blasting for a foundation half her yard had been blown out of its natural location, and part of her front railing jostled aside. The railing had never been repaired, although Mr. Davidson had frequently promised to do it, she said. A frame of rough laths at present shields from canine depredations several yards of this breach.

When the apartment house was completed, its ground floor windows were flush with the level of the ground in the back yard. This section of their property has been cared for with especial solicitude by Mr. and Mrs. Asiel. From the kitchen a wicker arbor extends some 15 feet back, and trailing vines have covered it until it is a cool bower of green. The rest of the yard is cut up into a garden, a grass plot surrounded by a paved walk, in the middle. Flowering shrubs, foliage plants and rare and valuable specimens of the flora of many countries were tenderly cultivated by the Asiels.

"I used to spend most of the day out in the garden with my flowers," said Mrs. Asiel, "and every time I went out some one would peek and pry on me as if I were some strange creature. Then when we had dinner under the arbor, they seemed to think it was a great sight, and would bother us so we could not eat in comfort."

Warfare was actively commenced as early as June when Mrs. Asiel commissioned M. J. Engel of 437 Third Avenue to construct three screens at a cost of \$350 each. As the screens were to be many times higher than twelve feet, the limit allowed without a permit, Mr. Engel tried to get official permission, but failed, and Mrs. Asiel was forced to defer the carrying out of her intention.

In another direction, however, she was not hampered by the law. On the ground floor of the apartment house were shops, including a barber's, a merchant tailor's, and a renovating establishment. The vicinity of the barber's shop was especially offensive to Mrs. Asiel. She complained that she was obliged to see men being shaved every time she went out to weed her garden, and that, as they were denied other activity while their cheeks were under the razor, they took an annoying interest in her gardening. An ice box was promptly planted against one window, and the relief was so great that Mrs. Asiel had a fence built snug against the wall to a height just above the windows.

At first some of the shop people did not understand the situation. Charles G. Fischer, who has a merchant tailoring establishment on the ground floor, the morning after the fence was constructed, left his sister-in-law in charge, while he was down town. The sister-in-law immediately pushed a hole in the fence and admitted light to the rear of the shop. On Mr. Fischer's return he was arrested on the complaint of Mrs. Asiel, and put to much trouble in explaining to a Magistrate in the Harlem Court his innocence in the trespass. This occurred three weeks ago, and the shopkeepers appear to have been duly alarmed by Mr. Fischer's fate, and have made no physically violent protest. They affect to be more amused than angry at Mrs. Asiel.

The principal in this fencing match appears to consider it in a very unimpassioned mood. "Oh, they peep and spy on me," she said, "just as people will in such places. I don't blame them. I would do the same." (with a little giggle,) "but I don't want to be watched, and have them laugh at how I use my knife or fork, or have them throw dust on my flowers. I told Mr. Davidson what I would do. He promised to fix network on the windows, so that his tenants could not keep throwing rubbish in my garden, but he has not done it. I don't want to spend the money, but I will live in quiet, and care for my plants in peace."

Rudolph Moeller of 1566 Madison Avenue is the architect who has submitted plans for the fence. It will be of corrugated sheet iron, and will cost about \$750. Mrs. Asiel is undecided whether to simply shut off the windows of the apartment house or to erect three screens each four stories high to anticipate trouble from her other neighbors directly back and at the west of her home. Directly in the back is the Villa Maria Academy, and Mrs. Asiel says she has never been subjected to annoyance from that quarter.

Mr. Davidson speaks German fluently and English passively. At his home, East Eighty-second Street and Lexington Ave-

nue, he called out from the stairway landing, one flight up, that he disliked the subject. "Ich weiss nicht," he shouted, referring to Mrs. Asiel's proceedings; "das ist 'I don't know noddings.' Good bye, gut nacht," and he nimbly ran to his door and slammed it before his visitor could reach him.

## BRANDY FROM BEER FAUCETS.

### Sheriff's Deputy Sits and Watches Liquor Carried Off on Which There Was an Attachment.

Detective Campbell, armed with a warrant of arrest issued by Magistrate Pool, was yesterday looking for Samuel Josephson, who formerly kept a saloon at 130 Delancey Street. The warrant was issued on complaint of A. M. Blum, Jr.'s, Sons, wholesale liquor dealers at 103 Broad Street, who charged Josephson with conspiracy in getting goods without intending to pay for them. There are also other creditors who are looking for Josephson and his silent partner and brother-in-law, Philip Goldstein, from whom they want to collect about \$8,000 for liquor and jewelry sold to them.

A member of the firm of Blum, Jr.'s, Sons said yesterday that the defendants owed them not over \$400, and they did not care so much about the money, but they hated to be treated so shabbily, and wanted to teach Josephson and Goldstein a lesson which they would long remember. So they engaged Max D. Josephson as counsel to prosecute them. Lawyer Josephson said he was no relative of the defendant, who bore the same name.

The defendants, said the lawyer, had heard from a cousin of Samuel Josephson, in Cape Town, South Africa, that business was booming there, and they would find an excellent opening at that place. They thereupon bought up on credit a lot of liquors from various firms. These goods, Mr. Josephson said, were delivered at the saloon at 130 Delancey Street, and then large quantities of the liquors were taken to a place in Willett street, near Stanton Street, where they were sold as quickly as possible. "Adolph Prince," the lawyer continued, "procured an attachment on the stock in the Delancey Street store, where four barrels of brandy were still in the cellar. A Sheriff's deputy was placed in charge, and sat down comfortably in a chair before the bar of the saloon. In a little while he noticed that the saloon was doing a rushing business. Men and women came in with mugs and pails and bought beer by the quart and gallon, and hurried away, and then returned for more. He casually remarked to the proprietor that his business was quite flourishing. 'Oh, yes,' replied the latter. 'We treat our customers very liberally, and we give them as good measure as they got before the imposition of the new war tax.'

"The next morning when the deputy was ordered to turn over the brandy to the attachment creditor the brandy barrels were found, but without any contents. Then it was discovered that some one had connected the beer pipes with the barrels of brandy, and it dawned upon the deputy's mind that what he believed was beer that had flowed in such large quantities through the faucets of the bar into supposed customers' cans was in reality the brandy from the barrels.

"Besides the liquor that these men got they also bought a good deal of jewelry on the installment plan, and which their wives sewed up in their skirts. We understood that they were going to Cape Town, and I procured from Judge Olcott, in the City Court, an order for the arrest of Josephson, but just as Deputy Sheriff Walgering was about to execute the order of arrest Josephson went to New Jersey.

## NEW SYSTEM FOR TELEPHONES

### The New York Company Plans to Install Improvements in Harlem Within a Week.

An entirely new system for exchanges and new style instruments for private homes and offices is contemplated by the New York Telephone Company as speedily as the improvements can be installed. The Harlem Exchange has been under process of alteration for some time, and by Saturday or Sunday next it is expected the new system will be in operation. While somewhat in the nature of an experiment, if the Harlem Exchange is found to give satisfaction the system will eventually be substituted throughout the parts of the city controlled by the company.

As concerns the exchanges, the chief advantage is that the new system obviates the necessity of waiting after ringing up the exchange, and also renders unnecessary all repartee with the telephone girl. She is notified that some one is calling by a light from a small electric bulb the moment the receiver is lifted by the subscriber. When the conversation is finished, and the receiver hung up, another small electric light shines in the exchange. The telephone girl asks the number when the first light shows, and her chances for exchanging the customary persiflage and facetiae end here.

The main feature of the system is that the batteries are grouped at the exchanges, and not scattered at the subscribers' homes or offices, as at present. Consequently a much smaller case for the instrument is required. The new system further does away with the magneto-generator, or the mechanism ringing the bell when the crank outside the case is turned in calling Central. Again, in the new instrument simply lifting the receiver closes the circuit and sends in the call. The instrument, shorn of its present accessories, may be affixed to a neat backboard against the wall, or, like the auxiliary service of to-day, may consist simply of a stand with enunciator and receiver, to be set on a table or desk, and a small box with the call bells to be attached to the desk or the wall.

Owing to the necessity of maintaining the present service without interruption, the work of installing the new system has been costly and lengthy. The Harlem Exchange has undergone considerable transformation, and during the dull hours of the latter part of this week the lines will be transferred from the old board and the new system begun work at once.

B. S. Webb of the New York Telephone Company said yesterday that it was the intention of the company to establish the system throughout their territory, provided the working of the system on the Harlem branch was found to be satisfactory. The system had been tested at the Dey Street office, and there was no reason to believe the experiment would not turn out well. Owing to the carefulness with which the work must be conducted, he thought it would be several years before the new system could be generally installed.