

# BLAMES DOWNFALL ON BROADWAY'S LURE

Manager of an Automobile Tire  
Firm Couldn't Resist the  
White Lights.

## HIS SHORTAGE NEARLY \$5,000

Recorded Fictitious Orders, He Con-  
fesses, to Cover Up His Stealings  
—Held in \$5,000 Bail.

Thomas H. Wilkins, 30 years old and thrifty, as his wife and child were accustomed to believe, brought his career as manager of a Broadway automobile tire concern to a close yesterday in the West Forty-seventh Street Police Station, where he went to surrender himself after his employers had begun an investigation of his books.

When they asked Wilkins, after finding a shortage approximating \$5,000 on the first day's hunt, what he had done with the money, he pointed down Broadway in the gathering dusk. The White Lights were just beginning to blink out in the theatrical stretches that lie in the tiers of blocks just below those given over to automobiles and automobile fixtures.

"They got it," he said. "The White Light district got every cent of it. It started with holding out a report of the sale of a pair of tires for \$110 and it ended—well, that stack of orders in my desk aren't real orders. They are fictitious orders, made to cover real orders a year, and maybe two years, back."

The man was asked about his wife and child and whether he had tried to live beyond his means. That broke him down, and he declared between sobs that he had always lived on the square as to his family, paying them over regularly the larger part of his salary and conducting his Broadway conquests entirely out of the money taken from the company's till.

After hearing the details, Magistrate Breen held Wilkins in \$5,000 bail on a charge of grand larceny amounting to \$110. This was the first transaction traced on the general manager's books.

The complainant was Harry Dunn, President of the Fisk Rubber Company, with headquarters at Chicopee Falls, Mass., and branches in many cities, including one at 1,725 Broadway, near Fifty-fourth Street. The company manufactures an automobile rim with a detachable tire, and has been in business here for three years.

Wilkins, who had gained a remarkable standing with the firm on account of his efficiency as a salesman, was sent to take charge of the New York branch soon after it was opened. He had not before come into close contact with the Broad-

way section just below his office, but he soon learned of various excuses by which he could explain his frequent absences from his home, at 2,403 Seventh Avenue, at night.

Some time ago the firm noticed a falling off in their receipts from the New York branch, and Lawyer Sidney S. Meyers of 68 William Street was put in charge of an investigation. An inventory of the tires on hand showed a shortage, with a rush of orders suddenly appearing from the manager's desk to partially fill the deficiencies. Then it was found that patrons who had paid their bills had not been credited with the amounts turned in and that sales had been made to persons who gave Wilkins personal checks at his request.

These he cashed, according to Lawyer Meyers, without making any record of the transaction or turning in the money. Mr. Meyers said last night that Wilkins had made and signed a complete confession and that this confession figured largely in obtaining the consent of Magistrate Breen to name a very heavy bond on the apparently small sum specified in the charges as filed.

### Twilight Club's 609th Dinner.

The Twilight Club will hold its six hundred and ninth dinner on Wednesday evening, Dec. 14, when the topic, "Why Are We Afraid of Socialism?" will be discussed. Charles A. Towne, former United States Senator from Minnesota, will preside, and among the guests will be Congressmen-elect Martin W. Littleton and Henry George, Jr., Alexander Irvine, formerly of the Church of the Ascension; Jessica G. Finch, a recent candidate for Secretary of State on the Socialist ticket, and Morris Hillquit. To insure privacy the place where the dinner is to be held will not be made known until the dinner cards are issued.