

POLICE CHIEF OF NEW YORK DEAD

Schmittberger a Veteran Of 43 Years Service

Survivor of Lexow Fight — Won Enmity of Tammany When He Revealed Police Graft in 1894 — Excelled in Handling Mobs

Max F. Schmittberger, chief inspector of the police department of the city of New York since 1909 and the principal survivor of Lexow's fight against Tammany to end graft twenty-three years ago, died on last Wednesday night of pneumonia at his home, 987 West Sixty-first street, in his sixty-seventh year. His six sons and his daughters were at his bedside when he died.

He had an illness about the middle of August which pulled him down, and he received six months' leave of absence from police headquarters to recover his health. His sons said last night that he went out last Thursday and contracted a cold, which developed into pneumonia, and the doctors gave up all hope of his recovery on Tuesday night.

Max P. Schmittberger was born in Germany, and went to the United States with his parents when he was 4 years old. He was educated in the public schools, and after trying his hand at two or three employments he joined the police department on Jan. 28, 1874, became roundsman on April 2, 1880; sergeant on March 4, 1888, and was made an inspector by Commissioner Greene on May 2, 1908.

A Terror to Criminals

Schmittberger was six feet two inches in height and broad across the chest in proportion, with strong, shrewy arms and a wrist that had a vice-like grip which was the terror of burglars and other criminals when he was a young patrolman on the west side in the vicinity of the Thirtieth street station. In the fall of 1879 he fought in the cellar of an old saloon in Sixth avenue

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With a dozen notorious crooks, who tried to beat the young policeman to death in their efforts to rescue a prisoner from his clutches, but he held on and was rescued by reserves from the station.

During his forty-three years' connection with the New York police Schmittberger retained his quiet demeanor and dislike for publicity, which were his characteristics as a patrolman walking the streets of New York, and at the last as chief inspector, which is the highest rank in the department that a policeman can rise to today.

When he turned state's evidence during the Lexow investigations in 1894 he neither saved himself nor others in his testimony before the committee. In the report of the Lexow committee, Captain Schmittberger, as he was then, tells of collecting from \$150 to \$200 a month from his wardens, as head of the steamboat squad, and in other places in the report there are free confessions of the graft collected by him in the days before the Lexow committee started its investigations.

He was called a "squealer" by members of the police force for his evidence at the investigation and incurred the enmity of Tammany Hall for giving away the secrets of the graft collecting that had been going on in the city for years without interruption.

When Commissioner Greene announced his intention to make Schmittberger an inspector in April, 1908, his evidence before the Lexow committee was remembered, and many protests were sent to the commissioner to prevent him making the appointment. Among the protesters were President Roosevelt and District Attorney Jerome. Dr. Charles H. Pankhurst was the only champion that Captain Schmittberger had, and he proclaimed his right to be made inspector, and Commissioner Greene appointed him in spite of all opposition. At that time he was the best hated man in the police department, and told his friends that he would live down the reputation of the "pre-Lexow" days, and he did.

Police Commissioner Theodore Bingham had Inspector Schmittberger up on charges in 1907 on a complaint about

clinging the mobs in a drawer in his office where it could be easily found.

Under the regime of Commissioner Waldo the chief inspector did not have much to do, but since 1914, when Arthur Woods was made commissioner of police, the veteran was in control of the force and was personally in charge on any important occasion, like the visit of the allied commissions last summer. According to his request, the news of his death was telephoned immediately to headquarters and sent out to every precinct and detective bureau in New York and to Commissioner Woods and the deputy commissioners.

Inspectors Crawford and Barrett made a raid on the express office at Coldbrook yesterday afternoon and seized two cases of liquor consigned under alleged fictitious names.

Failure to close certain gambling houses in the Funderlin District and quashed them when the facts were presented to him. Two years later he made Schmittberger chief inspector of the New York police.

Excelled in Handling Big Crowds

The late technical head of the police department was seen at his best in handling big crowds and commanding large bodies of men. He was very strict, but was always just enough to listen in a case where punishment had been meted out undeserved. One of his favorite stunts was to visit the stations quietly when the patrolmen were going out on duty to see if they saluted the officer at the desk, and also to note whether they returned it in the proper manner. If they were slack in their methods Schmittberger would say: "Come back here men and salute the desk. Now then officers" and the ceremony would be performed in smart military fashion to his satisfaction.

He was always ready for an emergency in case of riots in the city, and kept the plans he had drafted for han-

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