

SIMEON FORD SAYS GOOD-BYE AT DINNER

Tells Friends He Wonders How
It'll Be with No Hotel or
'Kicks' to Worry About.

HUMOROUS TO THE END

Sketches His Career from Connecti-
cut Farm to Proprietor of the
Grand Union.

Simeon Ford was ushered from the ranks of active hotel managers last night at a dinner in his honor at the Waldorf by nearly two hundred of his personal friends and members of the Hotel Association of New York. There were numerous quips about the Grand Union Hotel and its manager, quite in the spirit of an occasion closely associated with the personality of Simeon Ford.

The speakers hailed him as a newly made millionaire, but, although the question was suggested once or twice, no one got an answer as to what he would do now that the Grand Union was off his hands.

John McGlynn, President of the New York State Hotel Men's Association was the only one who suggested anything.

"We don't want to think of Simeon Ford as leaving the ranks," he said. "I have a hotel up in Troy. The rooms bring in money, the bar brings in money, and the cigar stand is profitable. So I will give Simeon Ford my restaurant if he will only stay in the business."

The guest of honor, who was presented with a large silver loving cup, told his own version of how he came to get to New York and take up the hotel business. He said:

When I was 15 years old, and had got as far as the fourth reader, and decimal fractions, I decided that any more knowledge would subject my brain to undue strain, so I determined to leave Connecticut and give my genius a chance to expand in some large city. I hesitated whether to favor New York and go into partnership with J. P. Morgan, or go to Boston and tie up with Ralph Waldo Emerson. As the fare to Boston was 50 cents cheaper, I inclined toward a literary career, but while I was wavering a local sport offered me \$2 if I would act as chaperon or compagnon de voyage to a bullpup he wanted to send to New York. That decided me. The die was cast.

It was lucky for me he didn't want the dog to go to Hoboken. We came across the Sound—me and the dog—on the night boat, and as I had no money to lavish on a stateroom and the dog was economical, we spent the night down among the freight and tried to keep each other from being homesick. I only relate this incident of early Colonial history to show you how near you came to saving \$10. I don't know what became of the dog, but I eventually became a lawyer.

It was a lucky day for me when the admirable woman who is the mother of my children consented, in a moment of temporary aberration of mind, to join her fortunes to mine. At that time I was a poor young lawyer. There were few younger and none poorer. But for this good lady's lack of foresight I would probably be a poor, old lawyer to-day, but now, thanks to the opportunity she gave me, I am the "Queen of the May," and having bouquets thrown at me by my associates in crime.

It is only fair to add that I have been just as poor a hotel keeper as I was a lawyer, but as old Jim Breslin used to say: "You don't have to know anything about hotel keeping in order to keep a hotel. Just open up and the boarders will tell you how to run it."

An hour before we closed the doors a man struck me for a loan of \$2. He said he had the promise of a job and wanted to get a shave and a clean shirt. I fell for it. I always have. I have been buying shirts and shaves for bums for a generation. It gratified me to think that this man should imagine that I had spent a lifetime opposite the depot, entirely surrounded by gold brick promulgators and green-goods disseminators and yet retain my virginal innocence and faith in my fellow-man. He said he would return the two the following day, but I implored him not to. I told him I had been lending money to fakirs for thirty odd years and never yet got a cent back, and I wanted to retire with a clean record, as the champion sucker and all around easy mark of the world.

I don't know what I'm going to do without a hotel to worry about, and kicks coming to beguile the tedium of

the day. I have become so accustomed to abuse and fault finding that I shall be lost without it. All these years people have been asking why we didn't tear down our old barracks and put up a decent hotel. Of late these same people have been weeping on our bosoms and crying out to Heaven against the desecration of removing such a splendid example of Colonial architecture and monument of New York's early history. They would then hastily conceal a sugar bowl or umbrella stand about their person and retire—doubtly affected. "How blessings brighten as they take their flight."

Those who occupied seats on the speakers' dais were Gustav Baumann, President of the Hotel Association; George C. Boldt, Patriek Francis Murphy, George T. Wilson, Fred A. Reed, John McGlynn, George W. Sweeney, F. N. Bain, Gardner Wetherbee, and Charles N. Vilas.

MITCHEL TO SERVICE AIDS.

Mayor Thinks College Men Could
Co-operate in Public Affairs.

The conference on Universities and Their Relation to Public Service, which has brought here a number of college professors and others interested in civic affairs from all over the country, was opened yesterday at the City Hall with an address of welcome by Mayor Mitchel. During the afternoon the conference, which is being held under the auspices of the Committee on Practical Training and Public Service of the American Political Science Association, held a session at the Merchants' Association in the Woolworth Building.

In his address the Mayor said he had felt for a long time that there was an opportunity for closer co-operation between the universities and the government of cities for these three purposes: To enable the men who are in attendance at universities to get a practical knowledge of the workings of government that will fit them to take part in it when they enter business life; through the establishment of opportunities for public servants to enlarge their field and the scope of their learning through university courses, and through the co-operative arrangement for the university to render direct service itself to the government of the city in solving technical and other problems. Continuing, the Mayor said:

"For the third opportunity we have the conspicuous example of the University of Wisconsin, where, through the co-operative relation with the State Government, many of the most difficult problems presented in that State have been attacked and solved.

"I talked some time ago with Chancellor Brown of New York University, and suggested the possibility of developing such a plan in the city. Chancellor Brown and his associates. I think, have become deeply interested in the matter. At his suggestion quite recently we had a conference, as a result of which he has lent to the Government Prof. Loomis, Instructor in Government at New York University, who is now studying the technical resources of the City Government, and appraising the technical equipment that we have. Prof. Loomis will make a report to us shortly. I am hopeful that the conference will be fruitful in concrete suggestions that can be adopted elsewhere in the country."

"Upbuilding of Governmental Administration—the Greatest Need of American Democracy," was the first subject taken up for discussion. Philander P. Claxton, United States Commissioner of Education, who presided, first introduced Everett Colby of New Jersey. Robert J. Aley of the National Education Association followed, and then came Charles McCarthy, Chief of the Legislative Reference Library of Wisconsin.

John H. Gray, President of the American Economic Association, and Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks of the New York University also spoke.

At the afternoon session Col. Samuel S. McClure spoke on "Public Service as a Career"; Clinton Rogers Woodruff, Secretary of the National Municipal League, on "Civil Service Reform as a Factor in Making a Public Service Career," and Bailey B. Burritt of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor on "The Occupation of College Graduates."

Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, President of the Carnegie Foundation, will preside at the session to be held this morning at 9:45 o'clock in the Assembly Room of the Merchants' Association.

The conferees were guests of the Bureau of Municipal Research at a dinner at the City Club last night.