

TENANTS' CASES JAM DOCKETS OF COURTS

Few Evictions Ordered, Although 2,000 Complaints Were on the Calendars.

STATE TO FURNISH COTS

Accommodations for 9,000 Homeless in Manhattan and Brooklyn Churches—Brownsville Tenants Keep Up Strike.

The Municipal Courts were crowded yesterday with landlord and tenant cases. It was estimated that 2,000 cases were on the calendars. The reason for the great congestion was that most of the cases of the last week, particularly since May 1, were postponed to yesterday. Lawyers representing the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering were on hand in each court to defend the tenants, and as a result many cases were dropped because of technicalities, while stays were granted in many other cases. Few eviction notices were signed.

The Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering announced yesterday that progress had been made in its campaign to house the homeless in churches pending the finding of permanent homes by tenants summarily evicted. Through an arrangement with Governor Smith the Military Training Commission at Camp Blauvelt will place at the disposal of the Mayor's Committee 1,500 cots and as many blankets, while the State Arsenal will furnish 600 cots and 600 blankets.

Captain Charles A. Goldsmith, U. S. N., retired, who has charge of this phase of the work, reported yesterday that the War Camp Community Service had promised all the blankets and cots that might be necessary after Thursday or Friday of this week. Captain Goldsmith reported to the committee that the first tenant to take advantage of the offer made by the churches as temporary shelter was an Italian who was to be evicted with his wife and three children from their home on East 118th Street. The family will move on Wednesday evening into Jefferson Park Church, 407 East 114th Street, of which Dr. Riggle is pastor. The thirty-two churches in Manhattan that have offered their accommodations can house 5,000 persons, while 4,000 can be accommodated in the churches of Brooklyn that have placed rooms at the disposal of the homeless.

Madison Street Court Crowded.

One of the busiest Municipal Courts on the east side was the Second District Court at 264 Madison Street, presided over by Justice Benjamin Hoffman. More than 150 cases were on the calendar in this court and through the efforts of Assemblyman Samuel Dikstein thirty were thrown out on technicalities, while many of the rest were advanced from five to fifteen days. Some of the landlords, hearing the argument of Mr. Dikstein, withdrew increases of \$3 and \$4 and reduced them to as low as \$1.50.

William Artz of 95 Ridge Street complained to Justice Hoffman that a few days ago he paid Jacob Dubinsky \$27 rent for an apartment. The price was advanced to \$30, he said, and he protested, whereupon Dubinsky consented to give him a written lease if he would pay the \$30 demanded. The next morning, he said, Dubinsky's wife Fannie appeared at his home and demanded as the monthly rental, saying that the property had been transferred to her by her husband. Artz refused, and the case came to court. It was adjourned until the written transaction between Dubinsky and his wife could be produced.

Becki Gold, living on Essex Street, complained to Justice Hoffman that she had been paying \$25 a month rent and recently received a dispossess notice after she told the agent for the landlord that she was unable to pay an increase of \$5 demanded. The evidence showed that the woman was supporting herself partly from a Government allowance granted her because her son was in the service. The latest report she heard was that he was missing. Mrs. Gold was told that under the Soldiers and Sailors' Act she need not pay rent for three months if she did not have the money.

Earl Smith, one of the members of the Law Committee of the Mayor's Committee, reported yesterday that there were 156 cases at the Seventh Municipal Court before Justice Friedlander, and in every instance he put the cases over until Monday in order to give the tenants time to find apartments.

Brownsville Strike Continues.

Two hundred actions for dispossess proceedings were in the Fourth and Seventh District Municipal Courts in Brooklyn as a result of the tenants' fight against increased rents in the Brownsville district. The strike of the Brownsville tenants continues. The tenants ask for a 10 per cent. decrease in rents, and, following the refusal of the landlords' organization to place the matter in arbitration, it was reported yesterday that some of the tenants had resorted to withdrawing their savings from the local banks in order to induce the bankers to use their influence with the landlords. Placards have been posted in the windows of many of the tenants, reading, "Down with the landlords," "Strike here in this house," "Don't scab," "We demand 10 per cent. decrease in rent," "No reduction, no pay."

The negroes in the Harlem district, where the housing question is serious, have announced their intention of putting up tents in the parks and the vacant lots if they are forced from their homes by higher rentals.

Justice Michael J. Scanlon of the Second District Municipal Court in the Bronx reported yesterday that all records for dispossess proceedings in his court had been broken. Hearings were on the calendar for 350 cases, and the two courtrooms were jammed.

Antonio Varrichecci, a street sweeper, father of ten children, who has been ordered to move from 276 East 137th Street, said he could not find a home. "No can get place," he told the Justice. "Nobody take ten children." The court extended his time for vacating until Thursday.

A general housecleaning was attempted at 1,402 Clay Avenue. All of the thirty tenants in the house were ordered to vacate, and demanded in a body that they have jury trials. Their cases will be heard on Thursday.

Sol A. Hyman of the Mayor's Law Committee, obtained stays of at least eight days for thirty-eight tenants on the east side of Harlem in cases that appeared before Justice John F. Cowan in the Eighth District Municipal Court.

In disposing of landlord and tenant cases before him, Justice Wauhope Lynn in the First District Municipal Court said that many of the European countries had provided by law for those who desired to own their own homes, but that in the United States every obstacle was placed in the way of the man who wanted to have his own home.