

GRAFT HUNT STILL ON IN BECKER'S DISTRICT

Fosdick's Men Get a Hopeful Lead, but Fail to Land Any Evidence.

DETECTIVES ARE SENT OUT

New Plenic Ticket Extortion Plan Less Suddenly Shocking to Pocketbook.

The activities of the Department of Accounts, which is investigating new-stand graft, were still confined to Alderman Niles R. Becker's district yesterday.

Chief Accountant Henry M. Rice, who is Acting Commissioner in the absence of Raymond B. Fosdick, had before him J. Cohen, a newsdealer, and his wife and Charles Buchman, a barber, of 562 Amsterdam avenue.

A story had come to the examiner that a certain election district captain H. Becker's district was not the main Straus of Albert J. Berardin, whose names were brought out in the testimony on Wednesday—had some to Cohen with an offer to get an indorsed application for a license for \$100.

Although Mr. Rice was unable to get the information which he was after the case has not been dropped and detectives are trying to find witnesses whose stories will be more to the point than those told yesterday.

Mr. Rice thought yesterday, however, that he would be able to progress much further today than he did yesterday. He has some witnesses whose value is more certain, one of them probably will be William Merlean, president of the Newsdealer Association, who has a stand at 443 Amsterdam avenue, a few blocks from Cohen's store.

Cohen has a small newspaper and stationery business at 367 Amsterdam avenue. He said yesterday that he had a brother-in-law in Brooklyn who wanted to open a newsstand in Manhattan and that when he heard that a new station was to be opened at the elevated railroad at Eighty-sixth street he thought it would be a good place. He went to see Buchman, the barber, who is a neighbor of his and who is acquainted with some of the politicians of the district.

Buchman, according to Cohen's story, said he might be able to fix it up, as he knew the captain of the election district, whose name is Curtis. Soon after that Curtis and Buchman called on Cohen and his wife.

"For whom do you want this stand?" Curtis is said to have asked. "For my brother," replied Cohen, pointing to his wife.

"Where does he live?" Curtis is then alleged to have asked. "In Brooklyn," said Cohen.

"Oh, well," said Curtis, according to the newsdealer's story, "I couldn't bother with any one else's district."

Cohen says that Buchman and Curtis then walked away. He denies that any money was mentioned. Cohen went to Buchman a few days later and was told that Buchman replied that he would see Curtis and try to have that done.

He had heard from Buchman about it yet. It was said yesterday that Commissioner Gaylor heard that there was some shady work about the applications for the licenses at Eighty-sixth street he ordered that none be issued. Chief Watson, chief of the bureau of licenses, it is said, was away when R. Selikowitz got his permits for the stands there.

The story goes that when Wallace returned to the stand on the northwest corner was revealed and that this was one of the reasons why Straus refunded a part of the \$500 which he got. It is expected that the license for the stand on the southwest corner will soon be revoked.

One means of leaving graft on newsdealers, according to a story told by one of them yesterday, is very clever and although effective cannot get the grafter into trouble. The method is to force the newsdealer in the district to join the political club and to pay the dues, which he happens to be. In addition to paying the regular dues of the club, and they are always heavy, when it comes around to the newsdealer to buy a ticket for every outing and entertainment which is given. This is less objectionable to the newsdealer than the old-fashioned kind of graft because it does not draw his pocketbook so suddenly, and it is better for the Alderman and his henchmen because there is nothing for which they can be indicted.

FUGITIVES' WIVES WATCHED

Detectives Trail Mrs. Horowitz and Mrs. Rosenberg at Long Branch.

Mrs. Louis Rosenberg and Mrs. Harry Horowitz, wives of Lettie Louie and Gyn Wood, the two men now at large who are wanted for the Rosenthal murder, have been at Long Branch since their husbands found it convenient to leave New York. They are constantly watched by New York detectives in the hope that Lettie or Gyn may be tempted to communicate with them.

A story was current yesterday that Lettie and Gyn had been getting their mail at Long Branch, but this was denied last night by H. W. Burke, the postmaster. James Layton, chief of police, says he knows Mrs. Rosenberg and Mrs. Horowitz are in Long Branch, but refused to tell where they are staying.

Their identity is known only to their friends and the two men are walking on the bluff. Walker unconcernedly every evening. Neither seems to be worrying about the safety of her husband.

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WALDO DEFENDS HIS POLICE WORK

Continued from First Page.

investigated at the Commissioner's orders, he said, but he could get no substantiation. As in similar matters the Commissioner said he will not punish an officer without proof of misconduct. He will be glad to hear any one, he added, who has evidence of wrongdoing at the Metropole on the night of the murder.

The Commissioner said he could get no proof, either, of a deliberate attempt to hold back the proper number of the automobile in the West Forty-seventh street station house. The detention of Gallagher, the cabaret singer who gave the correct number to the District Attorney, in a cell is the usual procedure, said the Commissioner, where a material witness is taken to the station house after a murder.

When asked why he had not suspended Lieut. Becker when stories began to fly around of Becker's possible connection with the crime the Commissioner answered that he had nothing definite against Becker upon which to suspend him. His judgment is against suspending merely because "stories are flying around," and again, he said, he would have acted had those who were clamoring for Becker's suspension come forth with something better than mere opinions.

Believes Police Did Best to Arrest.

"Can you explain why the police did not pick up the four pistol men while they were down at Rockaway for days following the murder?" the Commissioner was asked.

Mr. Waldo answered that the Commissioner is not necessarily an active detective. His own duty, he said, is to perfect the machinery for the detection of crime and the arrest of criminals. His belief is that the machinery was honestly at work trying to get the pistol men when they were at Rockaway, and that at the moment he was speaking yesterday he had satisfied himself that the police force honestly was trying to capture the two men still at large. With most if not all of the men trying to capture the murderers, said the Commissioner, nothing is to be gained by the detectives by letting them escape, and everything is to be gained by capturing them.

"I can't guarantee the honesty and industry of an individual here and there in the department," the Commissioner said, "but I can absolutely guarantee the department as a whole. The demoralization of the entire force or of any considerable part of the men trying to get the murderers simply because a policeman named Becker figures in the case is too absurd to discuss."

Publicity Handicapped His Men.

Commissioner Waldo is sure that the effectiveness of the police work was seriously interfered with while up at the Catskills and in fact at all times since Rosenthal was shot, by the wide publicity given to their work. The department, he added, had nothing to do with the giving out of this information of where the detectives were and what they were doing.

Newspaper headlines such as "The Police at Sea," said the Commissioner, would have been welcomed by the detectives working on the case.

Ross, Webber and others who came to Police Headquarters and gave themselves up had been so surrounded by the police, the Commissioner says, that they would have been captured in time. In the meantime had it not been for regrettable publicity about the detectives' search for these men the friends of some of those who walked into headquarters doubtless would have visited Ross, Vallon and other suspects and so would have been arrested also.

No Effort to Appropriate Scheps.

As proof of his efforts to help and not hinder the District Attorney's office Commissioner Waldo denied flatly any efforts on his part to try to take Sam Scheps away from the District Attorney's representatives. Mr. Waldo said yesterday that Deputy Commissioner Dougherty had called him up to say that Scheps was about to arrive here and had asked for advice. Commissioner Waldo says he told Mr. Dougherty that in the absence of any request from the District Attorney you must treat Scheps just as you would any other prisoner.

"Later," said the Commissioner, "an Assistant District Attorney called me up to say that Scheps was not a prisoner but a State's witness. I thereupon said immediately that the District Attorney's office should do with Scheps as they wished. And even if Scheps had been a prisoner my position would have been to see to it that upon a request from the District Attorney my department would have granted Mr. Whitman's request to have Scheps taken direct to the District Attorney's office."

Protection may have been sold to gamblers, concluded Commissioner Waldo, but he is positive that the protection could not be delivered. If police officials in the Tenderloin or elsewhere made boasts of being able to "swing the deck," he said, the Commissioner said that naturally he would be the last to whom such boasts of stories would be brought by either the corrupt policeman or the gambler.

He always has made it a point, he said, to avoid placing close friends together among the groups of men doing the various kinds of police work, and so far as possible he always has tried to select men even hostile to one another to do squad work.

The courts had asked for police testimony against gamblers that was impossible to give and the Commissioner blames the courts for inadvertently punishing convicted men. Gambling in the check and his knowledge has been held in check and much more could be done, he said, with better judicial procedure than the gamblers come to trial.

CORRIGAN OFFERS AID TO CURRAN COMMITTEE

Magistrate Who Attacked Gaylor Says He Has Valuable Information.

FLYNN DRAFTED AGAIN

Ex-Deputy Commissioner to Work for Aldermen—Becker Meets Speer.

Magistrate Joseph E. Corrigan, who for years has been denouncing the conditions which he said existed in the Police Department, will do all he can to aid the Aldermanic committee and all the other agencies which are combining to eradicate graft. The offer was made by Magistrate Corrigan to Henry A. Curran, chairman of the Aldermanic committee, when the latter first broached investigation, but it was made public for the first time yesterday.

William J. Flynn, chief of the secret service of the Eastern division, who has been borrowed from the Treasury Department to assist the Aldermen in unearthing graft, is on his way home from Maine, where he has been spending his vacation. He is expected here to-night and probably will have a conference with Emory R. Buckner, the committee's lawyer, and Alderman Curran as soon as he arrives.

It was said that Mr. Flynn would probably be in his office at the Custom House until next week. His appointment as graft hunter has to be ratified by the committee before it can become effective, and Mr. Curran will call a meeting of the committee for that purpose next week.

Magistrate Corrigan was not sure yesterday of the exact nature of the work which he would do for the committee. He said:

"When the Aldermanic committee first was conceived I went to Mr. Curran and told him that if I could be of any service to him I would be glad to do all that I could. I am just doing all that I can for a public citizen who is interested in the welfare of the city should do. I will help any committee or any individual who is trying to clean up this present situation. I am a hard working man, but I will give all the time I can to the matter. It so happens that I am in a position to know a great many facts that will be of use to the Aldermanic committee."

Magistrate Corrigan has been hammering away at the ineffectiveness of the police ever since Mayor Gaylor took office, and the feeling between him and the chief executive is bitter. In September, 1910, Magistrate Corrigan made a tour of the city to investigate on his own initiative conditions as they existed. He said that the town was a wide open saloon, and he charged that gambling and disorderly houses were running openly and that the police were entirely inefficient.

In the office of Joseph E. Maguire, the Mayor and accused him of being directly responsible for what he called the carnival of crime in New York. In a letter to the Mayor, Maguire made ten imputations against the Mayor and said that he was responsible for all of them.

Magistrate Corrigan charged that the town was open more widely than it ever had been under Devereux, that there was not the slightest attempt to enforce the law, that gambling houses flourished without restriction, except for the occasional spectacular raid and the visits of the collector; that graft was rampant and as profitable as ever, that criminals of every class were being bred and reared in the city, and that the police force was demoralized.

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A remarkable letter was sent by Mayor Gaylor in 1911 to Harish Rodwick, a printer, who wrote to him and said that he thought Corrigan should be removed. Mayor Gaylor's letter was being handed under pink top methods, and he said that as long as the Police Department was run from the City Hall it would continue to be hampered.

Your letter is at hand and I have noted the contents. You seem to have very correct estimate of Corrigan. But if you have a little patience we will get rid of him.

Emory R. Buckner, the Curran committee's special attorney, said yesterday that his relations with William McMurtrie Speer, the man designing the Corporation Counsel Watson to act as counsel for the Aldermen, were most pleasant. He said that he had met Mr. Speer accidentally in the office of Joseph E. Maguire, the Mayor, who has been hired by the committee, and that everything had been harmonious. Mr. Buckner said, however, that that was not to be taken as an indication that he was not working shoulder to shoulder with Alderman Curran, who has resented Mr. Speer's appointment.

CRAY PROMOTED IN ORDER.

Waldo Explains Advancement of Detective Accused by Scheps.

After Commissioner Waldo had left Police Headquarters for the day yesterday one of his clerks handed out to the reporter a typewritten statement defending the promotion of Cray for his action in promoting Lieut. John J. Cray, one of the detectives who is alleged to have discovered Scheps asleep in the Catskills, but let him escape. This is the statement:

Criticism has been made in the press on the promotion of John J. Cray to captain of police. He is ordered to bring to the attention of the Commissioner the present position and other recalcitrancy the present administration has appointed and promoted all patrolmen, sergeants, lieutenants and captains in the order in which certified by the civil service. Capt. Cray was promoted under this policy.

If Capt. Cray has been guilty of any wrongdoing while a lieutenant he can be dismissed from the department from the position of captain equally as well as he could from the position of lieutenant. The only known witness against Capt. Cray is now a prisoner and subject to examination by the Grand Jury.

SUSPENDS COPS AS GRAFTERS.

Charged That They Took Money While on Boiler Squad Work.

Commissioner Waldo yesterday announced that he has suspended Owen Kelly and John Heffernan, assigned to the boiler squad. The Commissioner announced that they will be charged with accepting money in connection with their duties as boiler inspectors.

"WILL INDICT TOP GRAFTERS NEXT"

Continued from First Page.

himself rapidly, the District Attorney says. He had about \$90,000 in bank. He dealt heavily in Bronx real estate. He had a use for a safe deposit box. The official for whom or with whom he acted is said to have put away an immense sum in the last year.

They were at work in the Tenderloin and in other gambling precincts before Lieut. Becker took charge of the strong arm squad. The inspector and another inspector dealt with big gambling houses, houses that were required to pay heavy tribute monthly, and with disorderly houses that paid at the rate of \$500 a month.

The District Attorney issued a statement yesterday showing the deposits made in nine banks by Lieut. Becker and the withdrawals that Mrs. Becker made after the lieutenant's indictment and arrest. The statement follows:

Table with columns for bank names, dates, and amounts. Includes entries for WEST SIDE SAVINGS BANK, EMPIRE CITY SAVINGS BANK, and others.

From November 11 to March 6 1912, Lieut. Becker made 12 deposits in amounts ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 in the WEST SIDE SAVINGS BANK, Forty-second and Eighth streets.

Account in the name of Charles Becker and Helen I. Becker, April 2, 1912, \$2,000.00; July 21, 1912, Helen I. Becker withdrew \$1,000.00; August 1, 1912, \$1,000.00.

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was a .38 calibre Hotchkiss. Zelig made the point in his testimony that he could not have concealed so large a weapon in any of his coat pockets. The Grand Jurors experimented for themselves and demonstrated that Zelig was right. When they put the revolver in the biggest of the pockets part of it was in plain sight.

Other witnesses corroborated Greenberg's story, and the result was a unanimous vote for the indictment of the two detectives.

Stenert was arrested yesterday afternoon and put in a cell in the Tombs. Detectives were sent to Rockaway Beach last night, where they found White, who has been ill and is now convalescing. The indictment men were arraigned this morning before Judge Crane in Part I of General Sessions. The District Attorney will ask that each be held in \$5,000 bail.

Statement by Zelig.

After leaving the Grand Jury room Zelig, in the presence of his lawyer, Magistrate Wahle, made this statement:

I know nothing about the murder of Rosenthal. If I wasn't in such a predicament I would try myself to find out who did the killing and break his leg for me. I know that Jack Ross framed me up. If I had been sent to prison for fourteen years, as it looked at one time that I would be, I would have known that my friends would kill him. Webber, Scheps and Vallon put up \$10,000 to secure my bail. That was on July 2. I left the Criminal Courts Building with Scheps and I went out of town alone. I returned to the city on the morning of July 10 and went away again and did not come back until August 20.

Ross has admitted that he had a part in the conspiracy against Zelig, the "frame-up," as such a conspiracy is known to the police and to gamblers, but insists that it was Becker who ordered it. The District Attorney has other evidence that Becker wanted to make Zelig dependent upon him for liberty.

The arraignment of five of the seven men whose indictment for the murder of Rosenthal drew a crowd which completely filled Part II of the Court of General Sessions. After District Attorney Whitman had held a short conference with Judge Mulqueen the five prisoners were brought from the Tombs.

The first to appear from the entrance to the Bridge Street court house and the Tombs was Jack Sullivan, the former newsboy, who was a close friend of Becker. Sullivan appeared with a smiling face. The next to enter the court was William Shapiro, the driver of the gray car used by the murderers. Then David Frank, Robert and Whitely Lewis, accused as two of the actual murderers, appeared, and finally Lieut. Becker was brought in. Becker held himself stiffly erect and was apparently unconcerned. He kept his eyes on the Judge and turned now and then to whisper to his counsel, John F. McIntyre.

Becker Not Ready to Plead.

The five stood at the rail before the Judge. Clerk Chambers read their names from the indictment. Becker was the first to be asked to plead. Mr. McIntyre said Becker was not yet ready to plead to a second indictment.

It was ready to plead to the original indictment. Judge Mulqueen ruled that a plea would have to be made to the superseding indictment and refused to grant an adjournment of two weeks.

"The defendant refuses to plead," said Lawyer McIntyre. "The defendant is entitled by the code to at least one day's delay between the time set down to plead and the actual entering of the plea."

Judge Mulqueen granted an adjournment until next Tuesday.

For Whitey Lewis Robert M. Moore, his counsel, entered a plea of not guilty. The others accused entered similar pleas and were allowed until next Tuesday to submit their defenses.

On the way to court Lieut. Becker paused to shake hands with several friends. Shapiro stopped for a moment to speak to his aged mother, who had watched him closely during the proceedings and who was evidently deeply grieved over her son's situation.

Coroner Feinberg presided over the inquest into the murder of Rosenthal. The jury which heard testimony was composed of Daniel Frohman, foreman, Arthur Heinze, J. Borden Harriman, Harry Duryea, F. W. Duryea, A. T. Havens, W. L. Ferris, George W. Graham, F. W. Farrington and W. C. Heighan. The inquest was held in Part V of the Court of Special Sessions. The court room was crowded.

Assistant District Attorney J. Robert Rubin told the jury that it would be required only to determine the manner of Rosenthal's death. He said that the Grand Jury had already accused the murderers.

There were five witnesses called: Police William J. File, policeman John J. Brady, Thomas Smith, captain of walters at the Hotel Metropole, Coroner's Physician Otto Schultze and John Eastman, a Metropole waiter.

Bullet That Killed Rosenthal.

Dr. Schultz said that Rosenthal was killed by a wound made by a .32 calibre bullet that had passed through his brain, and that another bullet had entered the jaw. He could not determine the calibre of the second bullet because it had been flattened against the jawbone. Assistant District Attorney Rubin put this question:

"Then in your opinion more than one bullet was fired and they were of different calibres?"

"I believe so," Mr. Rubin wanted to make this point to establish that more than one man had taken part in the assassination. Policeman Brady testified that he had made the police identification of the body. He did not see the shooting. He went to the Metropole from his fixed post at Broadway and Forty-third street. He heard five shots fired.

Policeman File, who was tried and acquitted on the charge that he had helped in the murder, was the most interesting witness. He described how Rosenthal entered the restaurant, how Rosenthal, shortly before 2 A. M., left his table companions, bought newspapers from a boy in the lobby and returned to his table.

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be District Attorney Whitman said last evening. Probably the most important function of Justice Goff will be as a committing magistrate to examine witnesses called to testify about graft. He will have the power of compelling testimony. Recalcitrant witnesses can be sent to jail. Witnesses necessary to the people's cases can receive immunity from him.

Another important function will be as the director of the grand jury which is expected to return graft indictments. Such evidence as is brought out in the John Doe proceedings will be laid before the special grand jury. It will be answerable only to Justice Goff.

The third function will be as the judge in the trials of the men under indictment for the murder of Rosenthal.

First of all we will inaugurate a John Doe proceeding. The special grand jury will therefore have material for work. But while John Doe proceedings are on, the Rosenthal defendants will be placed on trial and the cases will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

JACK SIROCCO IN COURT. Police Captain Alleges Attempt to Strike Him. Jack Sirocco, who has recently been engaged in a feud with Big Jack Zelig, one of the figures in the Rosenthal murder, was arraigned yesterday before Magistrate Nash in the Fifth avenue court, Brooklyn, on a charge of interfering with an officer by Police Captain Conboy of the Hamilton avenue station.

Capt. Conboy saw an automobile in front of a saloon near the foot of Court street on Wednesday evening and noticed that the wrong number was displayed on the machine. He found that Harry Kent, the chauffeur, of 1915 Homestead avenue, the Bronx, did not have a license and that the car had the number 4283 instead of 10283 and directed one of his men to arrest him.

Just then Sirocco stepped up and, as alleged, attempted to strike Capt. Conboy, who ordered his arrest. Sirocco was bailed out at the station by Albert Frank A. Cunningham. Magistrate Nash continued the bond until August 29, when the charge against Sirocco will be disposed of. Kent, the chauffeur, was fined \$5.

FALLS DOWN MOUNTAINSIDE. American Youth in Seriously Hurt in Italy. Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. BERNE, Aug. 22.—A youth named Charles Marion, who is an American, while descending alone after having climbed Monte San Salvatore, Lake Lugano, with his tutor, fell down the side of the mountain yesterday and was not found until this morning.

He is now in the Lugano hospital suffering from concussion of the brain. His condition is critical.

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