

SIXTY MILLIONS
WILL SUIT'S STAKE

Vast Fortune of William Weightman the Object of Bitter Fight of Heirs.

DAUGHTER, LEFT ALL, DEFENDANT IN CONTEST

Daughter-in-Law of Rich Chemist Seeks Share for Her Children.

Rumor of Compromise.

Philadelphia, Oct. 15.—When court reconvened at 2 p.m. this case, on motion of attorneys for Mrs. Wister, was postponed. This action caused surprise and there was a rumor that there had been a compromise.

Philadelphia, Oct. 15.—The great contest to have declared invalid the will of William Weightman, the millionaire chemist, who died leaving an estate valued at about \$60,000,000, was called for a hearing today before Judge Ashman in the orphans' court.

William Weightman was the founder of the Powers & Weightman firm of chemists which since his death has become the Powers-Weightman-Rosen-garten company. He was known to have acquired a vast fortune, and when he died the public generally was surprised to find that it was left entirely to his daughter, Mrs. Anne Weightman-Walker.

Says Codicil Was Made.

The suit to set aside the will was instituted by Mrs. Jones-Wister, who was a daughter-in-law of Mr. Weightman, but who remarried at the death of her husband, John Weightman. Mrs. Wister, on behalf of her minor daughter, Martha Weightman, seeks to prove that Mr. Weightman left a codicil to his will, which provided for his granddaughter and the other heirs to the estate. Mrs. Walker denies that any such codicil exists, and says the will probated was her father's last and full expression of his desires in the matter.

Proposal of Marriage.

If the will is broken, five granddaughters and a grandson of Mr. Weightman will be benefited. The case has attracted considerable attention because of the social prominence of those concerned.

A sensation was created by Mrs. Wister's declaration that Mr. Weightman, who was past 80 years of age when he died, made a proposal of marriage to her after the death of her husband, but that she rejected him and married Mr. Wister.

Contest Splits Family.

The contest has caused the family to split in factions. One of Mrs. Wister's daughters, Mrs. Richard Wain Meiers, formerly siding with her husband, she will probably be a witness in Mrs. Walker's behalf.

Hampton L. Carson, attorney general of Pennsylvania, and another at the head of the Mrs. Walker group of lawyers, and Alexander Simpson, Jr., heads the attorneys for Mrs. Wister.

The two principals in the case, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Wister, arrived in the courtroom early and took seats among the crowd. Each was quietly dressed and Mrs. Walker's appearance gave but slight indication that she was the possessor of \$60,000,000.

Got Money from Mrs. Walker.

The first witness called by the contestant was A. W. Hoopes, who was manager of the estate and who for Powers & Weightman, of which concern Mr. Weightman was sole member. At first he was an unwilling witness. He had been a witness to the will and Mr. Simpson asked him what sums of money he had received from Mrs. Walker after the death of her father. His first answer was that he received his salary up to the time the firm was taken over by another company. Then he admitted receiving \$20 for each year he was with the firm, or a total of \$800. Other employees received gifts at the same rate.

Following this, after much coaxing by attorneys, he admitted receiving a present of \$5,000 from Mrs. Walker.

"What else did you get?" asked Mr. Simpson.

"That is a private matter," he replied.

\$100,000 Present.

At this juncture the witness was threatened with contempt of court for evading answers. Finally the judge informed him that he was in the hands of the court and he was instructed to answer. Mr. Hoopes thereupon said: "Well, if I am compelled to answer, I received from Mrs. Walker \$100,000."

This answer caused a sensation and much loud conversation ensued. After quiet had been restored the witness said he received the \$100,000 about Dec. 27, 1904.

Saw Other Papers Signed.

Having established the fact that he had received gifts from Mrs. Walker, the lawyers examined the witness regarding the circumstances of the signing of the last will of Mr. Weightman, on Aug. 1, 1895. He had witnessed the signing of two other papers prior to the signing of the last will. These he believed were a will and codicil, but he was not sure.

Shies at Cameras.

Mrs. Walker was then called. As she took the stand she exposed herself to a battery of cameras which she had up to that time avoided by holding a small fan before her face.

She testified her father's first will was executed in 1884. She never saw it but understood it divided the estate in three parts, one-third each to herself and her two brothers. When she heard her father changing his will in her favor she expressed her disapproval, as she preferred it should stand as originally drawn.

\$60,000,000 Mere Trifle.

"I went to see my father the next day, and he himself said to me: 'I have changed my will and left everything to you.' I asked him: 'Why did you do it?' and he replied: 'I have carefully considered the matter and thought that the best disposition of my property.' 'If I outlive you, what shall I do with the estate?' I asked, and he said: 'Do as you please. I know you love your nieces and nephews.'"

When asked if there was any further...

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CRIES ON WITNESS STAND
IN GRAIN TRUST PROBE

Iowan Breaks Down in Chicago Hearing Declaring He Was Ruined by the Railroads.

Tactics of State Grain Associations Brought into Case.

Chicago, Oct. 15.—Testimony was heard today before three members of the interstate commerce commission relative to the possible existence of a grain trust. The first witness was A. T. Ayres, of Pontiac, Iowa, who told of his struggles against the Illinois Grain Dealers' association.

Ayres broke into tears while on the stand, and it was necessary to excuse him from giving further evidence. He declared, as he left the stand, tears streaming down his face and his voice broken by his grief, that he had been ruined because he had dared to deal with the farmer and with the track shoveler.

He declared that the discrimination against him had been doubled because the railroads had refused to give him cars in which to transport his grain.

Talk of State Associations.

Secret letters and circulars to members of the Iowa State Grain Dealers' association, and similar documents issued to members of the Illinois association, were read to the commissioners and the statements were considered so unusual by the commissioners that the witness was asked to examine them.

J. E. Brennan and L. G. Dunn, grain solicitors for a Chicago house, told of a struggle between the farmers and the commission men in Iowa and Illinois. Both men declared that their firm had been blacklisted and boycotted because it persisted in buying grain from farmer elevator companies, and not alone from members of the grain associations.

A number of letters were introduced in which members of the Illinois association protested against the firm doing business with men whom it termed irregular.

Lost Many Thousands.

Because the firm declined to obey the expressed wishes of the Illinois association, all the members of that organization, it was said, had refused to do any business with it.

Witness Ayres, when he had recovered his composure, resumed the stand. He said that he had \$10,000 invested in his business, that that had disappeared, and he is now poorer than a dog. He has a crippled child and a wife to support, he declared, and all his troubles followed his attempt to aid a friend, who was a farmer, by purchasing his grain.

He said that at one time the Illinois Central railroad lost \$600 worth of his grain on the tracks for weeks without moving it, this being, he declared, and he is poorer than a dog.

Another Ruined, He Says.

H. H. Carr, an independent dealer in grain, also claimed that he had been ruined by the so-called grain combination and by the discrimination of the railroads. He declared that time after time he had been discriminated against by the interstate commerce commission, of President Roosevelt, and of Attorney General Moody to the state of things, but nothing had ever come of it.

"Can you give an instance where a man has been ruined by the conditions which you describe?" asked Commissioner Prouty.

"I certainly can," replied the witness. "I am an instance myself. I have been ruined by these things."

Scores the Government.

The witness then broke into a tirade against the president, attorney general and the members of the commission. He having paid no attention to the statements which he declared had been submitted to him in the past. At the request of Commissioner Prouty, he provided for the commission with further information.

Witness L. G. Dunn told of the refusal of the Chicago & North-Western railroad to give a number of other grain a site for an elevator along its right of way until a bill was presented to the legislature to compel allowance of elevator sites by the railroads to anyone who wished to build.

Charges Recent Abuse.

He also declared that five weeks ago the Illinois Central road refused farmers the right to build an elevator along its right of way at Richards, Iowa. The matter was taken last week before the Iowa railroad commissioners, where the secretary of the Iowa Grain Dealers' association declared, according to the witness, that farmers should not be allowed to erect elevators, because it compelled the payment to them of too high prices for their grain.

Other witnesses told of the efforts to divert business away from F. M. Terry of River Sioux, Iowa, who was said to be "irregular." Secretary Wells of the Iowa association was active in this work, it was said.

His Plea Denied, Former United States Senator, May Soon Go to Cell.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The supreme court today denied the petition of former United States Senator Burton of Kansas for a rehearing in the case in which he is under sentence of imprisonment and fine on the charge of accepting an attorney's fee in a case in which the government was interested while he was serving as a senator. The effect of the decision will be the immediate imprisonment of Burton unless his attorneys devise some other means of postponing the execution of sentence.

Abilene, Kan., Oct. 15.—Mr. Burton, when seen at his home here today, would not discuss the action of the supreme court in refusing him a hearing. "This is not my time to talk," he declared. It is stated from an authoritative source that Mr. Burton had already communicated with his attorneys asking that his term of imprisonment be arranged to begin at the earliest possible moment.

BURTON IS READY TO ENTER PRISON

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POSTOFFICE SITE
MAY BE BLOCK 40

Architect Taylor Known to Have Rejected Pence Opera House.

Property South of Hennepin Avenue Recommended by the Treasury Agent.

By W. W. Jernane.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The recommendation of James E. Taylor, supervising architect of the treasury department, is favored by Secretary Shaw, the new postoffice building at Minneapolis will be located south of Hennepin avenue.

Neither Mr. Taylor nor Assistant Secretary Edwards would say which of the three blocks in that locality had been selected, but it was admitted that the Pence opera house block was not Mr. Taylor's choice, notwithstanding the strong recommendation made by the public affairs committee of the Commercial club.

On a basis of the amount of mail handled at the Milwaukee and Union stations, block 40, which lies directly opposite the former station, would be the natural selection, without regard for the convenience of citizens who use the postoffice. Under the present conditions 65 per cent of all the mail is handled there, and this percentage will be increased if the Chicago Great Western effects an arrangement for sending its trains in and out of this station.

Block 40 Natural Choice.

The estimate on one block is \$385,000, on another \$367,000 and on another \$391,000. The department officials believe, however, that some of the parcels in all these blocks are valued too high by their owners, and that under condemnation proceedings any one of the blocks can be bought within the limit of cost.

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