

## WAGNER OF OPINION THAT MILLER ALONE KNEW COMBINATION

Former President of Building Association Testifies in Embezzlement Case.

## HUNDRED TALESMEN EXAMINED FOR JURY

Connection of Accused With Affairs of Concern Outlined in Detail.

From the lips of William G. Wagner, former president of the First Co-operative Building Association of Georgetown, the jury in Criminal Court No. 2, trying John Barton Miller on charges of extensive embezzlements, learned today of Miller's connection with the affairs of the building association whose accounts were found more than \$100,000 short.

Mr. Wagner's testimony consumed most of the morning. He was followed by James H. Lee, auditor of the association, who supplemented the testimony given by Mr. Wagner.

Although the trial of Miller really began last Monday, four days were consumed and more than 100 talesmen were examined before a jury could be obtained, and it was not until this morning that the trial proper began.

**Says Miller Had Combination.** When first placed on the stand Mr. Wagner declared that so far as he knew, Miller was the sole possessor of the combination of the association's safe.

He detailed the report submitted by Miller to the 200 stockholders of the defunct concern in June, 1905, just before the crash came which fatally involved the fortunes of the association and in which Miller, he said, declared that the association was thoroughly solvent.

He offered to the jury the explanation made by Miller for the financial trouble in which the association found itself, and went thoroughly into a detailed description of Miller's duties as an officer of the concern.

Mr. Wagner said that for many years he had been vice president of the association, and who from June, 1907, to June, 1908, was its president, was the first witness placed on the stand this morning, following the opening statement made by District Attorney Clarence K. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson outlined the case by which the Government is endeavoring to prove that the money raised from the association's funds was taken by Miller.

**Miller's Duties Explained.** In answer to questions by James M. Proctor, assistant to the District Attorney, Mr. Wagner declared that Miller wrote all the records of the association, kept the accounts, and received all money for the association during the two years in which he was secretary and treasurer. He testified that he believed no loans were made while Miller held that position.

Mr. Proctor then began a direct examination.

Q.—How were the funds of the association disposed of?  
A.—By check on the Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of Georgetown.  
Q.—By whom would checks be signed when deposits were made?  
A.—By the president and the secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Wagner declared that he had seen the defendant open the safe of the association in the offices on Wisconsin avenue, and believed that Miller was the only man who had the combination.

Q.—Who actually attended to the affairs of the association during 1907?  
A.—Mr. Miller.  
Q.—Did you ever discuss the condition of the association with Mr. Miller?  
A.—Mr. Miller always stated that the association was in good condition and that the trouble was occasioned by stockholders wishing to withdraw their stock and funds not coming in fast enough.

Q.—What was the trouble of which you speak?  
A.—The trouble was that during 1907 stockholders wanted to see and give thirty days' notice and get their stock, and while the association might only receive...

## UNION CARPENTERS, 400 STRONG, STRIKE

Walkout Is Result of Disagreement Over Half-Holiday Saturday.

## AFFECTS ONLY PART OF BUILDING PLANS

Many Employers Reach Settlement. Others Refuse to Discuss Probable Course.

Approximately 400 of the 1,500 union carpenters in Washington went on strike this morning. These men packed up their tools when the 7:30 whistle blew for work this morning. The strike is the result of a disagreement between the men and the bosses over the Saturday half holiday, which was inaugurated two years ago. The men demand the half day of Saturday, with a full week's pay, the difference to be made up through increased pay per hour.

The strike affects only a portion of the building operations under way in all parts of the city. Fifty-five of the employing carpenters have agreed to the new scale and the half holiday.

**Agreement Reached.** This morning an agreement was effected between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Diffebaugh Construction Company, conducting work at Ninth and E streets. Consequently, the half score of men on this job returned to work.

Other settlements are looked for during the day. The Diffebaugh Company, it is understood, agreed to the half holiday.

**Possible Outcome.** The employers affected by the strike gave no indication today of their probable course. It was stated unofficially by a representative of the employers' association, however, that those builders who had refused the half holiday would continue to hold out, and that they would carry on their work with nonunion men, if necessary. Such a course would result in a general strike on their buildings of the union men of all trades.

Both journeymen carpenters organizations are affected. It is estimated that the majority of the 400 men who ceased work are members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, but the Amalgamated Union also is affected.

This afternoon the records of the dispute were hurriedly rounded up by their forces to ascertain the extent of the difficulty. Official figures will probably not be ready until late today.

The headquarters of both the local unions were crowded all morning with the strikers, who sought to receive their strike cards, good for benefits. The crowds were not so numerous, and there is no possibility of wild excitement.

**Master Builders Meet.** The Master Builders' Association held a meeting at 2 o'clock this afternoon to determine what action shall be taken by them. Should it be decided to meet the carpenters' demands the strike will be settled tomorrow. If the bosses stand pat their action may open the way to another long drawn out building trades war.

A committee representing the carpenters reached agreements during the day with five additional builders, making a total of sixty employers who have met the demands of the men for a Saturday half holiday with pay.

**MOB BURNS BREWERY, LOWERS BEER PRICE**  
Scores of Persons Hurt As 15,000 Drink-Crazed Rioters Fight Police.

MUNICH, June 6.—Dispatches received today from Dornen, Bavaria, say that a crowd of 15,000, every person in it mad with drink, rioted, fighting off police and firemen, while a brewery which the mob had fired was burned, with a loss of \$900,000.

Scores of persons, including several police and firemen, were injured. The refusal of the brewers to lower the price of beer half a cent a pint after it had been increased caused the trouble. The crowd manhandled the police and cut the fire hose till the brewery manager agreed to the demand for lower prices.

## LEADING CAMPAIGN FOR CLEAN POLITICS

Rudolph Spreckles, San Francisco's Millionaire Graft Fighter, Reaches Capital—Silent As to Plans So Far As Washington Is Concerned.



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If Rudolph Spreckles, the millionaire graft fighter of San Francisco, intends to include Washington in his list of campaign reforms he gave no intimation of it this morning when he left the New Willard Hotel, where he had been stopping since last night. He did not retract statements, however, in which he said that big business is "ruined in Washington; that special interests now conduct the affairs of the people; and after openly criticizing Speaker Cannon and Senator Aldrich, that he was greatly disappointed in President Taft, although he did not at any time come straight from the shoulder and accuse the President of being in the clique that shaped the tariff laws to suit private interests of the country.

In speaking of reform in San Francisco he said it had received a knock-down blow in the recent elections, and compared the conditions there with similar conditions in Illinois.

"Legislators bribed in the Illinois Legislature are a fit part of the general picture, and American politics are rotten from the top down," he said.

Continuing, Mr. Spreckles said: "Men in high places can every day be seen buying their seats, and great corporations like the Sugar trust caught re-handling stealing from the Government. Representatives of the people sell their offices, and all sorts of corruption is witnessed daily everywhere."

"The sale of a Senatorship is nothing out of harmony with these times and conditions," Mr. Spreckles said. "From Washington down, every center of legislation is now a center of disappointment and alarm to the public."

In conclusion, Mr. Spreckles said that the nation was in real peril, and that the unrest and hatred of existing conditions were growing menacing. "We can wait no longer," he said, "to put our politics on an honest basis."

**FISHERIES DISPUTE ARGUED AT HAGUE**  
Presentation of Case Is Begun Before Arbitration Tribunal.

THE HAGUE, June 6.—Argument in the Newfoundland fisheries dispute between Great Britain and the United States opened today before the arbitration tribunal. Sir Robert Finlay opened on behalf of Canada, and expects to continue for the next two weeks.

Sir William Robeson and Senator Elihu Root will speak for England and America, respectively, toward the close of the proceedings.

**ONE DEAD, MANY HURT IN FALLING BUILDING**  
BUFFALO, N. Y., June 6.—While a gang of men were tearing down a building at Sycamore and Adams streets, today, the structure suddenly collapsed, burying a number of laborers.

Herman Stuart, twenty-seven, was instantly killed, and Joseph Wechter, twenty-six, was mortally injured.

## BROKER, ON STAND, ACCUSES GROCERS OF BOYCOTTING HIM

Witness Before Cost of Living Committee Flays Capital Association.

## DEALERS' METHODS ARE FURTHER SHOWN

Chicago Attorney for Proprietary Association Appears In Opposition to Bill.

Additional light upon the alleged methods of the Wholesale Grocers' Association of Washington was gained by the special food investigation subcommittee of the House District Committee today.

Joseph F. Webber, a commercial broker of this city, appeared before the committee and during the course of his testimony on the Moore bill regarding the labeling of food products, said that he had every reason to believe that the wholesale grocers had boycotted him.

He explained to Chairman Moore, in answer to questions, that the reason for this was the fact that he sold to whom he pleased, and not merely to those wholesalers in favor with the association. Mr. Webber, who represents large tea, fruit, and canned goods houses, declared that he had lost some of his wholesale customers because he sold to retail dealers, and that some of the retailers had been forced to quit buying from him.

"Do you mean to say that because you sold to retailers that some of the wholesalers refused to trade with you and that you were boycotted for your independent selling?" asked Mr. Moore. "I have every reason to believe so," said Mr. Webber.

**Refused Admission.** Mr. Webber said he had been given to understand by certain dealers who belonged to the combination of jobbers in Washington, that the loss of their trade was due to his disinclination to accept the mandates of the Grocers' Association. He also declared that he had been refused admission to membership of the Association of Fruit Growers by the Washington representatives of that association.

Brother Webber said that he regarded the Moore bill requiring the labeling of all packages of food as an excellent piece of proposed legislation, and that the people he represented who sell by guaranteed weight, anyway, would not object to the bill. The bill previously has been opposed by various manufacturing and jobbing interests who have appeared before the Moore committee.

Carrying a varied assortment of chewing gum, pills, chocolate tablets, glycerine tablets, toothache and a score of other small articles to be purchased from drug stores, George L. Douglas, of Chicago, attorney for the Proprietary Association of America, appeared in opposition to the bill.

**As to Labels.** Mr. Douglas said there was no general demand for the labeling of a thousand and one little articles in drug stores. The customer, he declared, does not care whether he gets forty pills or 400 pills in a certain package, inasmuch as he is content to buy the package. To require that every small package shall be labeled will work a hardship on numerous manufacturers, he said.

In answer to a series of questions by Representative Peaire and Chairman Moore, Mr. Douglas said that certain business regulations, and that the labeling law would ensure to the benefit of the consumer of larger packages, perhaps.

"There is a line of demarcation, however," he told Mr. Peaire, "it is not right to pass dragnet legislation that will impose hardships upon those manufacturers who are obeying the law and whose products are bought for what they are and not because of a certain number."

**Argument Denied.** Answering Mr. Peaire, he denied that his argument was the stock in trade argument made by druggists' associations and others against the pure food law. He appeared before the House Committee to suggest certain changes in the pure food law before it was passed, admitted Mr. Douglas, but he approved of the measure as a whole.

"There is no demand for such sweeping legislation as is proposed in this bill," he said, "to put into any drug store and you will find thousands of articles on which labels as to exact number and contents are unnecessary. A man buys a bottle of pickles, but it is of no interest to know just how many pickles are in that bottle."

**LEAVE TOWN TO HELP GOLDEN RULE CHIEF**  
CLEVELAND, Ohio, June 6.—Fifty more subpoenas were issued today by prosecution today in the trial of Fred Kohler, the "Golden Rule" police chief, on charges of intoxication and immorality.

Announcement was made by those pressing the case against the chief that several prominent business men who were expected to testify against the suspended official have disappeared.

This is a blow at the prosecution and the subpoenas were issued to prevent any more leaving town.

Kohler is himself ill with the grip, but declares that he will not submit to medical treatment until the case is ended.

## RAILWAY PRESIDENTS HERE FOR CONFERENCE

Heads of Santa Fe, Great Western, and Wabash Roads Arrange to Discuss Rate Situation With President Taft.

## PRESIDENT SAID TO BE FIRM IN VIEWS

Increased Cost of Operation, Necessity for Betterments and Credit at Home and Abroad Advanced as Causes of Higher Charges.

Leading railroad presidents from the West conferred with President Taft and Attorney General Wickersham this afternoon for the purpose of getting the Government to drop the suit it has begun under the Sherman law to enjoin the increases in railroad rates made in Western trunk line committee territory.

The railroad presidents at the conference included: E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe; S. M. Felton, president of the Great Western; F. A. Delano, president of the Wabash.

From those closest to the President and the Attorney General, there comes the unqualified statement this afternoon that there is not a chance of the Administration relenting in its present attitude toward the offending roads. Mr. Wickersham is described as being more wrought up about this alleged secret agreement of the roads than he has been about any other act of a corporation since he took office, and the President has assured him of unqualified support.

**Dismissed Clerks Quickly Find Work**  
Bureau of Engraving and Printing Glad to Employ Them.

Forty-six of the eighty-four clerks who were dismissed from the Treasury last week were today given employment at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Thirty-three of the women clerks who were given "vacations" started to work today. These Director Ralph explained were "graduates" of the bureau, having been employed there as "counters" and "examiners" before their transfer to the Treasury Department, and were gladly taken back to work to their skill in handling the work.

Fourteen of those dismissed at the Treasury Department were pressmen. Ten of these have already been given employment at the bureau, while three began work today at the Government Printing Office. This only leaves one dismissed pressman out of employment, and Director Ralph said today that he would offer him a minor position in the press office.

**All to Be Employed.** Of the thirty-seven women clerks dismissed who have not as yet reported for work at the bureau, several of them are waiting until July 1, when their time is up at the Treasury Department, to report, and the remainder, Mr. Ralph stated, would be employed before July 15.

The issue division of the Treasurer's office will be abolished entirely. The work of this division is to print the red, white and blue seals on United States notes and put a serial number on the bills. After July 1 this work will be done in the bureau where, with a slight increase in force, it can be done simultaneously with the printing of the money. Plans have been perfected by which \$200,000 in salaries can be saved by adopting this method.

Instead of bank notes being brought to the Treasury Department in large sheets and there cut by hand and the numerals stamped they will be cut and stamped by machinery at the Bureau, and will arrive at the Treasurer's office a finished product.

**Adding Machines Save Money.** Commuting machines in the auditing department of the Postoffice, which is a bureau of the Treasury Department, have caused the dismissal of seventy-seven employees, of which forty-four have already been taken care of in other departments. The introduction of these machines, it is estimated, will save the Government \$25,000 a year.

Of the clerks that will be dismissed in the near future, Mr. Ralph said that many will be employed in other departments, and is of the opinion that if the request of President Taft there will be very few compelled to seek employment elsewhere.

**Secrecy Charge Denied.** The railroad presidents here today take the position that there was no unusual secrecy in the transaction they laid before the President the fact that they got out the usual number of schedules and got receipts therefrom from shippers early in May.

One of the things the railroad presidents emphasized was that the condition of the Western railroads was not the same as that of the Eastern railroads, and that their needs for more revenue were greater. They pointed out that increases in wages were already in effect; that the country is rapidly developing heavier traffic; that more facilities are constantly being built; and that more revenue the credit of the roads will be impaired, and they cannot obtain the capital needed, either in this country or abroad, to finance improvements.

It was also pointed out that the President himself had urged that traffic agreements were to be legalized, and that the roads had never supposed such agreements were to be assailed. At the same time, the railroad men refused to admit their course is amenable to the Sherman law.

Will Depart at Midnight. The railroad presidents had little to say before the conference. They said they might give out a statement later. Their plan is to see the Attorney General after the President, and depart at midnight. They are traveling in the private car of Mr. Ripley, and intend to depart at midnight. They have no other business here, they said.

Of course, the main question is what the President will do. The prevailing belief is that he will not alter the

increased cost of operation, and the growing demands on the railroads for extensions and improvements caused by the constantly expanding traffic, made it imperative that they get more revenue.

More Revenue Long Needed. They pointed out that this need of more revenue was not a new condition with the roads or something to which they had lately been directing attention, but that for two years they had been emphasizing it.

One of the representations made to Attorney General Wickersham in the conference he had with shippers last Monday was that the railroads had followed an unusual course in making up the increases which have been enjoined, that the presidents of the roads had taken the matter out of the hands of the traffic committee, and that the purpose of raising rates was to keep the matter out of the hands of the traffic committee, and that the increased schedules agreed on and in print, the roads did not make the usual distribution of copies to shippers, but held them back for twelve or fourteen days in order that the shippers might not find out what was really happening.

It was pointed out to the Attorney General that this was an excellent piece of evidence as tending to show that there was a secret conspiracy in restraint of trade on the part of the railroads. Mr. Wickersham was impressed by the showing made by the shippers on this point.

Don't be too thankful, however, if you joins the forecaster, by way of warning that it cannot last. Tonight and tomorrow weather conditions will be unsettled, the wind will probably blow and rains fall before June sunshine comes again.

Exceptionally heavy rains have visited the entire Eastern part of the United States during the past twenty-four hours, and the temperature is today low throughout the country. A heavy frost is reported in North Dakota today. But that's in North Dakota. In Washington, it's June, and no mistake about it!

This is the first day of June, not according to the calendar, perhaps, which somehow happens to be six days ahead of time this year, but according to the thermometer at the Weather Bureau. For the first time this month, the mercury registered a normal, orthodox June day, the kind that poets celebrate in verse, and all men are thankful for.

At 8 o'clock this morning the official temperature was 67 degrees, and at 10 o'clock the mercury stood at 71 degrees, which, according to the Weather Man, is real June weather, the first that has visited Washington this summer.

For Only Time Since End of May Mercury Shows What Weather Bureau Considers Proper Temperature for Summer—But Just Wait!

TODAY IS FIRST OF JUNE, SAYS THERMOMETER

COMET HIGH IN HEAVENS, STILL LOITERS IN SIGHT

If Sky Is Clear Tonight It May Be Seen Between 9:30 and 11 o'Clock, Says Father Torndorf, of Georgetown University.

Contrary to the general belief, the comet, which has attracted world-wide attention during the past few weeks, will be visible in Washington for at least a week longer.

It was supposed that our heavenly visitor had disappeared last week, but, according to reports received at the Naval Observatory here, and at the Georgetown University, it is still visible and probably will remain in sight for several nights.

Father Torndorf, at the Georgetown University, said today that the comet was clearly visible Saturday night, two days after the time it was supposed to have disappeared. He is of the opinion that if the weather conditions remain favorable it can be seen here for at least another week.

Father Torndorf said that there had been no radical change in the comet's appearance, except that naturally it is losing its brightness.

"Tonight, if the sky is clear, the comet, high in the heavens, will be visible between 9:30 and 11 o'clock. It is now traveling in a southerly direction and is estimated to be about 20,000,000 miles away from the earth.

Very Pretty Mantels for \$3.00 Apiece. Frank L. Bey & Co., 6th & N. Y. Ave. Adv.

Both rivers very cloudy this morning.

Forecast for the District. Moderate temperature and unsettled weather tonight and Tuesday; light to moderate variable winds.

8 a. m. 67  
9 a. m. 68  
10 a. m. 69  
11 a. m. 70  
12 noon 72  
1 p. m. 74  
2 p. m. 74  
3 p. m. 73

SUN TABLE.  
Sun rises 4:34  
Sun sets 7:22

TIDE TABLE.  
Today—High tide, 6:38 a. m. and 7:15 p. m. Low tide, 12:34 a. m. and 1:24 p. m.  
Tomorrow—High tide, 7:32 a. m. and 8:08 p. m. Low tide, 1:27 a. m. and 2:13 p. m.

CONDITION OF THE WATER.  
HARPERS FERRY, W. Va., June 6.—Both rivers very cloudy this morning.

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Continued on Ninth Page.

WEATHER REPORT.

There were heavy rains, attended by thunder storms at scattered points in the east gulf and south Atlantic States. The temperature has risen in the middle Atlantic States.

Light frost is reported from North Dakota.

The weather will be unsettled during tonight and Tuesday over the greater part of the country east of the Mississippi river, and there will be showers tonight in the south Atlantic States. The temperature will not change decidedly.

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