

THREE INDICTMENTS

Found Against City Bank Officials.

Mr. Childress, Mr. Betts and Another Officer.

Mr. Childress Gives a Statement About the Matter.

A Partial Result of the Labors of the Grand Jury—Mr. Childress Gives an Interview Which Outlines His Position.

In advance of the report of the grand jury the HERALD is able to state that among the indictments ordered and drawn up are one against A. D. Childress, president, one against Le Grande Betts, teller, and one against another officer of the defunct City bank.

It is very well known that the grand jury has had under investigation the affairs of the defunct City bank.

At one time and another a number of bankers as well as persons familiar with the management of the bank have been observed in attendance on the grand jury, waiting to be called in as witnesses.

These pointers have not been lost upon persons who have happened around the grand jury room.

They have been enough to set the city on the qui vive as to the possible outcome of the investigation.

The fact that the grand jury attempted to report a batch of indictments Thursday afternoon, which Judge Pierce from San Diego would not receive because one juror was absent, has added to the interest felt throughout the city in the matter, and the probability of the bringing of a criminal charge against A. D. Childress, president of the closed bank, and others, is a subject that is being very widely discussed.

It was expected that the grand jury would make their report yesterday morning, but Judge Pierce waited in vain for it, and it is said that the jurors felt somewhat piqued at the conservative judge because he failed to let them file the big batch of indictments they handed up to him. At any rate they did not report, and will not now until Monday.

Bankers and people interested in the Childress case have by the unexpected obstacles thrown in the way of the report of the grand jury, had their curiosity worked up to a fever heat.

THE SECRET LEAKS OUT. Up to yesterday the grand jury guard the secret of the indictments ordered, very well. There had been no leaks, and the newspapers had not even published rumors about their action.

It is very difficult to keep such a sensational thing as an indictment against A. D. Childress quiet, however, no matter how carefully a grand jury may guard the avenues of information.

THE FILING POSTPONED. The indictments are not yet filed of course, but they have been drawn up and unless the grand jury changes its mind, they will be among the batch which will be reported Monday.

The crime which it is alleged has been committed by the indictments is the embezzlement of county funds which were on special deposit in the City bank at the time it closed.

There was at that time over \$22,000 of the county money in the bank. This money was in the bank by virtue of an arrangement with County Treasurer J. De Barth Shorb, who distributed the county funds around to the various clearing house banks. In order to hedge against the provision of the law which says such a thing must not be done, Le Grande Betts, a teller in the City bank, was appointed a deputy county treasurer. The county funds deposited in the bank were in his charge, and he was supposed to see that they were kept intact as a special deposit.

But when the bank closed it became at once patent that the county funds had not been kept as a special deposit. There was not enough coin in the bank to replace the \$22,000, and the trouble began.

Under the law the provisions relative to county funds say that they are to be sacredly guarded. The statutes are mandatory and expressed with a clearness and emphasis which admits of no dispute. They say that the person entrusted with such funds who diverts them from their proper use is guilty of embezzlement, and shall be punished.

But in order to get at the true inwardness of the intent of President Childress the grand jury naturally went thoroughly into the management of the bank, and it is said they discovered a RECKLESSNESS AND LOOSENESS that was appalling. These things were taken into consideration by the grand jury in arriving at the conclusion that Mr. Childress came within their reach.

The other bankers in the city who have special deposits of the county funds are profoundly interested in the whole matter, because the manner in which they have kept the funds may become a subject for official scrutiny. Some of them, it is said, have been feeling quite nervous during the investigation, but it is believed that now they have all such deposits intact. They are concerned because it directs

the attention of the public to the policy of allowing the county funds to be kept outside the county treasury.

MR. CHILDRESS IN THE CITY. When Mr. Childress learned that the bank affairs were being investigated, he was contemplating a business trip to Arizona. His attorneys advised him to remain in the city and he did not leave until he had notified the grand jury of the importance it was for him to go. He did go and returned about two weeks ago. Since that time he has been with his family at the corner of Washington and Toberman streets, in the Colonel Eastman residence, into which he moved after the destruction of his own residence some months ago by fire.

HOW THE BANK CLOSED. In view of the proposed action of the grand jury a glance at the troubles of the City bank is apropos.

Until the financial crash two months ago, there were only a very few persons who knew the insecure position occupied by the bank. Bankers generally had some inkling that it was carrying too heavy a load, but the extent of the burden was not generally known.

The bank was started several years ago, and Mr. A. D. Childress, its president was the active and actual head of the concern. He was a ready writer, was always prominent in banking circles. He delivered a number of papers before the bankers' association, of which he is secretary, and was generally regarded as one of the most enterprising bankers in this city.

The fatal day came, however, when he could not tide over the next day without assistance from the clearing house. He asked for it and was promised at night that he should have \$25,000 the next morning. When morning arrived, however, the clearing house declined to give the aid, and the bank closed its doors, precipitating the run on the banks of the city, which seems now like a bad dream.

Receiver Brodbeck took charge of the bank, and an investigation of its affairs was begun, which, in the most favorable light, made an extremely bad showing. The legend, "Depositors will be paid in full," became a travesty when the actual condition of the bank's affairs was known.

There was very little money in the bank, and an inspection of its assets revealed that there was a large line of securities which were almost worthless.

Before the doors closed Mr. Childress and some of the directors resolved to turn over some securities for the protection of the county funds, and they put them in the hands of George H. Stewart, cashier of the Bank of America.

The struggle for these securities between the depositors and the bondsmen for County Treasurer Shorb, still pending, is a matter of such recent occurrence that it is still fresh in the memory of the public.

Aside from the \$30,000 worth of securities, there appears to be very little left for the depositors. They have been returned to Mr. Stewart for him to realize on them as soon as possible and the county is thoroughly protected as far as the \$22,000 is concerned, both by the securities given up by Mr. Childress and the bondsmen of the county treasurer. The tremendous shrinkage in the assets of the bank revealed the methods which had been pursued by it in its business.

In addition to placing out money on questionable securities (there were many peculiar transactions in connection with side enterprises by the Childresses, in which money was tied up, and through which the embarrassment of the bank's affairs was made more pronounced.

While the bank is still in the hands of a receiver, Judge Shaw a few weeks ago granted a petition to declare it insolvent, and this will eventually involve the retirement of the receiver and the appointment of an assignee.

Numerous civil suits have been commenced in connection with the bank's affairs, which are now pending. One of them has been the bringing of suit against County Treasurer Shorb on his official bond for the money of the county which was on deposit at the time it closed. Others are by depositors, and at the present time the amount of litigation over the matter has assumed formidable proportions.

A PROSPECTIVE LIVELY TIME. On Monday there will be a lively time before Judge Shaw in the superior court, as the various suits against the City bank and its shareholders will be presented.

Among the cases to be considered are the suits of the depositors against the shareholders and the suit in intervention by the Arizona Construction company in regard to certain securities and \$1250 on special deposit of that organization, the details of which were outlined by the HERALD at the time.

It is also generally believed that Mr. Brodbeck, the receiver, and Mr. Burnett, his attorney, will step out of their places in connection with the settlement of the affairs of the defunct bank.

MR. CHILDRESS'S STATEMENT. Mr. Childress knew nothing of the indictment against him, and received the news from a HERALD reporter who visited him at his residence late last night.

The late president of the City bank invited the reporter into the library, where the announcement of the grand

jury proceedings was made by the HERALD representative.

Mr. Childress sat still for a few moments, his hand shading his face, and gave no outward sign of emotion. Then he asked the reporter if he was certain his information was correct.

He was told that the information was beyond question correct, after which he asked whether any other of the bank officials were indicted.

On hearing that Mr. Le Grande Betts and another late official were also indicted, Mr. Childress exclaimed: "If they drag us into court to answer to a charge of embezzlement, it will be nothing more or less than meaningless cruelty. Mr. Betts is penniless today, and I tell you, man to man, that I stand here ruined, without the means to provide my family with the necessities of life. Everything I possessed I turned over for the benefit of my creditors; my father did the same, with the exception of his homestead, which I advised him, on account of his age, to keep."

"I am glad I did so," added Mr. Childress, "now that we have been persecuted to this extent."

The speaker's voice shook when he spoke of his wife and family, and the most infuriated of the creditors of the City bank would have felt some sympathy had they seen the haggard, hollow-eyed man, who learned for the first time last night that he was to be charged with a criminal offense.

"Did you expect the grand jury would take this course, Mr. Childress?"

"We had all, of course supposed it might happen, but I had hoped that when the jury had examined into the bank's affairs that we should be exonerated," replied Mr. Childress.

"To what cause do you attribute the action of the jury?"

"Primarily, to the appointment of an adverse receiver. He took the worst view of everything, and allowed no time in which to realize on assets, or in which to discover their selling value. I was not allowed to advise or to say a word in the ordering of affairs. I was an alien, and debarred from even assisting my creditors."

"It," continued Mr. Childress, "we are to be prosecuted on account of the money belonging to the county, why then, every bank in town should be prosecuted for we are all in the same boat."

The securities deposited for the county money show a margin of \$20,000 in favor of the county. But how can securities be realized upon at such a time as this, when the best stocks in the country are selling four and five points lower than they ever reached before?

"Our receiver was also badly advised, this, together with the action of a few infuriated depositors, is the reason for this indictment."

"I suppose people think that I have robbed the bank of all their money," Mr. Childress smiled bitterly and continuing said: "I should have been away long ago, seeking employment, for it is absolutely necessary for me to be able to earn a salary, if it had not been for the rumors of arrest and indictment which have been filling the air. If the proceedings against me last any length of time I shall become dependent on my relatives."

Mr. Childress was very bitter against certain of his creditors, who, he declared, would be satisfied with nothing but his utter ruin and disgrace.

"The shame of failure," he remarked, "was hard enough to bear, but this—here he paused for a second—"this is the last straw."

When asked as to whether he had any idea as to whom his lawyers would be, or who would be his bondsmen, the erstwhile bank president declared that he had no idea in either case: he thought that some of his bank friends would probably go on his bond.

Should the proceedings turn out favorably to him, he would, he said, leave Los Angeles as soon as his affairs would permit.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. General Miles Favors a Military Training School Hereabouts.

The board of directors of the chamber of commerce met yesterday afternoon. There were present Directors Freeman, Forman, Eisen, Klokke, Jones, Edwards, Parsons and German. President Freeman occupied the chair.

Director Parsons was nominated to act in the place of Director Hazard on the membership committee, and he reported favoring the election of the following persons to membership in the chamber: Parker & Baumgardt, Hotel Westminster; Frank H. Messmore, W. S. Vawter, J. O. Sullivan, Herbert H. Romeroy.

The names of several delinquents were, on motion, struck from the list. A communication was read from Gen. Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., to the effect that he had received a copy of the memorial to the department of war, prepared by the chamber of commerce, and that he was favorably impressed with the idea of the establishment of a military post and training school near Los Angeles, and if asked his views by the department would advocate it. The secretary was instructed to write to the military authorities in this vicinity to obtain whatever arguments could be secured and to send to Senator White.

COOPER A LECHEROUS OLD MAN.

According to the Charge Made by Mrs. Davis.

She Asserts He Made a Vile Assault Upon Her Person.

The Old Man Locked Up in Jail—He Claims the Charge is False. The Story as Told by Mrs. Davis.

A brutal attempt at rape occurred Thursday afternoon, and George Cooper, a builder, is now in the county jail, charged with committing the offense.

The complaining witness is a pretty little widow, Mrs. Davis, who resides at 224 East Third street.

The lady stated yesterday, that on Wednesday last she visited a house on Oman avenue, which was in course of erection, and in company with a lady friend entered the building for the purpose of inquiring the rent.

Cooper was busy painting the floors and stated that he was the proprietor of the house. After some conversation he remarked that he would like to have Mrs. Davis for a tenant, and told her he would call next day at her residence and inform her as to what rent she would be required to pay.

Thursday afternoon between 2 and 3 o'clock Cooper knocked at the door and was admitted by Mrs. Davis who at that time was alone in the house.

Cooper sat down, and after remarking upon the interior construction of the cottage, expressed a wish for Mrs. Davis to show him over the house.

Not suspecting any treachery she complied with his request, and after passing through the sitting rooms the lady pushed open the door of a bedroom.

She was a little in front of Cooper and no sooner had she opened the door, she started than the brute pushed her aside and closed the door.

Mrs. Davis, startled, turned round, and Cooper seizing her threw her down upon the floor and attempted the assault complained of.

He had torn his victim's clothing to shreds and would have succeeded in his designs, for Mrs. Davis is of slight and delicate build, had not Mrs. Lester, a next door neighbor, heard the noise and rushed out.

Cooper heard the sound of approaching footsteps and leaving a nearly insensible woman, went out the back door.

Beyond some painful bruises Mrs. Davis escaped unharmed.

Cooper is a villainous-looking old man with one eye, and is apparently about 60 years of age.

He told a HERALD reporter, who saw him in jail, a rambling story, and charged Mrs. Davis with attempting to blackmail him.

He stated that he paid a visit to Mrs. Davis on Thursday, at her special solicitation. Yesterday, he declares, she came to him with a friend, and stating that he had insulted her upon the occasion of his visit the day before, demanded a sum of money from him.

The fellow's story was very thin, and his manner of telling it was hesitating and disconnected, he at first denying that he knew anyone of the name of Davis at all.

The lady herself bears an excellent reputation among the community with whom she has resided for over a year.

Cooper will be arraigned before Justice Austin this afternoon, at which date the time of examination will be set.

He states that he resides at Hawaii street, Rosedale.

Wagon umbrellas, summer cap dusters. Foy's old reliable saddlery house, 310 N. Los Angeles.

HOOD'S CURES

Complication of Diseases. I was troubled with sick headaches and pains in my back and sides. I became partially deaf, and my nervous system was all run down. Finally, I was seized with heart disease and thought my days were numbered. I used Hood's Sarsaparilla and I am better in every way. I have gained in flesh and my former good appetite has returned. EDWARD PRATHER, Gratton, Cal.

Hood's Sarsaparilla is sold by all druggists. \$1.00 per box. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

5000 LBS. ROPE.

At 11 o'clock sharp I will sell 5000 lbs. of Bomb Rope for auction, owned by a party who is very sick in the East. This rope is made from the selection of different qualities of stock, which make it pliable, strong and durable. Sold in lots to suit purchasers.

THOS. B. CLARK, Auctioneer.

JOE POHEIM THE TAILOR

Has just received first shipment of Woollens, which were bought direct from the mills at greatly reduced prices. Fine English Diagonal, Pique and Beaver Suits Made to Order at a Great Reduction. Also One of the Finest Selections of Trousers and Overcoatings. Best of Workmanship and Perfect Fit Guaranteed or No Sale. JOE POHEIM, THE TAILOR, 143 SOUTH SPRING ST.

Jacoby Brothers 128, 130, 132 and 134 North Spring St. 123 and 125 North Main St.

GREAT MONEY RAISING SALE

Our Mr. Chas. Jacoby left for New York yesterday to take up his post again there as our resident buyer in the Eastern markets. His last orders to us before he left were as follows: "Convert all goods you can into money at once—no matter how great the sacrifice. We must take advantage of the depressed merchandise market in the East." To do this it takes

CASH! CASH! CASH! His orders will be strictly obeyed to the letter. Ladies and Gentlemen! the time for genuine bargains in our stores has come—prices have been cut right and left.

A Great Mark-down Boys' Clothing Sale! A Half-price Odd and End Shoe Sale! Now in Full Force.

Great Mark-down Sale of Boys' Clothing. Sale takes place on Second Floor—take patent safety elevator. Boys' Short Pants Suits, sizes 4 to 15 years.

- Lot 215, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$1.50, drop to... 95c
Lot 214, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$1.50, drop to... 95c
Lot 3697, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$1.50, drop to... 95c
Lot 7437, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$1.50, drop to... 95c
Lot 7794, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$2.00, drop to... 1.25c
Lot 7434, Wool Suits, sold at \$2.75, drop to... 1.50c
Lot 1523, Wool Suits, sold at \$3.00, drop to... 1.95c
Lot 7478, Cassimere Suits, sold at \$3.50, drop to... 2.20c
Lot 7845, Cassimere Suits, sold at \$4.50, drop to... 2.95c
Lot 4200, All-wool Suits, sold at \$5.00, drop to... 3.45c
Lot 6591, All-wool Suits, sold at \$5.00, drop to... 3.45c
Lot 9287, All-wool Suits, sold at \$4.50, drop to... 2.95c
Lot 6170, Marysville Cassimere Suits, drop to... 3.70c
Lot 6161, Marysville Cassimere Suits, drop to... 3.70c
Lot 6045, Fine Wool Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.95c
Lot 8710, Fine Wool Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.95c
Lot 7711, Fine Cassimere Suits, sold at \$5.00, drop to... 3.20c
Lot 4923, Fine All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.95c
Lot 7815, Double Breasted Monitors, sold at \$5.00, drop to... 3.45c
Lot 7207, Indigo Blue Cloth Suits, sold at \$6.50, drop to... 4.00c
Lot 6896, All-wool Cassimere Suits, sold at \$6.50, drop to... 4.95c
Lot 1597, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95c
Lot 1699, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95c
Lot 6414, All-wool Cassimere Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95c
Lot 9049, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95c
Lot 6420, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95c
(With these suits goes an extra pair of pants)

Great Half-price Odd and End Shoe Sale. A genuine slaughter of good and reliable footwear. Men's Shoes.

- Strong & Carroll's noted make of Men's Kangaroo Congress Shoes, hand sewed, equal to hand sewed, sizes 5 to 10 in A and B widths. Regular price \$4.00, reduced to... \$2.50
Strong & Carroll's noted make of Men's Kangaroo Balm, hand sewed, equal to hand sewed, sizes 5 to 10 in A and B widths. Regular price \$4.00, reduced to... \$2.50
Strong & Carroll's noted make of Men's Calf Buttocks, hand sewed, equal to hand sewed, sizes 5 to 10 in A and B widths. Regular price \$4.00, reduced to... \$2.50
None Superior, the celebrated Johnson & Murphy make of Men's Calf Shoes, either congress or balm, sizes 5 to 9, all widths. Famous for their work over for their wearability. Reduced from \$5.00 to... \$3.00
Burt & Packard's Men's Patent Leather Balm and Congress, sizes 5 to 10 in A, B, C, D and E widths. Reduced from \$5.00 to... \$3.00
Russett & Co's. Famous French Men's Patent Leather Shoes, congress lace, in almost all sizes, plain or tipped. Cannot be duplicated in this city for \$3.00. Reduced from \$5.00 to... \$3.00
Norman & Bennett's Men's Russett Balm, in all sizes, B width. Reduced from \$4.00 to... \$2.00
Men's Rockland Russett, congress lace, in all sizes and widths. Latest style toes and tips. Reduced from \$4.00 to... \$2.00
Men's Kip Creamers, congress lace, in buckle or lace, full double sole. Reduced from \$2.00 to... \$1.25
Men's Two Buckle Congress, congress lace, in all sizes. Regular price \$1.75, reduced to... 50c
Shoes, all sizes. Reduced from \$1 to \$2.00

Ladies' Shoes. D. Armstrong & Co. famous Rochester make Ladies' Button Shoes of the finest French kid, hand turned and hand sewed, sizes 2 to 4 in A, A, B, C, D and E widths. Reduced from \$5.00 to... \$2.50
Ladies' Shoe Co's Ladies' Congress Button Shoes, in all sizes and widths. Worth \$3.00, reduced to... \$2.00
Ladies' Shoe Co's Ladies' Congress or Kid Top Button Shoes, carefully selected from the best material. Good value at \$3.00, reduced to... \$2.25
The celebrated E. P. Reed & Co's Ladies' Hand Sewed French Dongola Button, full assortment of sizes and widths, in five different toes. Reduced from \$4.00 to... \$3.00
Norman & Bennett's Ladies' Genuine Russett Gait Balm, all sizes. Reduced from \$4.00 to... \$2.00
Jones Shoe Co's Ladies' Dongola Oxfords, with or without patent tips, best Oxfords on earth for the money! all sizes. Reduced from \$1.50 to... \$1.00
Ladies' Canvas Balm, in tan and black colors, stylish laces, tips to match the canvas. Reduced from \$2.00 to... \$1.00

Boys' Long Pants Suits, sizes 13 to 19 years. Lot 2490, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$5.00, drop to... \$3.45
Lot 2139, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.75
Lot 2793, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.75
Lot 2570, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.75
Lot 2545, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.75
Lot 2790, Serviceable Suits, sold at \$6.00, drop to... 3.75
Lot 1233, Woolen Suits, sold at \$6.50, drop to... 4.45
Lot 6037, Woolen Suits, sold at \$7.00, drop to... 4.95
Lot 3764, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$9.00, drop to... 5.95
Lot 3766, All-wool Cassimere Suits, sold at \$9.00, drop to... 6.45
Lot 169, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$10.00, drop to... 6.95
Lot 1373, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$12.00, drop to... 7.45
Lot 9330, All-wool Cheviot Suits, sold at \$12.00, drop to... 7.45
Lot 2505, Fine Cassimere Suits, sold at \$12.50, drop to... 9.95
Lot 2547, Fine Cassimere Suits, sold at \$12.50, drop to... 7.45
Lot 6058, Fine Cheviot Suits, sold at \$12.50, drop to... 8.75

Misses' and Children's Shoes. Misses' Dongola Button, sizes 11 to 2, all widths; former price \$2.50 and \$2.00. Reduced to \$1.00.
Wright & Jones' Misses' Genuine Pebble Goat Button, sizes 12 to 3, all widths. Reduced from \$2 to \$1.
Wright & Jones' Misses' Pebble Goat Button, sizes 8 to 12, all widths and sizes. Reduced from \$1.50 to 80c.
Wright & Jones' Children's Shoes, genuine pebble goat button, all sizes and widths. Reduced from \$1 to 60c.
Misses' Genuine Oil Grain Button, spring heel, 1 1/2 to 2, reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.
Misses' Genuine Oil Grain Button, spring heel, sizes 2 to 4 only. Reduced from \$1.25 to 80c.
Infants' Shoes. Infants' Dongola Button, sizes 2 to 5, at 50c. Reduced from 90c.
Infants' Dongola Button, sizes 2 to 5, with patent leather tips, at 50c. Reduced from 75c.

YOUR ATTENTION, LADIES! Extra Special for One Week Only!

All of Geo. E. Bernard's \$3, \$4.50 and \$4 Ladies' fine Artistic Black and Colored Oxfords to be closed out at \$2.50 All sizes and widths.

R. W. PRIDHAM, BOOKBINDER. FOR ALL KINDS OF GUNS, RIFLES, PISTOLS, Cutlery, Ammunition. All kinds of SPORTING GOODS. Fishing Tackle, Bamboo Rods, Bassballs, Mitts and Gloves. REPAIRING AND CHOKER BORING OF SHOTGUNS A SPECIALTY. Guaranteed or money refunded. H. S. SLOTTREBECK, 211 N. Main St., Temple Block. ANTI-SEPTIC TOOTH POWDER. 7-25 SIXTH AND BROADWAY.

DR. PRICE'S Cream Baking Powder. The only Pure Cream of Tartar Powder—No Ammonia; No Alum. Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard.