

INVESTIGATION OF THE DISPENSARY

MR. H. A. CURIEL GIVES EVIDENCE.

Shows That Farnum Got Large Commissions For Making Sales to The Dispensary.

The State.

The commission to wind up the affairs of the State dispensary resumed deliberations yesterday morning. The feature of the day was the placing on record of an affidavit from Col. C. H. Dudley in which he declared that he had given money to officers of the State of South Carolina to get them to buy liquor from houses he represented.

Another feature was the examination of Mr. Herman A. Curiel, of New York, who stated that he had paid J. S. Farnum and Briggs M. Wilson, brothers-in-law, to get business for him from the State dispensary. He had not been told what they did with the commissions but the intimation was plain that there were dispensary officials who were getting it. And the worst blow of all was when Farnum offered for \$1,500 to get Curiel's claim paid by the dispensary board when it was being held up, even after the legislature had decided that the renowned blacklist should be removed and houses represented by Farnum received \$400,000 immediately.

When the commission first met Mr. W. A. Clark declared on behalf of his client, William Lanahan & Son, that it would be a physical impossibility to bring here the books of entry and record and the stenographers in the offices. He asked for a monification of the mandate of the commission with reference to his client. This morning at 9:30 was set for the hearing of this case.

Mr. Clark suggested that Mr. Lyon and Mr. Felder might have come around by Baltimore while in New York and Philadelphia.

Denied Giving Money.

Mr. Curiel was asked if in a certain room at Wright's hotel he had had an interview with a dispensary official. He denied this.

"Did you not take off your left shoe and remove \$500 therefrom and give to this man to get business in South Carolina?"

"It is absolutely false," replied the witness.

"And if this man would swear to it?"

"It would be false."

"Did you pay any commissions to your agents in checks or all in currency?"

The witness denied ever paying any currency.

The Carolina Glass company's case will be reopened from start to finish. This was the announcement made by the acting chairman, Senator J. Steele Brice, to the attorney, Mr. W. H. Lyle. Mr. Brice presides at the meetings at the request of Dr. Murray. The entire commission is present, Dr. W. J. Murray of Columbia, Mr. John McSween of Timmonsville, Mr. Avery Patton of Greenville, Mr. A. N. Woods of Gaffney, Mr. J. Steele Brice of Yorkville. Attorney General Lyon and Mr. W. F. Stevenson, attorney of the commission, are present, as are Gen. Clifford L. Anderson and Col. T. B. Felder and Mr. Malvern Hill of Atlanta, representing the commission: Col. Anthony J. Carroll of Louisville, Ky., and Maj. Clem F. Dunbar of Augusta, Ga.; Mr. Jos. G. Graydon of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mr. McLean of Rochester, N. Y., representing claimant.

Mr. Curiel Testifies.

The case of the New York and Kentucky company was called yesterday morning. The first witness was Mr. Herman A. Curiel of New York, who had testified on a former occasion. The New York and Kentucky company is the concern which sold Duffy Malt liquor and Pieper-Heidseck champagne.

Mr. Curiel, who is a native of Germany and a highly educated man, is secretary and treasurer of the New York branch of the New York and Kentucky company. He testified that he attended to filling the orders received by the State dispensary and that he put in the bids. He had met Mr. Lyon in New York when Mr. Lyon and Mr. Christensen were members of a dispensary investigating committee in 1905. Mr. Felder read from affidavit given to them on that occasion. This affidavit told of a visit of Commissioner H. H. Crum and Briggs Wilson to his office. Mr. Crum, now deceased, was commissioner of the State dispensary, the head officer, and Wilson was manager of the Richland distillery. The affidavit recited that, when Curiel complained that he got no more business from so large an institution as the State dispensary, Crum had replied that Curiel could get the business if the New York and Kentucky company had "the right kind of agent." When asked who would be a good man for agent Crum referred to Wilson saying, "I will indorse whatever Mr. Wilson does." Nothing was said definitely about commissions but when he afterwards got some orders from

South Carolina Wilson claimed 50 cents per case. Curiel thought this was an excessive commission and Wilson replied that "cost a great deal of money to control the liquor business in South Carolina" and intimated that the commissions were not all for himself.

Mr. Curiel had turned over to Mr. Lyon a number of letters from Leon Bamberg, a relative of Commissioner Crum, all of which were brought out in the former hearing of the legislative committee. The affidavit concluded with an earnest disavowal of having paid any graft, rebates or direct commission in South Carolina and he never dealt directly with any agent of the State.

Commissions Were Easy.

Col. Felder read the affidavit, which Mr. Curiel under oath affirmed, and asked many questions. Mr. Felder pulled it out that the New York and Kentucky company had paid Briggs Wilson more than \$4,000 and approximately \$5,000 in commissions. The total sales to the dispensary were \$130,000 in five years. Col. Felder brought out the astonishing statement that J. S. Farnum, a relative of Briggs Wilson, was also getting commissions and that a quarrel between the brothers-in-law resulted.

Witness declared flatly that he had never paid any of the commissioners or clerks anything. He afterwards admitted that he had loaned G. H. Charles \$150, but this was after Charles left the dispensary. Charles recited that he was in precarious financial condition and needed this money. The check was drawn from Curiel's private bank account on the Corn Exchange bank. He considered it apart from the dispensary business.

When the State dispensary was closed there was \$20,000 worth of goods returned to Curiel's house. He had paid no commission on this and had demanded none back, he said, in reply to Col. Felder. He had paid no commission on business received during the last administration (Rawlinson, Black and Wylie).

Denied Giving Money.

Mr. Curiel was asked if in a certain room at Wright's hotel he had had an interview with a dispensary official. He denied this.

"Did you not take off your left shoe and remove \$500 therefrom and give to this man to get business in South Carolina?"

"It is absolutely false," replied the witness.

"And if this man would swear to it?"

"It would be false."

"Did you pay any commissions to your agents in checks or all in currency?"

The witness denied ever paying any currency.

Mr. Curiel said he had paid Farnum \$2,300 which Farnum claimed was due under an agreement with a man named Sinn who represented Curiel. Curiel declared Farnum's job a holdup. They had no agreement. Farnum had threatened to attach Curiel's funds at the State dispensary and he was blackmailed into paying commission.

Col. Felder grilled the witness on series of questions as to why these large commissions should be paid without an understanding and in such an unbusiness-like manner. Was no record kept? Was there no regular basis? How did he know how to pay?

"What basis did you figure commissions on?"

"They figured, I had no basis," replied witness. "They did not say that the commissions were to be paid to directors but the implication was very plain," stated witness.

Col. Felder rather worried Mr. Curiel by a certain line of questions. Why had he not brought the voucher to show that he had paid Charles \$150? Witness replied it was a private matter. Mr. Felder declared that he is prepared to refute witness' statement that the check was for \$150 and that Charles was not employed at the State dispensary. Mr. Curiel was asked if he had brought down his correspondence with Briggs M. Wilson and Jas. S. Farnum. This, also, he said, he deemed to be private, and he had not included such letters.

However, he had brought some books of record. Mr. Felder requested that they be brought. There was a recess for half an hour and then four stalwart negroes brought into the State library, a large trunk; presently another trunk. There was then a prolonged recess until the attorneys could sort out and examine the books.

Afternoon Session.

At the afternoon session one of the cash books was put in evidence. It showed that on August 23, 1904, J. S. Farnum was paid \$500 for assisting representative to land an order. Mr. Curiel didn't know the basis on which commissions were paid. Two days later there was an entry "Cash \$2,362.50." This, followed up on another book, showed that J. S. Farnum got the cash.

Mr. Felder wanted to know why one entry should be marked different

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR HOMESTEAD.

Ex parte,
Cleora G. Speers, Leland Coppock Speers, Lucy K. Speers and Hiram L. Speers, Petitioners.

In re,
Estate of L. M. Speers, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that the above named petitioners, Cleora G. Speers, widow, and Leland Coppock Speers, Lucy K. Speers and Hiram

L. Speers, children of L. M. Speers, deceased, have filed with me an application to assign and set apart to them, as required by law, the homestead to which they are entitled under the laws of this State in the real and personal property of which the said L. M. Speers died seized and possessed.

H. H. Rikard,
Master for Newberry County.

Winthrop College SCHOLARSHIP and ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.

The examination for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for the admission of new students will be held at the County Court House, on Friday, July 2, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be less than 15 years of age. When Scholarships are vacant after July 2 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for Scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for Scholarship examination blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 15, 1909. For further information and catalogue, address Pres. D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.