

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Acting Mayor Walters Orders a Raid on the Gamblers.

THIRTEEN SPORTY GENTLEMEN ARRESTED

Seven Discharged—Six Held for Trial Tomorrow—Fecular Actions of Mayor Walters—Assessment of Favoring Certain Gamblers.

Councilman Wood's little hatchet, which he wielded in the city council Monday night, brought down the dead ripe fruit more promptly than had been anticipated. In less than an hour after the council adjourned, George Deavers and an even dozen of his patrons were behind the bars charged with gambling.

Immediately on the adjournment of the city council Acting Mayor Walters instructed Chief Brennan to pull the gambling house of George Deavers, over Wordeman's saloon, at the corner of Twenty-fifth and N. Officers Tangeman, Emminger and Speotter were detailed together with the chief made the raid, capturing the players without the loss of a man. They gave their names as George Graves, Frank Karson, George Brasfield, D. Hayward, George Deavers, William Niece, William Wood, John Harris, Bert Oiler, Jack Smith, L. D. Boyd, S. A. Saxe and Jim Coon.

By 2:30 o'clock a. m. the headquarters for the first time since South Omaha began business as a municipality was fitted up with a complete outfit of gambling paraphernalia. Piled up in one corner were two crap tables, one hazard, two roulette, one Faro bank, while in the property room reposed 2,000 chips and numerous decks of cards.

Mr. Deavers, the proprietor, promptly went bail for five of the captured gamblers, putting up \$50 each for their appearance at 2 p. m. yesterday afternoon. The other seven men walked out in the free air of heaven with a cloud hanging over them.

The other six prisoners, being strangers to Deavers, he was not willing to guarantee on their showing up at the proper time and place, and they were locked up. Judge Fowler gave them a show this morning, and all were released, either on their own recognizance or were vouchered for by friends, to appear at 2 p. m. for a hearing.

It is strange how those men proved to be when questioned by the judge, with a view to allowing them to give security for their appearance. One was a single man, the other two were married, and never gambled a lick in his life. No. 3 was a single man, working at Sewell's, a mere spectator who never gambled. No. 4 was a painter who had painted the tables and was there on a collecting tour. The next lived in Omaha, but never gambled a lick in his life, and the man next to him lived in South Omaha and was a grader employed by Jim Mann.

The sixth one was out of luck. He was a stranger from California, and apparently had not a friend on earth, but Attorney Montgomery finally secured his release after the hour of trial.

Public opinion as to the motives of the mayor will be largely formed from future actions, as there is a number of other gambling places in the city equally notorious and run equally open with the one pulled last night.

Deck Berlin's place, near Twenty-fourth and N. is probably the best known in the place in the city, yet it was dark Monday night, as were others well known to both police and citizens. It is common talk that the tip was given, and that Deavers that night in time to escape the officers.

The raid is the only topic of conversation in the city. Mayor Walters' action has been interpreted in many different ways by this time. There are those who say that the acting mayor is in earnest, and that he will execute the laws as they exist, and there are many others who openly charge that some one is getting a rake-off from all the other gambling houses in the city, and that Deavers was only ordered pulled to make a show of enforcing the law, choosing the latter place because its proprietor has refused to vouch up with a liberality equal to others. This view is confirmed in the minds of some by the fact that, as they say, the mayor some time ago made the proposition to pay a fine of \$100 a month for the assurance of immunity from police interference, but no attempt has been made to locate these houses.

Outside of the gambling episode, which came on so suddenly Monday night, Mayor Walters is the subject of much adverse criticism. About two weeks ago one John Fogarty answered in police court to being an inmate of a house of prostitution. In fact, he was credited with being a "professor" regularly attached to a railroad avenue dive. He got off easily, but was warned to be careful of the second offense. Monday he was again before the judge with the same charge opposite his name, when he got \$10 and costs. Yesterday morning Judge Fowler received the following letter:

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 20.—Hon. J. M. Fowler, Police Judge South Omaha, Neb.: Dear Sir—By the power invested in me as mayor of South Omaha, I hereby commit the fine of one John Fogarty, and demand his release. Yours respectfully,

J. S. WALTERS, Mayor.

John Stapleton, on the 19th of February for the same offense, was released by Mayor Walters without a hearing. On the other hand, the acting mayor charges Councilman Wood with creating a scandal for political purposes in order to secure his reelection to the council.

The gamblers had a new deal when 2 o'clock came round, seven being discharged and six held until Thursday for prosecution under the state laws. Assistant County Attorney Trout drew up the papers.

Magpie City Gosling.

The city exchequer, which last week, Spitzer & Co. having paid over \$23,948 for bonds.

The public schools of the city are dismissed for the day in honor of the birth of Washington.

The Fourth ward school rendered a very interesting program under the direction of Miss Jennie Allen teacher, last night.

W. B. Cheek, Ab Waggoner and other dry and hungry democrats of this city attended the Morton reception at Nebraska City last night.

The 16-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Luther, Twenty-ninth and Hoffman streets, died yesterday and will be buried today at 3 p. m.

The members of Knoxall council, No. 1474, Royal Arcanum, together with a few invited guests, spent a most pleasant evening at high five at Masonic hall last night.

Mrs. Melissa Markeson, 25 years of age, wife of Chris Markeson, Twenty-third and A streets, died Sunday at 3 p. m. and will be buried at Laurel Hill cemetery Thursday at 3 p. m.

Garbage Master Sorely has forbidden the Cudahy Packing company from dumping the contents of paunches at Thirty-third and L streets, where about a black has been covered.

About dusk last evening an alarm called the fire department to the Omaha Packing company's plant, but the fire was out almost as soon as the alarm was turned in. A lamp exploded in the arctic room without damage.

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