

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR.

ST. LOUIS, MO., SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1902.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ZIEGENHEIN TO BE SUIED FOR MISAPPROPRIATED FUNDS.

WILL BRING CIVIL SUIT AGAINST FORMER MAYOR

Legal Proceedings Will Be Begun by Circuit Attorney Within Thirty Days to Recover Interest on Public Funds Diverted to the Hire of Clerks in Former Collector's Office.

ACCUSED MAKES A STATEMENT DEFENDING HIS COURSE.



FORMER MAYOR HENRY ZIEGENHEIN.

Accused by the Grand Jury of having appropriated interest on public moneys to his private account.

Circuit Attorney Folk will institute proceedings in the civil court within thirty days under the foregoing statute to recover the interest on public moneys drawn by Henry Ziegenhein from the Lafayette Bank while he was Collector of St. Louis. The amount drawn by Ziegenhein, as detailed in the Grand Jury report, was something more than \$12,000, but with interest to date would be in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

The Lafayette Bank, which paid the interest to Ziegenhein, will be involved in the suit. Mr. Folk says that under the law the bank is as liable as Ziegenhein. Ziegenhein was Collector from 1885 to 1896, when he was elected Mayor.

In his report the Grand Jury states that a prosecution would have been brought against Ziegenhein, but it was barred by the statute of limitations, which specifies that there can be no prosecution unless brought within three years, except where the crime results in a death penalty or life imprisonment, or in case the person to be prosecuted dies from the State.

If the money is recovered it will, in due course of law, be turned over to the State. The law does not specify to what purpose it shall be put, but probably it would be devoted to educational purposes. It would be disposed of in exactly the same manner as the \$154,000 which is impounded by the courts in the Suburban bribery cases.

It does not matter, Mr. Folk says, to what purpose the interest on the city's moneys was put. The Collector had no right to draw it and spend it. If he devoted it to the employment of more collectors, or if he spent it playing the race, the offense under the law is the same, and would entail the same punishment.

STATEMENT OF EX-MAYOR HENRY ZIEGENHEIN.

Ex-Mayor Ziegenhein, speaking of the charge against him in the Grand Jury report, said:

"I notice from the April Grand Jury report, published to-day, that it charges official misconduct against me while City Collector. I cannot understand why these gentlemen did not have the courage to state my name in full in their report. If the facts they allege are true, there certainly could have been no objection to stating my name, instead of trying to evade responsibility by stating that a former Collector of the City of St. Louis, who was afterwards Mayor. I do not think, however, that they have shielded themselves from liability, and I believe that they have laid themselves liable to a suit for libel, and if they have I will proceed against them."

"The statement in the report, as a whole, undertakes to charge that I received something over \$12,000 for my own private account. This is absolutely false, and the Grand Jury knew exactly what I received this money for, and how I received it, and that it was paid out for the public service, and that I personally never touched one cent either directly or indirectly from it."

"I never received one cent of money while an officer of this city that I was not by law and morals entitled to, and I do not propose to remain under even an imputation that I did so, and the impression intended to be conveyed by this report is absolutely false, and if the statements therein made are of a positive enough character to attach legal liability, I will contend with my attorney and bring such action as will give these gentlemen an opportunity to prove that I ever received one cent of the city's money unlawfully."

"It will not be necessary for anyone to bring suit against me to establish that I received any moneys, because if this report is open to a suit for libel, I will bring the suit myself and they can have the opportunity to establish the facts in my regard."

"I read interviews in the newspapers, I studied the facts about these transactions. Shortly after the beginning of my first term as Collector, which I believe was in 1885, I found that the office force allowed me by law was wholly insufficient to perform the work, and to enable me to properly discharge the duties of the office, I was obliged to employ additional clerks. I was then sued by the Comptroller of the City, and he suggested that if I could get the bank to allow me interest upon deposits that I would be empowered to pay additional clerks or deputies in the office."

"I asked him if it would be proper and legal for me to receive interest on public moneys while an officer of this city, and I do not propose to remain under even an imputation that I did so, and the impression intended to be conveyed by this report is absolutely false, and if the statements therein made are of a positive enough character to attach legal liability, I will contend with my attorney and bring such action as will give these gentlemen an opportunity to prove that I ever received one cent of the city's money unlawfully."

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EX-MAYOR HENRY ZIEGENHEIN DEFENDS HIS COURSE.

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FORMER CITY REGISTER BESCH IS INDICTED AND HAS LEFT THE CITY.

Said to Be in Chicago, but Officials Believe He Is in Mexico—Ex-Mayor Ziegenhein Charged With Misappropriating Interest on Public Moneys—Five Indictments Against His Son Fred for Bribery and Obtaining Money Under False Pretenses.

TRUE BILLS AGAINST COUNCILMAN SCHNELL AND DELEGATES KELLY AND GERAGHTY.

The Grand Jury returned its final report yesterday to Judge Walter L. Douglas.

The report, while reviewing in a general way the many phases of municipal corruption it investigated, deals particularly with the dishonest practices prevalent under the Ziegenhein administration.

Gross irregularities in the conduct of the office of City Register under Henry Besch are shown. Besch is indicted on charges growing out of these irregularities, but the indictment was not returned into court. Officers are now searching for him. He is believed to be in Mexico.

The Grand Jury severely scores the ex-Mayor and department officials under him, without mentioning names directly, but indicating the parties so clearly that no doubt remains as to their identity.

It accuses the ex-Mayor of having appropriated the interest on public moneys to his private account, while in office. The offense is barred from prosecution by the statute of limitation, but an effort will be made to recover the money thus diverted.

Fred Ziegenhein, who was his father's private secretary, is accused of dishonest traffic in permit and remit privileges, and is indicted on four charges of bribery and one of obtaining money under false pretenses.

Councilman Schnell, ex-Speaker Kelly and Delegate Geraghty are indicted for malfeasance in office in having entered into contracts with and furnished supplies to the city, under assumed names, in violation of their oaths.

INDICTMENTS RETURNED BY THREE GRAND JURIES.

DECEMBER GRAND JURY.

Charles Kratz, bribery.

John K. Murrell, bribery.

Emil A. Meyenburg, bribery.

Ellis Wainwright, bribery.

Henry Nicholas, bribery.

FEBRUARY GRAND JURY.

George J. Kobusch, bribery.

Robert M. Snyder, perjury.

John H. Becker, attempted bribery.

Edward Butler, Sr., attempted bribery; two counts.

APRIL GRAND JURY.

Fred Ziegenhein, bribery (four counts) and obtaining money under false pretenses.

Charles F. Kelly, malfeasance in office.

Charles L. Geraghty, malfeasance in office.

Louis Schnell, malfeasance in office.

Jury, which is to be impaneled in Judge Ryan's court to-morrow.

In its report the Grand Jury reviews the whole bribery investigation. While no names are mentioned, the dealings of certain municipal officials, and others, are described in such minute manner as to leave no doubt as to their identity. It mentions the conviction of Emil Meyenburg and Julius Lehmann; the flight of Kratz and Murrell, and the continued absence of Ellis Wainwright, who was indicted by the December Grand Jury, in connection with the Suburban bribery. Mr. Wainwright is traveling abroad. Kratz is in Mexico, and Murrell has never been located.

The report reviews the entire mass of municipal corruption upturned by the April Grand Jury and its two predecessors, and goes into details of the methods by which many dishonest transactions were negotiated. It is evident from the report that the administration of Mayor Ziegenhein was as thoroughly inquired into as time would permit, and the findings of the Grand Jurors in relation to methods obtaining under the Ziegenhein regime, are set forth with distinctness and clearness in a manner which reflects odium upon the officials referred to.

CHARGES AGAINST FRED ZIEGENHEIN.

Five indictments were found against Fred Ziegenhein, who was secretary to his father, Mayor Henry Ziegenhein, while he was in office. Four of them charge bribery and one charges false pretenses.

One of the indictments charges that Ziegenhein accepted a bribe of \$25 on February 14, 1901, to issue a Mayor's permit to Anthony Kohn, granting him the privilege to extend a show-window over the sidewalk in front of Kohn's store at No. 33 North Broadway.

The witness cited on the back of the indictment are Anthony Kohn and William Hull of the Mink Clothing Company of No. 338 Olive street.

Another indictment sets forth that on March 15, 1901, Fred Ziegenhein accepted a bribe of \$15 to grant a permit to excavate under a sidewalk at the store of Beck's saloon at Sixth and Pine streets. Fred L. Beck is the only witness named on the back of the indictment.

In this same connection a third indictment charges Ziegenhein with accepting money under false pretenses. It is alleged that he issued a permit to Julius W. Scavina, declaring the regular costs were \$15, when as a matter of fact he had no right nor authority to issue any such permit.

A fourth indictment alleges that Ziegenhein accepted a bribe of \$25 on March 18, 1901, to issue a permit for the extension of the show window of his store twelve inches over the sidewalk at No. 11 North Broadway.

The fifth indictment sets forth that he accepted a bribe of \$25 to issue a permit to William T. Newman, a tailor at No. 87 Pine street, to extend a show window over the sidewalk. The witnesses are Charles D. Biehle, Newman's partner, and Nat Sebastian, a saloonkeeper at Eighth and Pine streets.

CHARGES AGAINST SCHNELL, GERAGHTY AND KELLY.

Louis Schnell is charged in an indictment with malfeasance in office. The Grand Jury's information states that Schnell on or about the 25th day of March, 1901, did enter into a contract with the city of St. Louis, under the assumed name of the South Side Supply Company, a corporation whereof he was sole owner and manager, to furnish the city with groceries and provisions for the City Hospital and House of Refuge.

The indictment further charges that at the time he entered into the contract Schnell was a member of the City Council, as such was a public officer of the city, and guilty then and there of willful misconduct and malfeasance in office in that it was provided by law that no city official should be directly or indirectly interested in any contract with the city or any department or institution thereof.

The indictment also charges that Schnell collected from the city more than \$1,000 on said contract.

The witnesses named in the indictment are: Bernard Dierkes, City Auditor, and Doctor Nietert, superintendent of the City Hospital.

The indictment against Charles F. Kelly, which also charges malfeasance in office, states that on or about February 3, 1902, Kelly, under the assumed name of John H. Maher, did enter into a contract to furnish the city with printing.

The indictment further charges that at the time the contract was entered into the said Kelly was a member of the House of

RESULT OF THE GRAND JURY'S FINDINGS TOLD IN DETAIL.

St. Louis, May 31, 1902.—Honorable Walter B. Douglas, Judge Circuit Court, Division No. 8: The April Grand Jury, 1902, beg leave to submit the following report:

We have examined many witnesses on the subject of municipal corruption. The flagrant bribery in the Municipal Assembly that has flourished without hindrance so long, has been made conspicuous by the report of our predecessors and in court proceedings. It would seem impossible to paint the picture in darker colors, and yet the facts brought out before us have deepened the tints and present an even more infamous blackness. In the course of our inquiry we have heard from the lips of witnesses the astounding story of corruption. The villainous venality among the sworn officers and public servants of this city should awaken every good citizen to the urgent necessity of stamping it out by giving more attention to public affairs. Our purpose in this report shall be to state the facts candidly in order that the public conscience may be thoroughly aroused to the awful plight in which the city has been brought by the hope that united and heroic effort may bring about a remedy and change in these conditions. It would not seem possible that men of low, base, sordid, callous natures, criminal instincts, prudent desires and corrupt motives could be elected to honorable and responsible offices by the interests and largely the destinies of a great municipality, yet such have long infested our city in the capacity of legislators.

FRANCHISES SECURED THROUGH BRIBERY.

Rumors have been current for years as to bribery in the Municipal Assembly in connection with the passage of ordinances. Grand Jurors have investigated in times gone by, without result, until many had come to believe the reports untrue. The inquiries made by the Grand Jury have brought to light one of the most gigantic bribery schemes ever uncovered. A street-railway company in an effort to secure a franchise from the Municipal Assembly had been compelled to put up \$3,000 for the House of Delegates, which money was deposited in a safe-deposit box of a trust company, one key being held by the agent of the railway and the other key by a member of the House of Delegates, representing the committee in that body, which amount was to be paid to the members of the committee upon the passage of the ordinance. There was also placed in a safe-deposit box in another trust company the sum of \$50,000, to go to the City Council upon the passage of the proposed measure, there being likewise two keys to this box, one held by the representative of the railway and the other by the agent of the railway, and the other by the member of the House of Delegates.

Prompt and energetic action this corruption fund of \$125,000 was caught between the lines and is now held subject to the orders of the court. A number of indictments grew out of this attempted purchase of a franchise. Two of the defendants have become fugitives from justice, forfeiting large bonds, and are now exiled in a foreign land. Two others have been brought to trial, each case resulting in a conviction, one being given three years in the Penitentiary and the other two years.

In the trials the evidence was produced in court, leaving no doubt as to the shocking and startling official debauchery that has been going on.

It has been developed further that on another occasion a similar scheme was procured from the Municipal Assembly by bribery so scandalous as to be without a parallel. There was placed in escrow in a financial institution of the city the sum of \$25,000 to be paid to the members of the Municipal Assembly upon the granting of the franchise. The ordinance giving this failed, and a second ordinance was passed, the sum being paid to the members of the Assembly, which was afterwards distributed among the committee members.

LEGISLATION BRAZENLY ADMIT DISHONESTY.