

JAMES WATERS, FORMER BANK MANAGER, FAINTS AS HE CON- CLUDES TESTIMONY; SENSATION

The most sensational testimony yet heard in the legislative hearing was given Saturday morning by James Waters, former manager of the Bank of North Dakota. Immediately after concluding his two hours of testimony, Mr. Waters, who has until recently been in a hospital, fainted and was carried out of the room.

Mr. Waters made the most sensational and important disclosures by far that have been made since the hearing began. He alleges that J. J. Hastings had informed him that Hastings had secured \$50,000.00 of German money for the Nonpartisan league just about the time the United States entered the war.

Waters alleges that Wm. Lemke, referring to the Scandinavian American Bank of Fargo, remarked, "By God, we will keep that bank open if it takes every dollar of public funds in the state of North Dakota."

Waters also alleges that F. R. Pollard admitted graft in connection with the purchase of supplies for the Home Builders' Association. The legislative committee passed a resolution requesting the heads of firms with which the Home Builders Association did business to come to Bismarck and tell the committee if there had been any graft. Waters' testimony is so sensational and important the Independent publishes a portion of it as follows:

Bismarck, Feb. 26.—J. R. Waters testified under oath before the house audit committee today that J. J. Hastings told him he had secured \$50,000 of German money for the Nonpartisan League about the time the United States entered the war.

The official transcript of Mr. Waters' testimony on this point follows: By Mr. Sullivan: Well, tell us what the conversation was.

A. Well, Mr. Hastings and Mr. Townley were both here and talked to me about—I will call him Jack—about Jack going to New York to sell bonds.

Q. Mr. Townley and Mr. Hastings?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now continue the conversation.

A. And I said to Mr. Hastings, I have nothing to do with the sale of bonds. Mr. Cathro handles the bonds and any arrangements you made with him, of course, will be satisfactory with me. But I said: "Jack, you are not going to be able to sell these bonds at this time through any of the regular channels or any of the regular bond houses, because it is quite evident that they are not going to buy these bonds," and he said to me: "I don't expect to sell these bonds through the regular channels," he said, "I am going down there and place these bonds with this bunch of radicals that Governor Frazier has been down there talking to, and I have a very good friend down there, a Mr. Podgenstecker, from whom we got \$50,000 of German money."

Q. He said what?

A. From whom we got \$50,000 of German money.

Q. When?

A. About the time we were going to war.

Q. Let's get this straight, Jim. He said that he was going down to see this man Podgenstecker from whom he had gotten \$50,000?

A. That is what he told me.

Q. Did he ever tell you that he had seen Podgenstecker?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did he say about it?

A. Well, he said he was a wealthy paper manufacturer, and then he went down there at the time the league was practically broke and that he met with a bunch of these people at a dinner and gave them a talk on the aims and purposes of the Nonpartisan league, and that they needed financing, and he said at this dinner there were several that signified their willingness to give financial assistance, but that

Mr. Podgenstecker told them to never mind, that he would attend to that, and the next day he came to Mr. Hastings' hotel and they completed the arrangements, and that the money was sent to a bank in St. Paul, I believe it was the American Exchange bank. Mr. Hastings told me so much about it that I can't remember it all at this time.

Waters Fainted at End of Testimony
Ten minutes after having testified on this point, Mr. Waters, who had recently come from a hospital, fainted and had to be carried from the court room. He had been on the witness stand for two hours and had unfolded the most sensational story of the affairs of the Bank of North Dakota and other banks of the state that has yet been given during the present probe.

He told how, early in the winter of 1920 he warned William Lemke, now attorney general, that the affairs of the Scandinavian American bank of Fargo, were in an awful shape, and told him "if the bank blows up before June 30, Langer will be the next governor."

Save Bank If It Takes All State Money, Says Lemke

In reply, he said Lemke pounded the table with his fist and shouted:

"By God, we will keep that bank open if it takes every dollar of public funds in the state of North Dakota!"

"Then I told him he had better hunt up a new manager for the Bank of North Dakota," said Waters.

Waters also declared that he had warned Governor Frazier of the condition of the Scandinavian American Bank. On this warning being unheeded he had resigned as manager of the Bank of North Dakota.

Tells of "Rake-Off" in Lumber Sale

Waters also swore to a conversation at the West Hotel in Minneapolis with F. R. Pollard, then purchasing agent of the North Dakota Home Building association. On this occasion, he said, Pollard exhibited a large roll of bills and said that that was "sixteen hundred dollars rake-off" he had collected that day.

Waters swore that Pollard then told him that he (Pollard) got four dollars "rake-off" on every one thousand feet of lumber he purchased for the Home Builders' association.

It was at the conclusion of this part of the testimony that Waters fainted.

COUPLE LIVE ON ONE FARM FOR 75 YEARS

Mt. Zion, Iowa.—Seventy-five years ago Daniel Reneker brought Mary, his bride of a few days, to Iowa from Ohio. Today they are still living on the original homestead they established in the "wild west" in 1845. Reneker was 99 years of age Feb. 24 and his wife is 97. Their marriage record and the number of years spent on the same homestead probably can be equalled by few couples.

The couple attribute their long years of life to the fact that they are God-fearing and believe in simple joys.

Mr. and Mrs. Reneker's married life of 75 years, in the eyes of modern day folk, contain few thrills. It has been mostly hard work.

Reneker, when a young man, left his home in Ohio to go west to see the country. He returned in a short time to get his Mary. Their honeymoon was spent floating down the Ohio river to the Mississippi on a small boat. On landing at the Mississippi the couple headed north for the cabin Reneker had previously erected in the forest wilderness of Iowa, near their present site of Mt. Zion. There they went and there they are today.

The early years were spent clearing the 160 acres of timber Reneker had purchased at \$1 an acre. Supplies were brought from a trading post 44

miles away. Ground on their tract was broken with the aid of oxen.

Five children were born to the Renekers. Four of them still survive. All are boys. The eldest is Jacob, aged 72, and the youngest is Dr. George W. Reneker, aged 52. The

other two "boys" are Joshua and Dallas Reneker. With the exception of Dr. George, all of the sons remain near the old homestead. Dr. George Reneker left home at the age of 12. Today he is resident of Falls City, Neb., and is the state representative

from the first Nebraska district. The present home of the Renekers built in 1861 near the site of the original log cabin.

The couple have taken few trips away from their home. They have made several trips to Falls City, Neb.,

to visit their "boy," Dr. George, and once went back to visit childhood scenes in Ohio.

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Free lunch at noon. Sale to begin immediately after

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One team bay mares, 9 years old, wt. 1400 each.
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One gray mare, 9 years old, wt. 1400.
One bay gelding, 5 years old, wt. 1300.
One sorrel driving mare, 9 years old, wt. 1200.
One black mare colt, 2 years old.
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One 18-inch Best Ever sulky plow.
One 16-inch breaker bottom for sulky.
One Keystone disc.
One John Deere disc.
Two Oliver engine disc plows.
One water tank.
Two iron truck wagon gears.
Two hay racks.
One 3½ Deere & Weber running gear.
One steel lever 4-section harrow.
One harrow cart.
One Hero fanning mill.
One Maxwell touring car.

POULTRY

One dozen Partridge Wyandotte hens.

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