BANKING SUPERVISOR CALLED TO ACCOUNT

Bennett Asked to Explain Jacksonville Insolvency.

DEMAND IS FROM BOARD

Information to Be Specific as to Superintendent's Examination of Defunct Institution.

SALEM. Cr., Sept. 23—(Special.)—
That Will H. Bennett, state superintendent of banks, will be called upon in the near future to make a full report to the state banking board regarding the insolvency of the bank of Jacksonville, as it relates to the banking department, and what efforts that department has made from time to time during its periodical examinations to determine the financial status of the institution prior to its being closed a few weeks ago, was made plain by Governor Olcott and Secretary of State Kozer, members of the state banking board following receipt today of Mr. Bennett's formal report regarding the condition of the defunct slepository. funct depository.

Information to Be Specific. O. P. Hoff, state treasurer, and third member of the banking board, was out of the city and did not partici-pats in the conference as to the an-ticipated action of the body involving

Mr. Bennett.

Following the conference, Governor Olcott said the board was not prepared to say as to just the nature of the questions that would be asked of Mr. Bennett or as to whether a hearing would be held in regard to the department's activities in connection with the insolvent bank. It was made piain, however, that the banking beard's requests for information from the superintendent of banks will be very specific and detailed as to the department's examinations of the bank in question.

Safety Expected From Board. "The people of the state look to the state banking department to protect them against loose or crooked banking methods," said a statement given out by the banking board today. "The banking board, essentially, must depend upon the superintendent of banks and his subordinates to give the adequate degree of protection demanded by the people and the law. "The board feels that the situation in counction with the Jacksonville bank is one which merits the board's

bank is one which merits the board's closest attention in fixing the degree of responsibility which may rest, if any there is, with the superintendent

that the crash was near at hand. "Although there has been consider-

gard to approving the securities of while \$6000 worth of liberty bonds the bank under the laws protecting county and state funds, I was never called upon but once in that capacity.

No overdrafts, as far as known. \$11,000 Deposit Approved.

"On that occasion I approved the institution's securities to the amount Institution's securities to the amount of only \$11,000. In face of this, however, Mrs. Blakeley had approximately \$100,000 of county funds on deposit in the bank at different times. Had the county officials have read the quarterly statements issued by the bank they would have noticed that at one time the deposits were shown at only a trifle more than \$35,000, while the county had on deposit in excess of \$50,000.

of \$50,000.

"Evidence in my possession shows that Johnson can be formally charged with larceny, forgery, perjury and a half dozen other crimes. The assets of the bank are of doubtful value. 'ncluding an overdraft for \$46,000 of three years' standing. There is every indication that the bank has been deliberately looted and persons other than Johnson may be invelved."

Johnson is now in juil at Jacksonville under \$50,000 bail pending a hearing before the grand jury which will meet the third Monday in October.

ASSETS 25 CENTS ON DOLLAR

Bank Superintendent Completes Probe at Jacksonville.

MEDFORD, Or., Sept. 23.—(Special.)

Now that the state banking super-intendent's investigation is completed and his report on the hopelessly wrecked Jacksonville bank's condition wrecked Jacksonville bank's condition has been filed with the circuit court, the next step is the action of the grand jury which meets next month and the trial early in October of William Johnson, president of the bank. After working on the books of the defunct Jacksonville bank for six weeks. State Bank Superintendent Bennett today filed his report with the circuit court, showing assets of the circuit court, showing assets of \$217.527.18 and liabilities of \$318.000, with an estimate that the bank will be able to pay 25 cents on the dollar.

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Ben Selling Leading Clothier Morrison at Fourth

son kept two sets of books, and faisi- standpoint of the criminal liability Johnson conducted his affairs as h fied his sworn statement of the bank's of Johnson further than to state that did. condition on June 30. "The chaetic condition of the

condition on June 30.

The chactic condition of the banks and those under him. For that reason we feel that a complete and specific report should be made to the board-by the superintendent of banks covering the steps that were taken by the department to protect the depositors of the insolvent institution, and such report will be asked forthwith."

Insolvent Condition Known.

G. N. Roberts, district attorney of Jackson county, who was here today on legal business, informed Governor Olcott at an informal conference that he had been aware of the insolvent condition of the defunct bank for some time.

"Only a few days before the bank closed its doors," said Mr. Roberts, "I had a talk with W. H. Johnson, president of the institution, and Myrtle W. Blakeley, treasurer of Jackson county, who had more than \$100,000 of the county's funds on deposit in the bank. I informed them of my suspicions at that time, and predicted that the crash was near at hand.

"Although there has been considerable newspaper speculation with re-

was kept of liberty bonds sent to

No overdrafts, as far as known, were reported by Johnson, but the examiners found about \$72,000 in overdrafts. Mr. Bennett pointed out today that he was not in a position to make charges and he would make no comment on the case from the

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there was no doubt of the falsification of his statements. He also said there was no way for any bank exthere was no way for any bank ex-aminer to have known the true con-dition of the bank as long as there bank. On the other hand the patrons

dition of the bank as long as there was no suspicion of the honesty of the banker, and the books as presented showed no discrepancies.

It is apparent from the report that Johnson made a daily statement of the bank's condition which balanced properly on the face, and then in a rough way kept a record of the actual condition of affairs for his own information. But even his own records, it is gaid, are hopelessly incomplete. In fact, the report indicates that until Johnson himself explains, no one will be able to determine the terminal affairs prediction is borne out, this means Jackson county will revenue the money has gone and why

Apparently he could refuse no re-quest for money and did not even ask for security. Whenever a person

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