

BRIBERY AT ST. LOUIS

SENSATIONAL CHARGES MADE BY THE GRAND JURY.

Municipal Assembly Described as Illiterate and Lacking Ordinary Intelligence and Morality.

ST. LOUIS, April 5.—Most sensational charges were made by the February grand jury, which has been investigating bribery and official corruption in the Municipal Assembly, in its final report to Judge O'Neil Ryan in the Criminal Court this noon today. The report declares that the people of St. Louis have but a vague conception of the extent to which corruption and venality have for the past 10 years existed among their sworn officers and public servants. It finds the true condition of affairs almost too appalling for belief. A tribute is paid to Joseph W. Folk, the circuit attorney, under whose leadership the investigation is being made. These indictments already made public were returned by the grand jury today: Bribery, Robert N. Snyder, attempted bribery, Edward Butler, John H. Becker, perjury, George J. Koburch.

In part the report reads as follows: "A far-reaching and systematic scheme of corruption has been carried on for years by members of the Municipal Assembly. These members form what are called 'combinations' for the purpose of holding up domestic legislation, and in the meantime in the way of money consideration are compelled with. Instead of discharging the duties of office for the public good and in accordance with their oath, they become organized combinations of plunder, using their office to enrich themselves at the people's expense.

"Our investigation, covering more or less fully a period of 10 years, shows that with few exceptions no ordinance has been passed wherein valuable privileges or franchises are granted until those interested in the passage thereof have paid the legislators the money demanded for action in the particular case. No municipal corporation has ever had its most valuable franchises so recklessly and scandalously disposed of for a consideration as they found their way, not to the city treasury, but into the itching palms of the public plunderers.

"The persons against whom indictments for bribery have been returned are but a small per cent of those whom inquiry convinces us deserve to wear the garb of convicts.

"We have been informed by many of those who have been most of those who are now members of the House of Delegates. We regret to report that we found a number of these utterly illiterate and lacking in ordinary intelligence, unable to give a better reason for favoring or opposing a measure than a desire to act with the majority. In some, no trace of mentality or morality could be found. In many, a low order of training appeared, united with base cunning, grossing instincts and sordid desires. These men, through their corrupt agents, approach the representatives of power in combinations or corporations competing for valuable franchises and demand and receive of them sums of money ranging from \$100 to \$100,000 for their individual votes and influence.

"The evidence shows us that there are in this city men of seeming great respectability, directors in large corporations and prominent in business and social circles, who have not hesitated to put their names for the purpose of bribing through the Assembly measures in which they are interested. When called before our body some have added to the usual excuses of bribery the crime of forgery, and only escaped the ignominy attaching to their infamous conduct by reason of the fact that the evidence, though satisfying our minds, would not be admissible in the trial courts. While legal evidence may be lacking to bring upon them the penalty for their acts, yet they are morally convicted and damned by their connection with such depravity. Some of these are as guilty as those against whom indictments have been returned, the only difference being that they have been more successful in evading their tracks."

No names are mentioned in connection with these charges of fraud.

SAFE BLOWN OPEN.

Nebraska Bank Robbed of a Small Sum of Money.

BEATRICE, Neb., April 5.—The State Bank at Ruskin, Neb., was robbed at midnight last night. The burglar, supposed to be the same in number, gained entrance to the bank by prying up a window and then opening the front door of the building. Holes were drilled in the doors of the safe and large charges of nitro-glycerine exploded simultaneously. The explosion blew both doors off their hinges and made access to the money box easy. The robbers took all the currency and paper money.

The notes of the bank roused the inhabitants of the little town, and, rushing to their windows, they discovered three of the robbers making off to the westward. The bloodhounds were alerted at once telegraphed for, and went to Ruskin on a special train. Arriving at Ruskin the dogs were taken to the bank and at once took up the trail of the robbers to a spot about half a mile west of Ruskin. The dogs were then brought back to the bank and took the trail of the other two men to the southwest. The two trails finally joined about a mile west of Ruskin, where the entire party had mounted horses.

The dogs are still on a trail in a westerly direction, and it is thought the robbers were riding in an effort to reach the main line of the Burlington Railroad toward Denver.

It is learned that the robbers secured \$200 in cash and a bundle of notes. A number of citizens who attempted to prevent the escape of the men were ordered back at the points of revolvers. Four men were arrested this afternoon at Geneva, one of whom has been identified as having been in Ruskin yesterday.

THE SALT LAKE MURDER.

Police Not Satisfied With the Statements of Clyde Felt.

SALT LAKE, April 5.—The police are not satisfied with the statements of Clyde Felt, the 14-year-old boy who yesterday confessed that he, alone and unaided, killed Samuel Colins, the aged watchman at the Wasatch Mineral Springs, and they continue to press the boy for further details of the tragedy.

Young Felt, at a late hour last night, stated to the police that Henry Ford, a boy about Felt's age, was his accomplice, and that Felt had killed the old man.

"This afternoon, however, Felt admitted that he had killed the old man, and that he had no accomplice. This evening Felt told the police that Colins had choked himself before he (Felt) cut his throat. The police plan to read the story and continue to work on the theory that Young Felt had accomplices and that a conspiracy existed between a number of boys to kill the old man and thus release themselves from his influence.

No formal charge has yet been made against young Felt, but he is held pending further investigation of the crime.

FOR AN OLD CRIME.

Man Arrested at Chicago for the Murder of Hunter, the Stockman.

CHICAGO, April 5.—John Bates was arrested last night for the murder of R. Hunter, a prominent stockman who was assaulted and killed in his office at the Union Stockyards April 12, 1895. Bates, with Frank Lovell, Frank Williams and Jacob Gohman, were indicted for the murder May 28, 1896. Bates' arrest last night was on a capias issued on this six-year old indictment. The murder caused such excitement at

the time that, although the following day was Saturday, the busiest of the week, business was lost sight of. So high did the feeling run that suspects were dragged in many times during the day, and but for the coolness of a few of the members, some of the captives might have been severely dealt with. A heavy reward was offered by the exchange for the capture of the murderer, but nothing came of it until a year later, when indications were found as above stated.

In searching for the papers in the Hunter case yesterday the State's Attorney made the startling discovery that all the files had been stolen from the office of the Clerk of the Criminal Court and that the Coroner's files also are gone. Only the records of the case on the docket remain. These show that Bates and Williams were never apprehended, and that Lovell and Gohman were caught and the charge against them dropped.

Investigating Dunn's Escape.

WICHITA, Kan., April 5.—Governor Stanley and Assistant Attorney-General Hamilton completed the investigation of the escape of Dunn today. Mr. Hamilton will make a private report to the Attorney-General, showing, it is thought, some important facts. Governor Stanley says that Dunn is still in Wichita. The sensational feature of the day's developments was the raid of the Chief and five armed police on the homes of Dunn's alleged accomplices, Edward Anderson and two of his friends, Dr. Caves and P. B. Garcelon, all prominent citizens. Mr. Anderson is the law partner of the present County Attorney Ferguson and has been for alleged bigamy. Threats of suits against the police are made for going into private houses in search of Dunn without a search warrant.

Race War in Oklahoma.

GUTHRIE, O. T., April 5.—Comanche County authorities, wired Governor Ferguson this afternoon stating that proclamations have been posted all over the city of Lawton warning all negroes to leave town by tomorrow evening. And that the city is wild with excitement, and asking the Governor if he will order out the Territorial Guard if it becomes necessary. Governor Ferguson stated that every Oklahoma militiaman will be sent to Lawton to protect the colored citizens. The trouble is the result of the city election April 1, when attempts were made to kill the negroes from voting.

Oklahoma Officials Removed.

GUTHRIE, O. T., April 5.—The jury today in the Pawnee County Court returned a verdict of guilty against A. J. Bashaers, George Fisher and William Hinton, County Commissioners, charged with willful maladministration of the affairs of their office. All were removed.

Charges Against a Judge.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—Judge John T. McEwen, Associate Justice of the Eighth Circuit Court in Oklahoma, has tendered his resignation to the President, and it has been accepted. Charges have been preferred against Judge McEwen.

WHO IS MARGARET L. SHEPHERD?

She claims that she was once a Catholic and a nun, and now as an escaped nun. She is now in Portland vilifying the Catholic Church, and slandering priests and sisters. We hereby ask the citizens of Portland and vicinity to calmly consider who Margaret L. Shepherd is, and to judge by their works in this community who the priests and sisters are, for "by their fruits you shall know them."

Who is Margaret L. Shepherd?

She does not know herself. At one stage of her career she claimed to be the daughter of Rev. Lord Archibald Douglas; at another time she claimed to be the daughter of Philip Egerton Probyn, an English Army officer, and of various other persons. She was arrested for forging Lord Douglas' name and it was supposed to appear against his alleged daughter. He writes to Canon Russell, of Clifton, Bristol, Eng., on March 7, 1898: "On being confronted with her name she was evidently older or quite my age."

Her own testimony was given in the Marron-Youman libel suit at the Assize Court of Toronto, Can. Mrs. Shepherd said she had lived in England a certain portion of her life and while there had been imprisoned in a London jail for six months for stealing to save the life of her starving child. She was tried and acquitted on another criminal charge. The name under which she went at the time of her conviction was Louise Edgerton. This was not her real name, however. The name she had borne from childhood was Edgerton.

In March, 1880, she had gone to the St. James House, a Church of England institution in London, and there had given her name as Louise Eileen Westland. But if Margaret L. does not know who she is, there are others who do. SHE HAS NEVER BEEN A CATHOLIC. From infancy almost she has been a bad girl. When a child she was an inmate of reformatories for fallen and incorrigible girls. Her experience of convent life has been the same as the experience of Marie Monk, that of a criminal.

She was in Arnot Vale Convent, Bristol; but she was there as a fallen woman, Florence Booth, of the Salvation Army, writes about her: "I have no doubt at all but that this woman is a fraud. . . I trust you will get your money back, and I am anxious that something should be done to prevent her from deceiving any more kind-hearted people. She has never been a nun. She was taken (I am not sure whether brought by the police or not) as a prostitute into the Roman Catholic Convent at Bristol. She ran away from there and was found in the streets of Bristol, or rather wandered into the S. A. barracks and represented herself as homeless and anxious to come to our rescue home in London.

Another Alias.

In the libel suit referred to above she gave the following testimony dealing with her English experiences: "Q. Were you imprisoned at Bodmin, Cornwall, England, awaiting trial on a criminal charge, and there known as Georgina Parkyn?"

"A. Yes, after I had married Captain Parkyn."

"Q. Where you ever identified with the Salvation Army, and if so, under what name?"

"A. I was with Mrs. Booth for a time as Margaret Herbert."

The witness here explained to the jury that she had changed her name this last time to put away her sorrows of past life, and start anew. She had lived in Bristol, England, and in Ireland, also, as Georgina Parkyn. She testified that in Ireland she gave birth to an illegitimate child and then went to London.

With W. T. Stead.

She drifted onto the stage for a few weeks and then was employed for a time by Mr. W. T. Stead, editor of the Pall Mall Gazette and the Review of Reviews. She first met Mr. Stead in July, 1888, and agreed to secure interviews with Mrs. Armstrong and other women for publication in Mr. Stead's series of articles on fallen women.

She was helping Mr. Stead to prove that she was helping him for immoral purposes in London. She drew a salary for her services, but her expenses, afterwards her passes to America, were paid by Mr. Stead.

Mr. Stead, in a letter written in answer to an inquiry about Margaret L., speaks as follows: "The less you have to do with the lady you mention the better it will be for you. Her past life is a disgrace to the contents of your pockets. . . Introduced to me as a reclaimed prostitute. . . Seems to have been in jail twice, obtaining goods under false pretenses."

Indeed, it is no wonder that Mr. Stead advises people to have nothing to do with her. She is known from one end of England to the other in Her Majesty's jails.

Rev. G. P. Merrick, chaplain of the Millbank Prison, London, writes of her that she got a sentence of six months for obtaining money under false pretenses. He said that "she had been in two or three penitentiary institutions in London." Another sentence from one of Mr. Merrick's letters is this: under date of June 16, 1881: "When she was heard of again it was in connection with a great many frauds which she practiced upon lodging-house keepers and tradesmen in the west of England."

A letter from Rev. C. B. Simpson, chaplain of Her Majesty's Prison at Bodmin, Cornwall, England, speaks of her stay in that institution "on two charges of forgery and one of false pretenses in 1882. She then went under the name of Georgina Parkyn. . . There is little doubt she is an accomplished forger. . . Mr. Simpson's letter is dated September 1, 1891.

The next important event in her career is her doubtful marriage to one Richard Parkyn. She separated from him when a forged charge was brought against him. She came to America under the auspices of the Salvation Army, and after a time proceeded to Charlottesville, Va. E. L., to conduct a series of services for that body. While there she met Mr. Shepherd, her present husband, and was married to him on April 4, 1886.

A Preacher Hiten.

Her experiences in America were, to say the least, startling. Rev. William D. Thompson, pastor of the Central Methodist Church, Brooklyn, writes, on April 23, 1891: "Dear Sir—A woman answering the name of Shepherd, who I have known for about three years ago lecturing and preaching. She is an impostor. She pretended to be the illegitimate daughter of an English nobleman, educated in a convent, converted to Catholicism, etc. The truths that I unearthed about her were that she had been the mistress of one or more than one; that she had been induced to leave her native country, London, where she was voluntarily residing; that she had never been a nun at all; that she joined the Salvation Army and wretchedly betrayed the trust that they placed in her. I have other facts in my knowledge, but this is sufficient. Yours for right."

"WILLIAM D. THOMPSON."

Another Preacher Hiten. Rev. Joseph Bold, of the North New York Methodist Episcopal Church, 24 Willis avenue, New York, writes on April 24, 1891: "Dear Sir and Brother—Your favor of the 19th inst. is received. Somebody owes a great amount of work to the various communities where the lady to whom you refer 'holds forth.' As the result of my own investigation, and her own stay at my house in New Haven, Conn., I have no confidence in her. She is a woman of no principle. . . But it is quite easy for her to lie, I am sorry to say, when she is in the presence of a man. I tried to defend her when she was attacked through the press at New Haven, but I found it impossible. We terminated the meetings on Friday evening, Dec. 10, 1890, to me that some one ought to put her in her true light before the public. Such a person can do only hurt to a cause."

"She represents herself to be the daughter of Colonel Herbert, an English nobleman, and received a most indignant contradiction of all her statements about that line."

"My judgment is that she is as morally rotten as she is bright. I see dead men, priests faithfully. JOSEPH BAIRD."

The Kirk Speaks.

The Rev. J. A. Macdonald, a Presbyterian minister of St. Thomas, Ontario, Can., in a letter published in the Canadian Presbyterian, December 20, 1890, has this to say of this woman: "Taking a concrete example, I wish, if it is not too late, to warn our ministers and people and such of the general public as may hear my own congregation in the worst frauds, one of the most dangerous agents of political and social strife and moral corruption that—whether as a journalist, or as a preacher, or as a man in contact with. It is with extreme reluctance that I write a name so odious of all moral rottenness as Margaret L. Shepherd. Were not that she is taking advantage of the silence which such reluctance has secured, and were she not already notorious throughout the country, I would still be content with the warning given by my own congregation in April last. But nothing can give her notoriety, and she has no unsexed herself as to forfeit the protection which makes womanhood sacred."

"It was in the early Spring of the present year that she first visited St. Thomas, London, Woodstock, and the neighboring towns. So profitable did she find her enterprise (I am sure) that she went with enthusiasm and vigor. In each of these cities she reaped the benefit of a strong anti-Catholic feeling. As first she gave out that she had been a nun and sold suggestive stories of her sad birth and dissolute life. She found, as she finds everywhere, well-meaning but patently ignorant people who believed in the stories that would be willingly forgotten about priests' letters found in strange places, rifles and ammunition stored away in Catholic Church cellars, and a general Protestant massacre arranged for the 29th of September last."

"These gave heed to her words and emptied their purses in response to her appeals. Some weak-minded men and women were fascinated, morally hypnotized, by her strong personality and smooth speech. Others followed her for filthy lucre's sake. Masculinity was given to her cause by those who found she could serve her turn as a helpmeet to municipal or parliamentary positions. And when it was whispered that her record was shady, another class found in every city, gathered together like vultures to the carcass. These 'laid fellows of the baser sort' are always attracted by the brazen impudence of a woman who drives a coach and four through the seventh commandment and opens her meetings with prayer."

"I have been tracing up this woman's course, and have followed her career in Ontario. Everywhere it is the same. Her work in America is of a piece with her work in Britain, so emphatically condemned by Mr. W. T. Stead, Mrs. Balfour Booth, and other moral reformers. The evidence from New England, Chicago, from Charlottesville, Va. E. L., and from other points substantiates the judgment formed of her work in Ontario. The testimony of those who know her life history, and by others who were beguiled into her service and who

slandered the Sisters. That Margaret L. Shepherd dares to speak against the Sisters argues a patience on the part of Catholics that is almost miraculous. For the pretended insults against the girls of a Baptist university, the Baptists shot down Editor Evans in the street of New York, and Margaret L. Shepherd, a common prostitute, is able to slander the noblest, bravest, best women in God's creation, and we Catholic men must be silent."

If we protest, if a natural indignation sweeps away our patience; if we are justly increased because the dirt in the street rises up against daughter and sister, we are howlers at a intolerant, denounced as enemies of free speech. C. J. O'BRIEN.

Will sour the sweetest disposition and transform the most even tempered, lovable nature into a cross-grained and irritable individual. If impatience or fault-finding are ever excusable it is when the body is tortured by an eating and painful sore. It is truly discouraging to find after the use of external remedies that the place remains as defiant, angry and offensive as ever. Every chronic sore, no matter on what part of the body it comes, is an evidence of some previous constitutional or organic trouble, and that the dregs of these diseases remain in the system; or, it may be that some long hidden poison—perhaps Cancer—has come to the surface and begun its destructive work.

The blood must be purified before the sore will fill up with healthy flesh and the skin regains its natural color. It is through the circulation that the acid, corroding fluids are carried to the sore or ulcer and keep it irritated and inflamed. S. S. S. will purify and invigorate the stagnant blood when all sediment or other hurtful materials are washed out, fresh rich blood is carried to the diseased parts, new tissues form, and the decaying flesh begins to have a healthy and natural look; the discharge ceases and the sore heals.

S. S. S. is the only blood purifier that is guaranteed entirely vegetable. It builds up the blood and tones up the general system as no other medicine does. If you have a sore of any kind, write us and get the advice of experienced and skilled physicians for which no charge is made. Book on Blood and Skin Diseases free. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Several years ago, my wife had a severe sore throat and was unable to eat. Best physicians had received no benefit. Our druggist advised her to try S. S. S., which she did. Fourteen bottles cured her and she has been well ever since. J. R. MARBLE, 29 Canal St., Cohoes, N. Y.

speak from painful experience and intimate association, is simply appalling. It staggers belief. The details are horribly disgusting. I dare not publish some sentences from letters now before me, received recently from men who were once victims of a guarantee for truth and prudence. They are frightfully damning. It seems a startling thing to have Miss Lillian M. Phelps, so well known and thoroughly respected by every intelligent temperance worker in Canada, write imploring me in the name of wronged womanhood to address a wider audience than my own congregation, and if possible save our women and girls from the awfulness of this woman's touch. It seems a startling thing to have Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, the leading New England Baptist, tell me, as he did in August last, that she is the falsest and most unscrupulous woman and the most unblushing hypocrite he had ever met, and to have Mrs. Gordon write of her she and Dr. Gordon had more experience with her in Boston, and that she should not be allowed to take the pulpit or platform as an advocate of morality or defender of the most ardent faith. But such things as these are trifles compared with evidence that could not be published in a paper sent to pure homes."

"I know how this woman tries to turn the edge of incriminating evidence and to convert every condemnation into useful advertising matter. I know how she hoodwinks her audience, posing now as a martyr, and now as a penitent. I know how her admirers are overcome by her crocodile tears and give expression to their sympathy by presenting her with Bibles (Mayor Fessenden of London is here meant). I have read the much-vaunted certificates of character given by creatures of her own creation. To be sure, she is sadly soft on the Bible. Her certificates and unproved Bibles will not hide the shame or arrest the contagion of her diseased life. No, she will never be a pope, nor mandragora, nor all the drowsy syrops of the world will change her lustful eye, or dull the public sense of loathing for one who has prostituted truth and honor, and lied so gloriously in the error of Balaam for hire."

"I write strong words and I use them advisedly. If you know what words I refer to, you will understand me. I am in the midst of expression. I could not write at all did I not know of this woman's movements in Ontario and her deplorable schemes to make tools of people who are ignorant of her devices."

A Flag They Disgrace. "Surely Christian people will take warning! Surely those who are still clean will not suffer curiosity to tempt them into her lecherous influence! Surely the press will not be so easily deceived as to be silent! Surely political parties in Canada have not come to so desperate a pass as to join hands, even in the dark, with the devil of impurity! It is not a question of the Bible they do not believe in, but of the Church of Rome. On lips like hers the Ten Commandments are immoral and the Sermon on the Mount corrupting. She and others like her are the cause of civil liberty and moral purity are to be maintained. The worst enemies of Protestantism today are not those that carry the crucifix, but those who, holding the Bible in one hand, and the flag of flying a flag they disgrace and defile, fire the worst passions and prejudices for the sake of personal gain or political power, and shout to an unseeing mob. To give them any better word of silence than they merit, being warned, refusing to give them audience, and so making their 'Protestantism' a less profitable affair? That they may be warned I have ventured to write this certain and certain dictation of those whose craft is in danger."

The Press Speaks. A Canadian paper, the Bracebridge Free Press, writes, has this to say of Margaret L.: Summed Up. As a summing up, it may be briefly stated: 1. That Margaret L. Shepherd has represented herself variously as the daughter of a British officer in India, of a soldier, of a clergyman, of a Solicitor Trefutt. 2. That she is a notorious liar and not to be believed. 3. That she has been a common wanton, a swindler and a forger, and has been several times convicted of various crimes and been sentenced to terms of imprisonment. 4. That she has always been a confirmed drunkard. 5. That she was for a time confined in the Hoxton (England) lunatic asylum. 6. That she has been guilty of bigamy, according to her own written testimony. 7. That she never was a nun, although she claimed to be. Her only connection with any Catholic convent was as a inmate of the House of the Good Shepherd in England, where she was placed for reformation. 8. That she was taken by the Salvation Army, in England, while leading a life of shame, and that the army found her utterly incorrigible and disreputable and had to cast her off. 9. That she has passed under the names of Miss Douglas, Georgina Parkyn, Mrs. Westley, Miss Isabel Herbert, Miss Probyn, Louise Edgerton, Margaret Herbert, Mrs. Herbert, Mrs. Riordan, Mrs. Margaret L. Shepherd. 10. That she has confessed in the hearing of reputable witnesses that she "is in the cause of money." 11. That in about every place she has been she has left unpaid debts for accounts run and borrowed money. 12. That she has two, and probably three husbands living.

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