

SLIPSHOD WAYS OF DETECTIVES

Hearing of Charges Against Kerrigan and Snow Takes Place.

ADMIT THEIR BLUNDER

Examination Shows an Utter Lack of System in the Police Department and a Woful Want of Common Sense.

If detective methods have improved as a result of Mayor Lane's experimental management of the Portland Police Department, that fact was not among the thousand and one irrelevant and immaterial matters and things brought out yesterday afternoon in course of the hearing of the charges of insubordination, inefficiency and general incompetency brought against City Detectives Frank T. Snow and John F. Kerrigan by Police Commissioner Greene.

As the chief inquisitor of the Police Commission, Mr. Greene piled the probe energetically for more than two hours, but without any very definite result other than to prove that the two detectives had blundered ridiculously in attempting the arrest of Thomas Russell, Jr., suspected of complicity in the sandbagging and robbing of Paul C. Aylesworth in the terminal yards on the night of December 28, a fact which had been cheerfully admitted, and to reveal that plain-clothes men are still following the time-honored custom of consulting nobody or nothing but their own sweet will in the handling of crime and criminals.

Do as They Please.

This latter fact every detective called testified to with no less particularity, and Snow and Kerrigan pleaded in a case of their action in meddling with an case which had been assigned to another pair of plain-clothes men, Detectives Day and Vaughn. No less than six detectives, working in pairs, according to their old-time custom, had begun an investigation of the hold-up case before it was definitely assigned to two of the sextet by Chief of Police Gritzmacher.

Even Captain Bruin, acting police inspector and chief of the plain-clothes department, who was present at the stand that he was not certain as to the rule covering the assignment of detectives to duty. It was merely the practice, he said, for detective to turn over any evidence they might obtain to the man assigned to that particular case, or lay it before the Chief of Police or chief of detectives.

Gritzmacher as a Witness.

Chief Gritzmacher made a better witness for the prosecution. He said that there was a rule that no detective should work on a case without orders, but in the same breath admitted, under cross-examination by Snow and Kerrigan, that the rule had been violated on several occasions.

The result of the trial as affecting Snow and Kerrigan is still in doubt. The Commissioner did not take up the matter until nearly 5 o'clock, to the absence of Mayor Lane, who was attending a meeting in another part of the City Hall, and it was nearly 7 o'clock when the hearing was concluded and Commissioner Greene announced that the case would be taken under advisement for a few days in order to allow the Commissioner to "chew over" the evidence and digest it thoroughly.

Handle Their Own Case.

Little interest appeared to be taken in the trial, outside the Police Department. The few spectators present were nearly all members of the police force. Snow and Kerrigan handled their own case with considerable ease and wit, as they desired. They took the stand only to confess that they had bungled the Russell case, but had not done so intentionally, and were willing to abide by the decision of the Commissioner in the matter.

The first witness called was Chief Gritzmacher. He explained the system of assigning detectives at headquarters, explaining that a slip was made out embracing the first report on each case and specifying the detective or detectives assigned to work on it. Carbon copies of this slip were placed in lock boxes, of which there is one for each detective at headquarters.

Whenever a detective comes in he is supposed to go direct to his box and examine the slips. Asked whether the detectives generally did so, the Chief gravely asserted that they nearly always "made a bee line for their boxes" on reporting for duty.

Talks First With Day.

The first detective with whom he talked concerning the Aylesworth case was Day, to whom it had been assigned. Day told witness that he knew who the two guilty men were, but wanted to get Russell first, as he could lay hands on the other man, Gratton, alias "Frenchy," at any time.

Witness heard no more about the case until about 5:30 o'clock the same afternoon, when Snow came to headquarters and volunteered the information that Russell and another man did the Aylesworth job, and that he (Snow) and Kerrigan

had been up to the Russell home waiting for Russell. Snow intimated to witness that he and Kerrigan had bungled the case and had been compelled to inform Russell's folks that they wanted him at police headquarters. The Russells had promised to bring the boy down.

Angry at Detectives.

The boy was never brought down. Witness did not talk with Snow any more; was mad at him for meddling with the case. Saw Mrs. Russell the next day. She stated that Snow and Kerrigan had given her to understand that her son was wanted for a crime. Witness was angry because the information given by Snow and Kerrigan had enabled young Russell to escape on the evening of December 28, and before he was captured Aylesworth, the prosecuting witness, had left the city. Gratton also had escaped and had never been recaptured.

Inspector Bruin was the next witness. He came loaded down with written statements of witnesses and reports of detectives, all of which were duly admitted in evidence. Witness said that on that fatal day, December 28, the first report he had on the Aylesworth case was from Detective Day, who came to him at 8 P. M. and told him that Russell had escaped through the interference of Snow and Kerrigan.

Their Verbal Report.

The same evening Snow and Kerrigan made a verbal report to witness and said they had acted in good faith and would not have interfered with the case had they known that Day and Vaughn were assigned to it. The next day he interviewed Mrs. Russell, who told him that Snow and Kerrigan had given her the information that her boy was wanted for a crime.

Snow cross-examined Bruin, asking him if it was not true that he (Snow) had talked with witness on the day of Russell's arrest, December 28, and told him that Russell had been in town three days; also if it was not a fact that Aylesworth had not left town when Russell returned to the city. Bruin answered affirmatively.

Work at Cross Purposes.

Kerrigan cross-examined witness as to occasions when witness had given detectives to understand that it was their duty to work on cases whether assigned to them or not. Bruin admitted that he had told officers they should not hang back and refuse to work merely because some other officer had the assignment, especially in hold-up cases.

Mr. Greene questioned witness as to the rule as to assignments of detectives. Were detectives compelled to report to anybody in particular? Witness was not certain. It was merely a practice with them to turn over their evidence to the man assigned or to some superior.

"Then it has been the practice for all detectives to jump in and work on every case," he said, "interjected Mayor Lane, who had been wringing about in his seat, awaiting an opportunity to break into the colloquy.

Bruin replied: "Well, in a way. But all the information that has been gathered is supposed to land in the hands of the man detailed."

Blame Snow and Kerrigan.

The Mayor then asked both Bruin and Chief Gritzmacher whether Snow and Kerrigan's action had contributed to the failure of the police to arrest Russell and "Frenchy" and the escape of the prosecuting witness. Both said "Yes" emphatically.

Among the written statements handed in by Bruin was one signed by P. C. Cooper, the man who first gave the police information of the hold-up. Cooper asserted that he had talked with Russell in the Lewis and Clark saloon the morning after the hold-up, and Russell had attempted to sell him a railway ticket stolen from Aylesworth. Cooper told Russell to get rid of the ticket, and Russell chewed it up, afterward confessing that he and "Frenchy" robbed Aylesworth and attempted to sell him a railway ticket stolen from Aylesworth.

Another written statement was signed by Thomas Russell, of 64 Alder street, the father of the alleged highwayman. Russell was called to the stand and confirmed it.

Tells of Detectives' Visits.

The upshot of his long, rambling and incoherent story was that Snow and Kerrigan came to his home at about 5 o'clock on the evening of December 28, and asked for young Tom. Witness told them he was out, but would return for supper soon. About 6:30 o'clock, the officers came again. In the meantime, Tom had come in, and, taking alarm at his father's report of the visit of the two strange men, had fled.

The first time the officers called they merely asked to see Tom, and did not state their business. The second time they said they were detectives, but merely wanted to see Tom as a witness, and asked to have him brought to headquarters.

Witness made some unintelligible statement to the effect that a woman who lived next door had "tipped off" to him the fact that the visitors were policemen. Witness said he was instrumental in getting Tom to return, his lawyer having informed him that there was no case against the boy. Witness went to Seattle and induced Tom to come home. Three days later, December 28, three detectives guarded the house, while Detective Day roughly pushed his way in through the front door and arrested the "boy," whom the father described as 22 years old, weighing 120 pounds and standing nearly six feet tall.

Day Accuses Witness.

Detective Day showed his way into the circle at this point, and fiercely upbraided the witness, accusing him of garbling the facts as to the arrest, and adding to the ease of the occasion.

Mrs. Gertrude McCully, of 425 Alder street, was called at the request of Kerrigan for the purpose of testifying that Kerrigan watched the Russell house from her front porch from about 7 o'clock until about 8

MOYER Clearance Sale

WILL BE RESUMED

Tuesday Morning

She was corroborated by a small boy named Christopher Dundee.

Robert Russell, aged 14, corroborated the testimony of his father, Thomas Russell, regarding the visit of the officers to his home.

Police Clerk Leonard gave testimony as to the manner of assigning detectives to cases. He then added that before Snow and Kerrigan had received their slips for the day they were called out of the station by a telephone message from Detective Fitzgerald, of the O. R. & N. Co. They talked with witness before going, but the Aylesworth case was not mentioned.

More Slipshod Methods.

He did not know when they got their slips. Mayor Lane asked whether the slips were dated. They were, with the day of the month, but not with the hour of their issuance.

"Why don't you put on the hour? Don't it strike you that the hour might be important?" asked Mayor Lane.

Mr. Greene—You ought to have a date clock.

"Do you get a receipt from the officer when you give him his slip?" asked Mayor Lane. "No? Just drop the slip into the box and trust to God and good luck for the rest?" The witness smiled uneasily and nodded.

Detective Day called. He testified to the work he did on the Russell case on December 19. Interviewed Cooper and worked all afternoon on the case before getting his slip at 5 o'clock in the evening.

Sorry They Interfered.

About 5 o'clock Snow came in and informed witness that he and Kerrigan had also been working on the case. Told witness that he was sorry they had "bungled it," and that they wouldn't have done it if they had known the case was assigned to witness and Vaughn; that they would drop the matter at once.

"Butting in" and that they wouldn't have done it if they had known the case was assigned to witness and Vaughn; that they would drop the matter at once. "Will you do me a favor and tell me what Snow and Kerrigan had 'bungled in'?" Answering Mr. Greene's question, he said that he and Vaughn would not have got Russell anyway, as they did not know his name until they learned it from Snow and Kerrigan.

Admits the Blunder.

Kerrigan told how Russell had slipped through his hands and remarked that it was a blunder, such as any detective might make; that he was willing to abide by the consequences of this mistake.

"That's all right," interjected Mr. Greene, "but I would like to know why you didn't stay in the Russell house the first time you went there and wait for Tom?"

Witness said he had used his best judgment. He and Snow had made their second descent on the house when they saw a younger brother of the suspect go in from the outside. As soon as they saw their mistake they had known "it was all off."

"What puzzles me," interjected Mayor Lane, who had been wrestling with an idea for some minutes, "is how a big woman could have gone into the Russell house and a big boy come in and come out again without you seeing either of them, while just as soon as the little boy went in you called out him like a duck onto a June-bug?"

A few irreverent ones laughed and Kerrigan left the stand.

"I think no fault lies with the detectives for going to the scene of a crime

where the entire force is anxious to catch every criminal," began Mr. Greene.

Mayor Lane (interrupting)—I think it ought to be the duty of every officer to telephone in first and find out whose case it is, and what help he can give. There's where the whole matter hinges. Seems that they all get busy, each man for himself. Well, let's get at the bottom of it. Call Detective Reising.

Reising's testimony was important. He was followed by Snow, who made about the same statement and defense of his own actions as had Kerrigan. He was cross-questioned in like manner by Mr. Greene and the Mayor.

"How long have you been on the force?" asked the Mayor wearily, looking at the clock.

"On the force 17 years; detective about nine years," responded Snow.

"It's a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth," muttered Mr. Greene, as his court adjourned itself and straggled home for a late dinner.

ACCEPTS MONTAVILLA CALL

Rev. Gilman Parker Will Return to Oregon From Alameda.

Rev. Gilman Parker, of Alameda, Cal., has sent his acceptance to a call to become pastor of Grace Baptist Church, of Montavilla, and writes that he will return to Oregon and enter on his new work by the first of February, 1906. Dr. Gilman Parker is one of the foremost Baptist ministers on the Pacific Coast and is well known all over Oregon and Washington. For four years he was pastor of the Oregon City Baptist Church, when he



Rev. Gilman Parker.

was elected general state missionary, which place he filled for four years. He then accepted a call to the Everett, Wash., Church, then a small, struggling congregation paying \$200 a year to his pastor. When he left it was paying \$1500. Dr. Parker will receive a hearty welcome back to Oregon, and the people of Grace Baptist Church, Montavilla, are looking forward to his return with much satisfaction. The Alameda, Cal., Baptist Church, of which Dr. Parker has been pastor for some time, is unwilling to lose him, and at first would not listen to his resigning, but was finally induced to accept his resignation with much reluctance.

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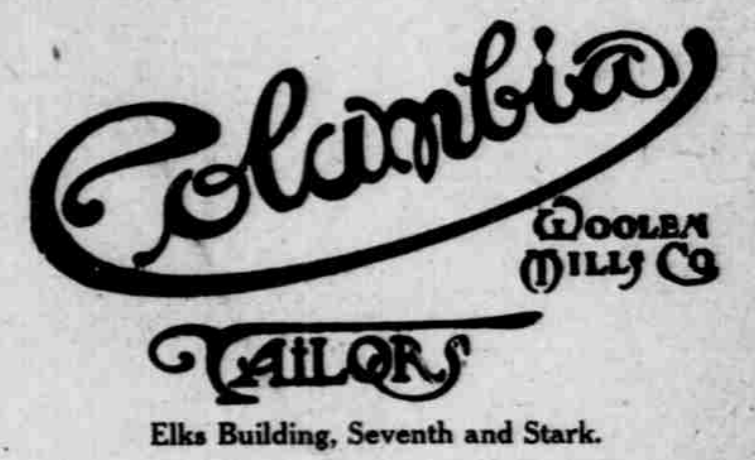
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BELASCO WILL STAY DARK

LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS BEING LEASED.

M. E. Mayer Says Firm Will Hold Property Until a Sale is Effected.

When the Belasco Theater closes its doors January 7, and the present stock company is dismissed, the playhouse will probably remain dark for some time. Such, at least, is the announcement of M. E. Mayer, of the firm of Belasco & Mayer, who arrived in Portland yesterday and spent the day completing arrangements for the untimely end of the theatrical season at the Belasco, as previously announced.

"The theater will in all probability remain unleased until it is sold," said Mr. Mayer last night. "You may say positively that Belasco & Mayer will never reopen it. We are conducting theaters on a paying basis in San Francisco and Los Angeles, but we have found that Portland refuses to support a high-class stock company, so we shall not make an attempt to do business here this season, or any other."

It is known that several theatrical men are after the playhouse, but according to Mr. Mayer no offers have yet been made which are acceptable to the owners, John F. Cordray and John W. Conditine, representing the vaudeville firm, Sullivan & Conditine, came down from Seattle yesterday for the sole purpose of leasing the Belasco.

Yesterday afternoon they held a conference with Mr. Mayer. It is understood that an offer was made for the use of the property, but that no agreement could be reached, and Mr. Cordray returned to Seattle last night. "We would lease the theater if we could get our price," said Mr. Mayer last night, "but although we have had several applicants, none of the offers have been satisfactory, and it is altogether likely that the theater will not be reopened until it has passed entirely out of our hands."

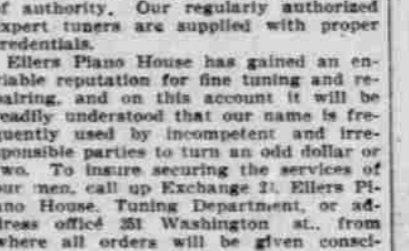
It has also been reported that the Belasco would be reopened as a stand for the independents in Portland, but this was positively denied by Mr. Mayer last night. "There have been no negotiations to this effect, and nothing is more unlikely," he said. "In fact we are not at all anxious to lease the property. We realize that we have a valuable corner and we are perfectly willing to let it stand idle for a while as we are satisfied that we can sell it at a handsome advance over the

A CAUTION!

We wish to caution our patrons and the public in general against employing tuners upon their mere representation that they are connected with Eilers Piano House. Numerous complaints have been received by us during the past few weeks from customers in every part of the city, complaining that individuals representing themselves as authorized expert tuners in the employ of Eilers Piano House had been allowed to do work on their pianos, leaving their pianos in a number of instances in a positively unplayable condition.

We wish to once more announce that we never solicit business by "canvassing," and all individuals styling themselves as authorized tuners of Eilers Piano House and soliciting work in its name should be asked for their letters of authority. Our regularly authorized expert tuners are supplied with proper credentials.

Eilers Piano House has gained an enviable reputation for fine tuning and repairing, and on this account it will be readily understood that our name is frequently used by incompetent and irresponsible parties to turn an old dollar or two. To insure securing the services of our men, call up Exchange 2, Eilers Piano House, Tuning Department, or address office 231 Washington St., from where all orders will be given conscientious and immediate attention.



From Jail to Hospital. Fred Williams, suffering from a hemiplegia.



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