

GRAND JURY CHARGES BAD FAITH IN REPORT

Mayor and Chief of Police Are Made Targets.

BAKER DEFENDS COURSE

Grand Jurors Fail to Handle Matters as Presented to Them, Says Executive; Police Records Shown.

Charges of bad faith on the part of George L. Baker, Mayor, and of inefficiency on the part of Chief of Police Johnson, are contained in a blistering report of conditions existing in the Portland Police Department, which was submitted yesterday by the Multnomah County grand jury to Presiding Judge Stapleton. Both Mayor Baker and Chief of Police Johnson are severely censured for what the grand jury asserts to be a disorganized and deplorable condition now existing in the Police Department.

"Judging from the evidence we have been able to gather, it is our candid opinion that George L. Baker, as Mayor, did not act in good faith when he came before us and stated that he wanted a thorough investigation of city affairs, and more particularly of the Police Department," reads the report. "First, because he gave wide publicity to his intentions through the daily press and, secondly, because he failed to give us any tangible evidence to work upon.

"Still, although placed at a great disadvantage, we have been able to collect enough evidence to satisfy us that the Police Department, with the exception of the detective bureau, is disorganized and in a deplorable condition; that the officers do not recognize Mr. Johnson as their Chief, and that Chief Johnson, in his turn, is unable to control his men; that it appears to us he has exercised poor judgment in assigning his officers to their respective duties, and that many officers who are permitted to work upon the war emergency squad have no conception of their duties.

Police With Attorneys Condemned.
"We condemn his policy of permitting attorneys to interview police officers on behalf of their clients before cases come to trial, and we believe that the conditions which permit our attorneys to monopolize Police Court practice should be corrected.

"George L. Baker, as Mayor, certainly knows the Police Department is in a deplorable condition; otherwise he would not have brought these matters before us; but we are of the opinion that the remedy lies in his hands and not with us, it being a matter of discipline within the department. The city of Portland pays him his salary to look after the city affairs, and it is up to him, and not to us, to investigate and correct such evils as this investigation has disclosed.

"We quote the Mayor from one of the evening papers as follows: 'I will act on the recommendations of the grand jury, if fair and right. If the recommendations are not fair and right, I will not act upon them.' Since he appoints himself the supreme judge of the wisdom of our decision, we are at a loss to know why the matter was brought to our attention at all."

No Indictments Against Police.
Contrary to early predictions, the grand jury failed to return any indictments against police officers. It was said unofficially that whatever evidence of graft was submitted to the grand jurors lacked sufficient corroboration to warrant the returning of true bills.

Members of the jury were unanimous in the assertion that the fault lay mainly in the fact that the police officers showed poor judgment in their work, rather than dishonest methods. The grand jurors signing the report were C. L. Peck, foreman; O. F. Bore, William H. Joyce, S. Peterson, W. P. Retterman, Wilbur T. Lucas and Andrew Eliason.

Mayor Makes Statement.
Charging that the grand jury applied itself in an effort to discredit his administration instead of handling the matters presented to the jury, Mayor Baker, in a statement issued last night, presented police department records for the past 11 months to disprove the charges of demoralization of the police department. The Mayor's statement is as follows:

"The grand jury was asked to investigate charges made against certain policemen involving graft. Specific cases, with full information and names of witnesses, were submitted for the purpose of having the grand jury return indictments if those accused were guilty. That has always been my idea of the function of the grand jury.

"The jury took upon itself, of its own volition, the work of investigating the efficiency or inefficiency of the Police Bureau. In spite of this I am accused of bad faith for submitting something I should have handled. As to the further charge of bad faith on my part for giving information to the press I will say that I gave no information.

The Morning After The Big Night

The Wise Precaution of a Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablet After the Banquet Brings Pleasant Memories With the Morning Coffee.



If it hadn't been for Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets like as not I'd have a headache this morning.

to the newspapers, but consistently refused to give information or to answer their questions about the cases as put up to me from time to time.

FORMER IDAHO BANKER ENTERS Y. M. C. A. SERVICE.



Guernsey M. Slocum, former resident of Portland and until recently cashier of the bank at Buhl, Idaho, left in October for the Y. M. C. A. training school in Chicago, where he had expected to be assigned to overseas duty with the recreation service of the Y. M. C. A. During her husband's absence Mrs. Slocum is making her home at the Madison Park Apartments.

crusade against vice without having trouble and oftentimes serious trouble. An honest and conscientious Chief of Police has much grief.

Police Officers Ordered Not to Talk.
"As to the grand jury's comment on police court lawyers I will say that orders have existed at the station constantly to the effect that policemen are not to talk to lawyers about cases. Chief Johnson has refused to comply with the demands of this class of lawyers and thereby has heaped trouble on his head.

"The comment of the grand jury regarding Chief Johnson was not surprising inasmuch as he was not called before the jury and had no chance to tell his side of the case, whereas his enemies were called. This is not my idea of fair play, particularly when the chief was asked to appear and waited for days in the anteroom of the grand jury, only finally to be turned away without being called.

"It must be remembered that in addition to the unprecedented activity of the police bureau during the past year, the department has been beset with serious troubles brought about by new men. Practically 50 per cent of the force changed during the year—50 officers to be specific—and police work increased by at least 100 per cent. Also it must be remembered that more than 30 officers were discharged during the year for various offenses, each one thereafter becoming a committee of one against Chief Johnson and the administration.

"In short, it appears to me that the grand jury applied itself for some reason to an effort to discredit the administration instead of handling the matters presented which were entirely within the province of the jury."

WARRENTON SECURES DEED

BULKHEADING OF SKIPANON RIVER CONTEMPLATED.

Bonds Aggregating \$400,000 Are Voted by Town to Improve Shipping Facilities.

F. M. Wilson, Mayor, and W. N. Francis, Councilman of Warrenton, returned to their homes last night after obtaining important right of way deeds as a necessary preliminary to inaugurating work of bulkheading the Skipanon River channel at that point and for which the people of the enterprising Clatsop County towns have voted bonds aggregating \$400,000. The improvements contemplated include the reclamation of 80 acres of land adjoining the river.

Voters of Warrenton recently authorized a bond issue of \$200,000 for the proposed bulkhead and an additional \$200,000 of bonds for reclaiming the adjoining land. A. Guthrie & Company, of this city, have been awarded the contract for the bulkhead at a cost of \$35,840. The bulkhead will extend from the Columbia River channel up the Skipanon River to the railroad bridge at Warrenton. In addition to the proceeds of the two bonds issues, the improvement will involve a further cost of nearly \$100,000 for dredging which will be done by the Port of Astoria in which Warrenton is included. The dredging part of the work has begun and the reclamation of the first unit of 20 acres has started. Actual work on the bulkhead will be inaugurated within 20 days.

"When completed, this improvement will give Warrenton a 20-foot channel at low tide," said Mayor Wilson yesterday. "It will also include dredging out a 100-foot wide channel. This will enable lumber schooners and other coastwise vessels to enter our port. The improvement being undertaken represents the work of an agitation extending over a period of several years by the people of Warrenton for the development of their shipping business."

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CANADIAN TROOPS EMBARK

Western Contingent to Return by Way of Panama Canal.

MONTREAL, Jan. 4.—(Special.)—To the strains of patriotic music played by military bands of the imperial army, 1500 officers and men of the Canadian expeditionary forces who enlisted in British Columbia and Alberta embarked at Liverpool yesterday afternoon on the Canadian Pacific Empress of Asia for the direct voyage to Vancouver via the Panama Canal, this being the first and probably the only time this steamer will travel to Canada this way.

garth, Quartermaster-General, Canadian headquarters. The Empress of Asia, which was diverted to Atlantic waters in order to facilitate the transportation of American troops to Europe, will return to commercial service between Vancouver and the Orient after disembarking her contingent of Canadian soldiers.

Belgium to Expel Hun's Friends.
BRUSSELS, Jan. 4.—The Belgian Minister of Justice announces that all foreigners of enemy origin who had relations with the Germans during the war will be expelled from Belgium.

Three Divorce Suits Filed.
Both cruelty and infidelity are charged by Sir Edward Kemp, Canadian Overseas Minister of Militia, G. M. Bosworth, chairman of Canadian Pacific ocean service, and General Ho-

1915. He says she has associated with other men for some months. Bertha H. Burnes accuses James E. Burns of extreme cruelty. They were married in 1911 and have one child. The plaintiff demands \$40 a month alimony. J. V. against Martha Tapp. They were married yesterday against Ruby Gouneau, to whom he was married in

"77"

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