

PUTATIVE STATESMAN VS. CLARKE'S FRIENDS

Squabble in Ohio Over Proposition of John H. Clarke to Debate with Mark Hanna--Some Pointed Correspondence on Subject.

(Journal Special Service.)

Columbus, O., Sept. 29.—Chairman Dick of the Ohio state Republican committee, is said to be reconsidering the proposition made by John H. Clarke, candidate for the United States senate, to debate with Senator Mark Hanna on national issues. Whether Mr. Dick will recede from the position he took and which he talked about in an open letter published yesterday cannot be told. However, it is whispered that he has changed his mind since he received a reply from Charles P. Salen, chairman of the Ohio state democratic committee.

The answer made by Mr. Salen is pointed and states among other things that he believes that there are a few subjects upon which Mr. Hanna might talk or attempt, although Dick in his letter discussed matters political from the Fenwick to the Rio Grande. Salen calls attention to the fact that Senator Hanna says his public record has been outrageously attacked, and that when he goes upon the platform he will have something to say about it. Salen says that Clarke wants to be present when he says it. In the reply it is fur-

ther stated that Hanna's public record unites him for the senate, and therefore he should not be returned.

That Chairman Salen's letter is not the only one received by Dick is probably true. It is acknowledged here today that Mr. Dick received a note last night from Mr. Clarke's friends in answer to the attack made by the former on the Democratic party. Dick is quoted as saying that Senator Hanna could not attempt to debate with Clarke, as the latter represented a party with many colors to its coat, and that Mr. Hanna, espousing the cause of a party with but one principle, would, in event of a debate, be fighting windmills.

It is said that the second reply, which is withheld, states that Chairman Dick is probably wise in protecting his millionaire henchmen, inasmuch as Mr. Hanna is a putative statesman, and that of trusts—which is the most unpopular before the American people and the easiest combatted from any logical viewpoint. It is alleged that Mr. Clarke calls attention to the unwise policy of the Ohio Republicans in having as a leader a putative statesman instead of the real thing.

TRIAL JUDGE WAS SUSPICIOUS

H. K. HANNA, BEFORE WHOM JUDGE WILLIS FIRST SUBD A. M. CRAWFORD FOR FEES, Doubted THE WORD OF THE PRESENT ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Question as to Whether the Charge Against Crawford Has Been Outlawed In so far as It Might Affect His Official Position, But His Disbarment Would Leave Oregon With a Legal Representative Forbidden the Courts.

Whether or not Attorney-General Crawford has been guilty of perjury, as charged by Judge Willis before the State Bar Association, his tenure of office may not be affected. The first testimony given by him and alleged by Judge Willis to have been false, was given nearly five years ago, and the Oregon statute of limitations provides that prosecution for any felony other than murder shall be barred after three years from the date of the commission of the crime.

It is true that in a second suit between the same parties, which came to trial last year, Crawford again testified, substantially as before, that he was not disbarred, but he was more guarded in his statements and avoided the direct contradictions in which he became involved the first time he was on the witness stand. Judge Willis, however, based his testimony on this second trial was false, but it was not so glaringly contradictory as before. With the transcript of his former testimony at hand, the witness was naturally much more guarded in his statements, and there was apparently an effort on his part to reconcile his former inconsistencies.

The statutes provide that any public officer shall become vacant if the incumbent is convicted of an infamous crime, but of course there can be no conviction where prosecution is barred by the statute of limitations. Apparently, therefore, the attorney-general is in no danger of losing his office, unless the grievance committee of the bar association should find him guilty of having perjured himself in 1902, as well as in 1908.

How Disbarment Is Managed. In that event apparently all that could be done would be for the bar association to institute proceedings before the supreme court for the purpose of having Mr. Crawford disbarred. There is ample precedent in this state for such action, for a number of attorneys have been disbarred within recent years. The bar association has always been the jealous guardian of the integrity of the profession, and whenever it has found reason for such action it has been prompt in calling upon the supreme court to disqualify unworthy practitioners.

Beyond a general denial of the truth of the charges, Attorney-General Crawford has not yet made any public statement on his own defense. Whether he can establish his innocence remains to be seen. But if he should fail to clear himself before the bar association, and disbarment should result, rather a curious situation would arise. The attorney-general, whose duty it is to represent the state in all litigation in which it is concerned, would be debarred from practicing in any court, and the state would be without a legal representative in suits to which it is a party.

It is a circumstance that nowhere in the act creating the office of attorney-general, or in the amendments to that act, is there any requirement that the incumbent shall be an attorney duly admitted to practice in the courts of the state. Such a requirement is plainly implied, for the statute makes it the duty of the attorney-general to appear for the state in all suits in which it is interested, to advise the state officers upon legal questions and to perform other acts that only a lawyer could do satisfactorily. So far as the letter of the law is concerned, it seems to be immaterial whether or not the attorney-general can practice in the courts of the state.

Suits Brought by Willis. The first suit brought by Judge Willis against Crawford was in equity, and resulted in the trial court in a decree for the complainant. Crawford appealed, and the supreme court reversed the decree on the ground that Willis should have sued at law, instead of in equity. Willis thereupon commenced a second suit, which was tried before a jury. The verdict was in favor of Crawford. The transcript of testimony taken in the first case, is on file at Salem.

According to brief filed by Dexter Rice, Judge Willis' attorney, Judge H. K. Hanna, before whom the first case was tried in the lower court, was convinced that Crawford's testimony was untrue. Judge Hanna is quoted in this brief as saying: "In view of his (Crawford's) denials of having entered into an agreement that he would not practice law, and the evidence, and the wording of

the contract itself, I cannot accept the statement of defendant as true." Crawford and Willis had been acting jointly as attorneys for Capt. J. T. C. Nash in a protracted litigation. At its conclusion a settlement was made between Nash and his attorneys, and Judge Willis received, as he supposed, one-half of the entire fee paid by Nash. Subsequently he discovered a contract between Nash and Crawford, whereby the former agreed to pay \$10,000 in consideration of the services rendered.

Dexter Rice's View. On the trial, Crawford, who at first did not know that this contract had come into the possession of Willis, testified that he had never had any agreement, written or verbal, with Nash as to the fees to be paid. When confronted with the contract he admitted that it was genuine but declared that it had no reference to the services rendered prior to the date of the contract by himself and Judge Willis.

On the trial, Crawford, who at first did not know that this contract had come into the possession of Willis, testified that he had never had any agreement, written or verbal, with Nash as to the fees to be paid. When confronted with the contract he admitted that it was genuine but declared that it had no reference to the services rendered prior to the date of the contract by himself and Judge Willis.

Contract in Crawford's Hands. This contract is admittedly in the handwriting of Crawford, and it is interesting to note that the attorney for several years and had succeeded in selling the sea captain's mining property for the sum of \$30,000. It further recites that "in consideration of A. M. Crawford's services I hereby agree to pay him one-third of the above sum."

As Crawford and Willis were partners and were to share equally in the fees received from Nash, the only ground on which Crawford could refuse to divide with Willis the proceeds of the contract was to assert that it had no reference to the litigation which they had been conducting. This was precisely what Crawford set up in his testimony.

WILL TAKE CHARGE OF CHINESE MISSION

The board of Diocesan missions of the Protestant Episcopal church met last evening and decided to assume charge of the Chinese mission on Second street. A committee was named to have supervision of the work, consisting of the Rev. George B. Van Waters, rector of St. David's, the Rev. A. A. Morrison, rector of Trinity, and H. D. Ramsdell, Andrew Kan and other prominent men are deeply interested in the venture. The Rev. William Short, rector of St. Luke's at Astoria, attended the meeting of the board.

JOSEPH FIDLER WILL GO TO CALIFORNIA

(Journal Special Service.) Salem, Sept. 29.—The governor this morning issued a warrant for the arrest and delivery to the agent of the state of California on request of the governor of that state, Joseph Fidler who is wanted in Siskiyou county for injuring the public jail. Fidler was sent to jail for wife beating, when he burned the door of his cell. He was indicted, but escaped later to Josephine county, where he was captured. Sheriff Howard of Siskiyou county secured the warrant today for the fugitive.

CROWDED SCHOOLS THE CHIEF THEME

The session of the school board was devoted mainly to routine business last night. The crowded condition of several of the schools was brought up, but was referred to Superintendent Rigler, with power to act in such manner as he deemed advisable. Additional room must be rented at the Sunnyside school and three more teachers will be secured for the Highland school. An appropriation of \$50 was made to purchase school supplies for indigent scholars.

WORLD'S CLEVEREST FORGER IS FREE



CHARLES BECKER.

Since This Picture Was Taken the Forger Has Grown a Beard Which Is Heavily Tinged With Gray.

The paying tellers and cashiers of all the banks in this city and throughout the Pacific Northwest have been notified to be on the lookout for and refuse any paper that may be presented by a man aged about 54 years, 5 feet 6 1/2 inches in height, dark complexion, gray hair and mustache and beard also tinged with gray. He has a short, thick neck and his right shoulder is higher than the left. He speaks with a German accent.

This is a pen picture of Charles Becker, alias "The Dutchman," penman of the most dangerous gang of forgers that ever operated in this country. Becker was released from San Quentin prison, California, yesterday after having served a term of seven years for one of the most gigantic forgeries ever committed in San Francisco.

The authorities in this city have advised that it is probable that he will visit this section, which is virgin ground for him, while in the larger California towns and Eastern cities and in Europe he is too well known to make his operations successful. This is why the local banks have been warned to look out for him.

His Remarkable Career. The career of Becker, whose picture is on file in the rogues' gallery of every city in the United States, reads like a romance. For upwards of 25 years Becker has been a forger and defrauded banks throughout the country of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Throughout his career he has suffered but one conviction, and that was in California, when he raised a \$12 draft to \$20,000 and secured the money from the Nevada bank of San Francisco. His term—seven years—expired yesterday.

Becker has been a criminal all his life, and prior to entering upon the career of a forger operated successfully as the leader of a gang of burglars in New York City and vicinity. Subsequently he organized his burglar crew into a band of forgers.

The first work of the gang was done in Europe and bogus paper was unloaded on banks in London, Paris, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Hamburg, Berlin, Vienna and Constantinople, the amounts obtained varying from a few hundred dollars up to \$10,000.

James Cregan, a New York crook, and very wealthy, was the capitalist of the organization and Joseph B. Chapman was first lieutenant. "Bob" Bowman was also a prominent member of the band. Cregan and Bowman are now in an Eastern penitentiary.

As stated, Becker was the penman of the gang and managed to remain in the background. The modus operandi of the gang was such as to almost defy detection. As the proceeds of the work, Cregan, it fell to Cregan to buy checks or drafts for small amounts, which would be raised by Becker and through Bowman or some other member of the gang negotiated, sometimes at the bank which issued the draft or check. Becker's skill in raising a draft was such as to baffle detection. He refused to alter any piece of commercial paper upon which he could not do his best work, and always insisted upon his confederates securing several drafts for small amounts from which to make a selection.

How He Did His Work. His method was by means of a sharp knife to cut from the body of a check or draft that portion of the paper on which the amount is written. The cut was made on a level and after fitting into the space a piece of bank paper of exactly the same quality, shade and texture the amount to which the check was to be raised would be written in, the penmanship of the writer of the check being perfectly imitated. The putting into place of the blank slip of paper was so cleverly done that it could only be detected by use of the strongest

magnifying glass. The perforated figures in the upper left hand corner of the checks, showing the amount were obliterated, being filled in with some sort of a composition known only to the forger and new figures to correspond with the body of the check cut in.

The proceeds of the burglar and afterwards forger gang were sent to Mrs. Lydia Chapman, wife of one of the members living in handsome apartments in London, who posed as a wealthy American. In this connection the one tragic incident in the career of the band occurred. After robbing banks in several European cities the forgers fled to Smyrna and were there arrested. Becker and one of the gang, named Reilly, succeeded in breaking jail and making their way to London. Chapman, who was also under arrest, was left behind.

A Tragedy of the Under World. This angered him and he managed to get word to his wife instructing her not to pay over any of the money in her possession to Reilly or Becker. This condition of affairs did not suit the escapes and they conceived a plan to get Mrs. Chapman to drinking and drug her liquor. They administered too much of the drug they used and Mrs. Chapman died.

Pearing the result the forgers fled and returned to New York. There they made a haul of \$44,000, the Union Trust company being the victim. This is how it was done: The forgers secured a cancelled check drawn by the New York Life insurance company on the trust company, when he raised a \$12 draft to \$20,000 and secured the money from the Nevada bank of San Francisco. His term—seven years—expired yesterday.

Then the Bankers' association determined to run the gang down. The Pinkerton mercantile, opened an account at the Nevada bank, of which John W. Mackay was the head. McKusky and Becker went to Sacramento and remained there pending the ripening of their plans.

The Last Crime. Early in December following Seaver went to the little town of Woodland near Sacramento and purchased a draft for \$12 payable at the Crocker-Woolworth bank in San Francisco. Becker was summoned to San Francisco and he altered the date of the draft and changed the amount from \$12 to \$20,000. December 17 Seaver deposited the draft to his account in the Nevada bank and the day following presented his personal check and received for \$20,000. The forgery was not discovered until the end of the month when the Crocker-Woolworth bank presented its monthly statement of account to the Woodland bank. Meantime the forgers had scattered and were in different parts of the East.

The case was placed in the hands of the Pinkertons, who quickly recognized the work of the Becker gang. Becker and Cregan were captured in Philadelphia just as they were preparing to leave for Guatemala and McKusky was taken at St. Paul.

Among the noted American forgers with whom Becker has been associated during his long career, other than those mentioned, are George Engel, "Old Billy" Brockaway, George Wade, Wilkes, Andy Roberts, Frank Gleason and Phil Harr graves.

blief that conditions in the marketing of livestock are not subject to the normal laws of supply and demand." Mr. Thompson is, by profession, a livestock breeder, although by appointment, receiver of the federal land office. He is well posted upon the conditions obtaining in the ranges and market centers, and voices a protest that has been going up from every part of the West during the present season.

Several other persons, who are interested in the business, have declared that prospects are not good for the coming season, and that outside buyers who usually come to this state to lay in supplies of stock feeders for their ranges farther east will be offering less than they have for many years.

The realization that circumstances surrounding the livestock-breeder are not ideal has moved toward the bringing into existence of a heavily capitalized independent company to handle the stock in opposition to the "Big Four" houses that now control the business.

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KEEPS KEEN EYE ON HIS CHARGES

SHERIFF SEWELL OF HILLSBORO WILL RECAPTURE WATSON McNAMARA AND BURKE WITH AN EAGLE GLANCE—FORMER TAKEN BACK TO JAIL, HE LEFT.

The Sheriff Says the Two Took Advantage of His Kindness in Letting Them Out Near the Fire and Tampered With the Lock—Hereafter They Will Both Inhabit Separate Cells and Will Shiver in Solitary Safety.

John T. McNamara, who achieved notoriety by escaping from the Washington county jail at Hillsboro several weeks ago with J. H. Burke, the alleged forger, spent today in the city police station.

The prisoner, who is better known as "Bricktop," was captured five miles back of The Dalles and was brought to Portland by Sheriff Sexton and turned over to the Hillsboro official. Burke has already been safely landed in the Washington county jail, and Sheriff Sewell anticipates no further delivery.

Because the jail was cold, the sheriff permitted the prisoners in the corridor, and they plugged the door so that it did not shut tight. This kept the lock on the inside, and consequently they were able to work it and made their escape about 2 o'clock in the morning.

After the break Sheriff Sewell set to work in his office, sending circulars asking for the arrest of his men, and he is gratified at their arrest.

"I had really no trails to work on," said the sheriff today, "but I soon got some clues. I helped to trace McNamara, and after he had been arrested I learned that Burke was across the river on the Washington side. It was this information that Sheriff Biesecker worked on, resulting in Burke's capture."

Sheriff Sewell is taking no chances with his desperate prisoners, and they are now kept locked in separate cells. They will be held until the November term of court.

Sheriff Sewell has no opinion to express regarding the case of Rev. H. H. Kennedy, the Congregational minister arrested at Hillsboro for robbing the home of E. C. Warren. The clergyman is out on bail.

PLEADS GUILTY TO PASSING BAD CHECK

(Journal Special Service.) Pendleton, Or., Sept. 29.—Frank Webster passed a forged check on a local dry goods store here Saturday night and is now waiting the leisure of the courts before going to the penitentiary. Saturday evening Webster, who has been working on the railroad grade on the Columbia river, came into the store of H. H. Wessel and asked to buy a pair of goods. The clerk sold him \$10 worth of clothing and the man presented a check for the amount. The check was for \$24.50 and was drawn on a railroad contractor down the river. Wessel took the check and gave the man \$5, but afterward became scared and followed him and had him arrested. At first Webster denied his guilt, but at the jail admitted that the paper was a forgery. This morning he pleaded guilty before the circuit court and was sentenced to two years in the state prison.

To Heppner in a Cab. Last night D. Matlock and Art Hicks, two well-known men of the town, got into a saloon mixer here and one of them drew a gun on the other. The second man drew a knife and then marked the neck of his assailant, but before they could get together again they were separated. This morning Matlock, Tex Langster and Ed Strahan, who were in the crowd of the early evening, hired a cab and started for Heppner.

The men gave a cabman here \$50.40 haul them to Heppner, which is about 55 miles distant. Four horses were hitched to the vehicle and the crowd started about 7 o'clock yesterday morning, taking with them supplies enough to keep their thirst down until they reached their destination.

Apprentive. From the Philadelphia Public Ledger: Miss Yerner—Of course, when you were in Paris you visited the Louvre. Miss Giddy—Oh, yes; I spent hours there. Miss Yerner—It must have been splendid. Miss Giddy—Simply lovely. I found a quiet nook there and just sat and read novels by the hour.

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