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## ABE RUEF CHANGES PLEA TO GUILTY AND COLLAPSES

### "GUILTY," CRIES RUEF IN COURT

#### Boss Changes His Plea, Admits Extortion and Throws Himself Upon Mercy of the Court

#### Lawyers Try to Dissuade Him, but He Remains Firm in Decision—Reads Statement and Falls in Collapse—Beaten in Legal Battle for Postponement

(General Special Service.)  
San Francisco, May 15.—After one of the most desperate legal battles to avoid punishment for crime in the history of California, Abraham Ruef today entered a plea of guilty to the indictment charging him with extorting money from the French restaurants upon pain of having their liquor licenses revoked. The plea came as a thunder-clap and followed the defeat of the defense in the last stand of the effort to secure a change of venue.

When the motion was denied, the defense sought a continuance, which was denied. Ruef then asked time in which to hold a conference with his attorneys. This was granted. At the expiration of half an hour Ruef and his counsel, who had withdrawn to the judge's chambers, reappeared. As soon as the court rapped for order, attorneys Ach, Shortridge and Fairall in turn announced their withdrawal from the case.

Attorney Murphy then arose, stating that he seriously disagreed with the action that his client was about to take, and declared that he would stay with him. The same action was taken by Attorney Fairall.

After the attorneys had concluded their statements, the prisoner, hollow-eyed, pale and trembling, arose, with manuscript in hand. He appeared hardly able to stand, and while reading from his manuscript, his voice faltered, his face twitched frequently and he broke down completely. He drank cup after cup of water, and spoke very slowly. His statement was a lengthy one, and began with an apology to his attorneys for what he was about to do. He closed with a plea of guilty.

After concluding the reading of the statement, three voices hardly to be heard, threw himself upon the mercy of the court and fell into his chair in a state of almost complete collapse.

#### AUTHOR OF NICK CARTER IS ADJUDGED INSANE

Toia, Kan., May 15.—Sad Cox, known as the writer of "Nick Carter" novels, was adjudged insane here. He has been turning out on the average of one novel per week for some time, and overwork caused insanity.

#### PREACHERS WOULD NOT MARRY GRASS WIDOWS

Chicago, May 15.—A number of Congregational ministers are trying to get the Congregational association to adopt rules forbidding Congregational preachers from marrying divorcees. The crusade was caused by the notoriety of the Corey-Gilman wedding.

#### INDICT FURNITURE TRUST

Every Wholesale and Retail Dealer on the Pacific Coast Who Is Member of Association to Be Caught in Federal Net

Every furniture dealer of the Pacific coast, whether wholesale or retail, who is a member of the various associations formed will be indicted by the federal grand jury which is in session in Portland.



Photograph never before published of Mrs. William E. Corey, nee Mabelle Gilman taken last week by photographer who posed Mrs. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw for some of her most artistic pictures.

### FREE WATER CUT FROM BALLOT ATTACK IS MADE UPON SOCIALIST

#### Judge Cleland Decides That Wagon Amendment Need Not Be Placed on Ballots in June Election.

Presiding Judge Cleland in the circuit court this morning decided that the wagon free water amendment need not be placed upon the city ballots for the coming election and declined to allow a permanent writ of mandamus directing City Auditor Devlin to place the proposed amendment on the ballot. A demurrer to the alternative writ previously issued was sustained and the writ dissolved.

The judge held that the city council (Continued on Page Two.)

### WAYNE PLEADS GUILTY TO POSTOFFICE ROBBERY

#### Gang Brought Before Court— Anderson Proclaims His In- nocence—Trial Begins Friday.

Frank Wayne, safe blower, business-man-burglar, leader of the gang of thugs who terrorized Portland last winter and were finally run down by the government authorities for robbing the Sellwood and St. Johns postoffices, appeared before Judge Charles E. Woyveton in the United States district court this morning and pleaded guilty to robbing the Sellwood postoffice and will be sentenced tomorrow morning. Charles Anderson, a confederate and typical holdup man, pleaded not guilty, and William Carter, another of the gang, was granted until tomorrow to enter a plea.

Wayne's plea is considered the breaking up of the gang. For months the members have maintained silence as to their crimes, with the exception of

### PORTLAND WELCOMES SHRINERS

#### City Today Is Turned Over to Four Hun- dred Members of the Masonic Order

#### Prominent Points Are Visited by Delegations Returning Home From Los Angeles—Special Cars and Autos Are Placed at Guests' Disposal.

Portland is the host of nearly 400 Shriners and families on the way home from Los Angeles today, and despite the fact that no formal program is being carried out, the visitors are having an enjoyable time riding about the city, viewing the sights and visiting with local members.

Because of the terrible wreck at Honda, in which so many Shriners were killed, the reception committee canceled the lavish entertainment they had prepared for the returning delegations.

Four trainloads of the visitors had arrived in Portland by 11 o'clock and soon left the coaches to run about the city. Special streetcars, all the automobiles for hire in the city, and tally-hos were placed at the disposal of the Shriners and their wives, and they were soon gaily driving about the city waving flowers, banners and hats at pedestrians to show they were having a good time and liked Portland's manner of entertaining.

Special Cars in Use.  
Medinah temple of Chicago, the largest temple in the world in point of membership, represented by nearly 100 members and headed by Illustrious Potentate Dr. J. B. McFarrich, swarmed into the Portland hotel, where they were made to feel at home by the committee. Captain George E. Eddy, leader of the famous Arab Patrol, was present with his officers and men, as were many members of the band which the famous temple brought with them on the trip. Because of the weather, the Shriners were obliged to linger at various points along the way, none of the organizations making an attempt at a display.

At 10 o'clock four special streetcars were brought to the hotel and the Shriners were taken to the city hall, where they were furnished the women of the par, and a glorious time was reported by the visitors, who left for Puget sound at noon.

#### Spent Day Here.

Other visitors were accorded the same hearty reception upon their arrival in the city and the last trainload will not leave Portland until midnight. One trainload, brought members from Mississippi, another from Connecticut, while the fourth section hailed from Burlington, Iowa, and was filled with Shriners from all over the middle west, representing North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri.

All of the entertainments for the visitors were informal and it was simply a case of turning the city over to the members and their families. A reception will be held at the Portland hotel tonight for the Shriners, but no set program has been arranged save to make the tourists feel as much at home as possible. All have expressed themselves as having one of the most enjoyable visits on the coast in Portland, and remarked upon the beautiful

## BEGIN MANY SUITS TO SMASH MERGER



E. H. HARRIMAN

### SCHOOL BOARD FINES BENNETT

#### Contractor Penalized on Account of Poorly-Constructed Work on City's Buildings—Suit Is Likely to Result.

Contractor J. E. Bennett was penalized \$2,000 by the school board at a special meeting of the directors held in the city hall yesterday afternoon. The fine was imposed because of unsatisfactory work performed on contracts awarded to Mr. Bennett by the board to build additions and make improvements on the Sunnyside, Holman and East Twenty-eighth street schools.

In determining the adjustment of claims that have come in against the contractor from different sources it was found by the board that the claims amounted to about \$1,000 more than the amount due Mr. Bennett on the contracts. The claims presented so far have reached the sum of \$12,000, while the amount due Mr. Bennett is but \$11,000.

Considerable difficulty has existed between the school board and the contractor ever since the contract was awarded and it is alleged that in several instances the work performed was so unsatisfactory that it had to be torn away and reconstructed. It is likely that action in the courts will be brought by the contractor to regain the fine, but the board is determined to learn if the clause providing for the action taken by them in this instance is of any practicable use and protection.

The fine will be retained from the claims presented. The directors will pay about 75 per cent of the claims which will leave the amount of the fine, \$2,000.

## MOST REMARKABLE CASE OF STOCK-WATERING REPORTED BY COMMERCE COMMISSION

#### Sensational Report Said to Have Issued by Investigators—Laws Demanded to Pre- vent Repetition of Combination So Power- ful That All Competition Is Prevented, Should Stop Bad Practices by Statute

(Journal Special Service.)

New York, May 15.—The Evening Telegram today publishes what it says is an abstract of the findings of the interstate commerce commission during its investigation of the Harriman railroads. The Telegram calls the report the most sensational that the commission ever issued. It states that the commission found that railroad competition had been choked off entirely in an area equal to a third of the United States and that in this area Harriman is absolute master; that Harriman's contract with the Rock Island, Southern Pacific, Santa Fe, Illinois Central and San Pedro railroads was in violation of the anti-trust laws, and recommends that the attorney-general proceed against them; that the purchase of the shares of one road by another was a bad practice and should be stopped, and that the profits of the great roads of the west were being used to buy stock and control systems in the east instead of developing the west.

The report calls the Harriman reorganization "one of the most remarkable cases of manipulation and stock-watering ever known" and demands laws to prevent repetition. The report concludes with the statement that Harriman is absolute master of the Illinois Central, so powerful in the Santa Fe as to prevent competition with his roads; that the combination of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific is so powerful as to suppress all competition and prevent the building of the San Pedro & Los Angeles.

The government will institute many great suits upon the report to dissolve the merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific and other suits based upon the manipulation of western roads.

The commission held hearings in New York, Chicago, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The resolution under which the investigation was held authorized the commission to inquire not only into the Southern Pacific deal but into all of other roads, with a view of ascertaining what effect this had on interstate commerce. The result of the investigation has been to show that the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line, which may be virtually treated as one concern, are no longer railroads but a tremendous banking system. An idea of what the size of this banking system has become may be gained from the evidence that since 1898 the system has purchased \$182,000,000 more securities than it has sold and has outstanding more than \$182,000,000 of obligations.

While the development of this enormous banking system, founded upon a railroad system, is of interest in itself, it has been the effect it has had on rates and competition between the great carriers of the country that the government has been interested in.

Competition abolished.  
Competition between the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific, two great railroad systems across the continent, alleged to be parallel, has been entirely wiped out. As a result of the purchase (Continued on Page Three.)

## DEVLIN ACTIVE IN NORTH END

#### Efforts Made to Get Voters in Tenderloin Registered Is Move in Interest of City Auditor's Campaign

The north end is being urged to register so that it can vote when the polls are opened June 2 for the municipal election. That district has been in the administration of Mayor Lane, and it is well known that the effort to get the north end vote registered is made in the interest of Thomas C. Devlin.

Placards have been posted in different saloons and lodgings-houses and other resorts in the north end district calling attention to the registration and urging that every one get his name upon the books as provided by the registration laws. By the exercise of some magic touch the pictures of City Auditor Devlin, which have adorned the walls and bars of the most frequented places in the tenderloin district for the past several weeks, have disappeared and are no longer to be seen. They were taken down at about the same time that the admonitions to register were put up.



FRANK WAYNE. CHARLES ANDERSON. WILLIAM CARTER.

"Toots" Bryant, Louis W. Smith and Archie Turnbull, local men, who were inveigled into the crimes by acting as fences to dispose of the stolen property.

If Wayne tells Assistant United States Attorney James Cole all he knows it may be the means of lightening his sentence. He was indicted on four counts and could be sent to McNeil island for a long term. He is an expert safe-breaker.

So far the registration has been a disappointment to the Republican managers, according to many statements. The registration has been fairly heavy, but with it all has come a larger ratio of Democratic and independent voters than was expected. In other words, the machine seems to have fallen down somewhat in its effort to round up a big vote. A representative of the Liquor Dealers' association complained