

Grand Jury Sworn In to Probe Stock Selling Schemes

Members Instructed Also to Investigate Rental Conditions; Brower E. McCague Foreman.

(Continued From Page One.)

regularly selected for the performance of this duty—one of the highest and most important duties that can devolve upon good citizenship. Upon taking the oath as grand jurors, you will become officers of the court and remain as such while you are acting and it is made the duty of the court before you enter upon the duties of your office to instruct you generally as to the subjects you are required to consider and investigate.

The emergency which has called your body into existence at this time arises from divers recent complaints and reports prevalent among the citizens of this city and county to the effect that numerous corporations, companies, stock holding associations and promoting agencies and enterprises under one form of organization or another, some operating under the guise of a license from the state, or some department thereof, others perhaps without lawful leave or license from any source, located in Douglas county and in the principal place of business in the city of Omaha, have capitalized their concerns fabulous and fictitious amounts, issued their capital stock and by and through their promoters, agents and employees, under false and fraudulent representations as to the value of said stock and the ability of their respective concerns to pay large dividends, have sold said stock, aggregating thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of dollars to innocent and unsuspecting persons, from whom they received the cash or its equivalent in the form of money, and the directors, officers, promoters and manipulators of said concerns, unlawfully and fraudulently conspired together and plundered their own treasuries, stole, embezzled and ruthlessly squandered the funds and other money to the end that said concerns have suddenly become bankrupt and irresponsible financially and the stockholders been victimized and defrauded.

Partial Investigation. In addition to the general reports above mentioned, it is likewise reported that the attorney general of Nebraska, the highest law officer of the state, assisted by his deputies, have personally made a partial investigation into the affairs of some of these concerns with a result, so it is claimed, tending to confirm the truth of these reports.

However, it is not for this court, nor the attorney general, nor any of his deputies, to say whether or not these reports be founded upon truth, whether any crimes have been committed, nor, if so, who committed them. It is enough at this time to say that they call loudly for an investigation; but the questions stated are solely within the province of this grand jury and are to be determined by you in the manner above indicated from the evidence which may be brought before you, or which your diligence may procure.

Practically unlimited inquisitorial powers are conferred upon you and you should exercise the utmost diligence, to the full extent of your skill and understanding, to investigate, both generally and specially, in the manner and extent to which the criminal laws of the state are being enforced in this county, and if crimes have been committed, bring the criminals to the bar of justice, irrespective of who they may be or what the social, business or political stations they may occupy in the community, to the end that no guilty person shall escape the merited punishment for his misdeeds.

Complaints on Landlords. Complaint has been made to the court by certain citizens of this city and county that a certain unlawful combination has been formed and now exists by and among certain rental managers and owners of real estate in the city of Omaha, whereby there is a concerted, or concerted and united effort, to exact from tenants of private residences, apartments, houses, offices and store buildings unreasonable and extortionate rentals.

I am not further advised as to the actual existence of such combination, nor, if such does exist, whether or not there is any law of the state to reach and punish the offenders. The prosecuting officers who will wait upon your deliberations and advise you as to the law on matters before you will doubtless advise you on this subject, and after being so advised, should you find that some penal law of the state is being violated in this regard, the violators thereof should be promptly presented, wholly regardless of who they are.

No Hearsay Testimony. In addition to the matters to which the court has specially directed your attention, you should investigate all violations of the criminal laws of the state, and if the evidence before you seems to warrant, indict any and all persons who have violated the same. Your investigations, however, on all subjects will be confined to offenses committed within the county of Douglas in the state of Nebraska.

It will be your duty carefully to scrutinize and dispassionately weigh the testimony of all witnesses coming before you. It is not proper for you to consider hearsay testimony in determining whether or not a true bill should be presented against any person, but it is proper for you to receive hearsay testimony for the purpose of assisting you in finding the whereabouts of witnesses who are, or may be, possessed of actual knowledge upon the subject of investigation.

Twelve Must Concur. You are not called upon nor required to finally determine the guilt of the accused; it is sufficient if the evidence introduced before satisfies your mind that an offense against the laws of the state has been committed and that the evidence before you, unexplained and unimpeached, satisfies your mind that a certain

Presbyterian Pastor Denies He Slew Wife



Rev. John A. Spencer.

Rev. John A. Spencer, Presbyterian minister, who was ousted from the church, accused of the murder of his wife, Emma Theresa Spencer, reads his Bible by the hour.

Although he was in the company of another woman when arrested, Dr. Spencer maintains his innocence of any wrongdoing. Mrs. Spencer met death in Koncoti Bay, Clear Lake, Lake county, California, one night last July, and Spencer awaits trial in the county jail at Lakeport—the first prisoner behind its bars since last February.

person or persons are probably guilty of the offense charged. Upon being so satisfied you would be warranted and it would be your duty to present by indictment such person or persons.

It is necessary that 12 of your number concur in the finding of an indictment, and when such number shall so concur it shall be the duty of the foreman of your body to endorse on such indictment the words, "A True Bill" and subscribe his name thereto as foreman.

War Veteran Denied Place in Conference. which will represent this country at this conference.

"I feel sure that you must have already thought of this and I simply write this note to respectfully urge you not to fail to include an ex-service man in the American delegation. "Trusting that this can and will be done, and with every good wish, I am, yours sincerely, "LAMAR JEFFERS."

Reply of Harding. Here is the reply of the president to Representative Jeffers: "My Dear Congressman Jeffers:—I have before me your letter of August 29, in which you write me concerning the desirability of having an ex-service man named as a member of the American delegation which will represent this country at the conference on reduction of armaments. I can well understand how you feel about the matter and recognize the appropriateness of having some ex-service man voice the sentiment of those who fight our wars in a discussion of the character which is sure to take place in a conference of this kind.

"It does not seem likely that it will be practical to bring an ex-service man of temporary experience into the conference, because of the very limited number in the delegation and the further fact that the larger military and naval information necessary to justify prudent action will necessarily come from actual service men who devote all of their time to naval and military problems. Of necessity, the army and navy will both be very highly represented, though perhaps neither branch of our national defense will likely have a representative on the main delegation. I am writing this letter to you on the assumption that the main delegation will be a very small one, probably not exceeding four men.

"I am sure that you were our positions reversed, would be anxious to appoint men who have large experience in international matters and are thoroughly versed in international relationships. You can understand how perfectly seemly it is to have the secretary of state head the delegation and how naturally I have turned to the chairman of the foreign relations committee of the senate for a member of the delegation. Because the matter is wholly patriotic and national in scope, I should be very dissatisfied if I could not have outstanding representation of the present minority in congress.

"I speak of these things to show you the limitations under which I act in choosing representatives on the main delegation. "Very sincerely, "WARREN G. HARDING.

America May Act As Mediator in China-Jap Row

Japan Again Attempts to Open Negotiations on Shantung—U. S. Watching Developments Closely.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Cablegrams received today from Tokio disclose that Japan has made another effort to open negotiations with China, looking to the relinquishment by Japan of Tsing Tau and other parts of the Shantung peninsula. The step was taken by Mr. Obata, Japanese minister at Peking, who, by direction of his government, notified the Chinese foreign minister that he was prepared to comply with the Chinese desire to state the scope of the negotiations having such relinquishment in view.

China, according to the advices, has not signified her disposition toward this latest offer and it is believed she may invoke the good offices of the American government. The State department, it is understood, has been giving close attention to the development of this issue, ready to act as a mediator in procuring the relinquishment of Shantung to China in a way best calculated to protect the Chinese interests while insuring justice for Japan in the settlement of claims.

The general purport of the proposition submitted by Mr. Obata is understood to be that Japan would withdraw her military forces from all of Shantung; that Chinese troops or gendarmes be sent into Shantung to replace the Japanese and insure the security of property and that the railroad connecting Tsing Tau with China be operated under the joint control of China and Japan.

Big Improvement Shown in Government Wool Sales. Boston, Sept. 8.—There was decided improvement in the government wool auction when 5,000,000 pounds of low South American wools were offered for sale.

In other recent sales the carpet manufacturers were principal operators, but Boston and Philadelphia dealers took the bulk of the offerings. Prices were up frequently 5 to 10 per cent on greasies, although values were somewhat erratic and on seconds the market appeared par to 5 per cent dearer than in August. Altogether the sale was consistently strong, more than 83 per cent of the catalogue being sold.

Lamb Feeding in Colorado May Be Abandoned This Year. State Senator F. A. Drake of the Fort Collins and Greeley districts of Colorado was one of the prominent visitors at the stock yards yesterday.

Judge Munger to Visit President Harding Today. Washington, Sept. 8.—(Special Telegram.)—Judge Munger of Lincoln visited the Department of Justice Wednesday and conferred with Assistant Attorney General Goff in the absence of Attorney General Daugherty today, accompanied by Congressman Reavis, Judge Munger will be received by the president at the White House.

"Too Many Sweeties" Blamed for Divorce By Columbus Man

Columbus, Neb., Sept. 8.—(Special.)—James Elston has filed a petition in district court praying for release from the matrimonial ties that binds him to Alice Elston. He alleges that they were married in Marshalltown, Ia., last April, that she was a buxom widow with four hostages to fortune from a former marriage, and that her search for a soul mate had become such a habit that she kept right on after they were married, corresponding with men and receiving offers of marriage from many of them.

Elston maintains that his attitude towards her was all the sacred contract required, and at all times he was faithful and kind to her. He charges Mrs. Elston left him, first curtly informing him that the law of affinity had failed to function and that he would hear no more her voice along the banks of the mirky Loup river. She returned to Marshalltown.

Calder Explains Proposed Tax Bill

Senator Would Raise Levy on Whiskey and Beer.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Senator Calder of New York today explained to President Harding his proposal for a tax on distilled spirits and beer. Senator Calder said he would propose amendments to the tax bill, to levy a tax of \$6.40 per gallon on distilled spirits and \$5 per barrel on 27.5 per cent alcohol beer. These new taxes, Senator Calder estimated, would raise \$175,000,000, and enable the finance committee to solve a hard problem in its revenue raising work.

Senator Calder said that 20,000,000 gallons of distilled spirits were withdrawn from bonded warehouses during the past year, paying the present industrial alcohol tax of only \$2.20 per gallon.

"Ninety per cent of this was used for beverage purposes and should have paid the beverage tax which was paid by consumers," said Senator Calder.

Treaty Sufficient. The German treaty as now constituted, it was stated on high authority, is considered sufficient unto itself and requires no confirmation from the allied governments. Since the treaty merely seeks to place the United States on an equal footing with the principal allied and associated powers with reference to rights ceded by Germany in the treaty of Versailles and does not attempt in any way to give the United States precedence over those

Allies Pleased With Provisions Of German Treaty

Associated Powers Reported Well Satisfied With Terms Of Pact Recently Negotiated By United States.

Washington, Sept. 8.—All information forthcoming from the Harding administration indicates that the treaty recently signed between the United States and Germany is entirely satisfactory to the governments of the principal allied and associated powers, it was stated on high authority.

The statement was called forth by reports from Paris to the effect that the allied governments are in a quandary as to the effect upon their interests of the ratification of the recently negotiated treaty.

As a matter of diplomatic courtesy, it was explained, the official representatives of the allied governments at various allied capitals were invited to communicate the text of the German treaty to the various allied foreign offices and to make clear the intent of the United States in negotiating such a treaty. This has been done, with the result that Secretary Hughes has been informed that the terms of the German treaty are regarded as highly satisfactory in British, Belgian and Italian official circles.

Briand Pleased. Premier Briand of France is said to have expressed informally his own personal satisfaction with the general results of the German-American treaty negotiations. While it is perfectly true that Ambassador Herrick, acting upon instructions from Washington, has conveyed to the French foreign office, the text of the German treaty and the views of the United States with regard to that document just as Ambassador Harvey had done at London with the British foreign office, officials here take exception to reports from Paris that the French government has not replied to this overture from the United States.

A reply in the formal sense from the French nation was not expected, it was explained. In fact, no surprise would have been felt if no reply at all had been received, as the American communications were in the nature of an informal presentation of certain facts in which it was thought the French government might be interested and did not necessarily call for any response.

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Nurse Tag Day Receipts \$9,000

Lively Interest Shown in Cause Though Donations Are Less Than Last Year.

The ninth annual tag day of the Visiting Nurse association of Omaha was held yesterday under auspices which heartened the officers and members of the organization, though the receipts fell several thousand dollars short of last year's total. Nine thousand dollars had been deposited in banks before the close of the drive and it is expected additional donations will swell the fund to \$10,000 or more.

Seven hundred volunteer women of the city worked from early until late, selling tags on the highways and along the byways for the humanitarian work which the visiting nurses carry on throughout the year. A parade was held in the morning, two of the automobiles carrying living juvenile examples of the infant welfare and orthopedic work of the association. Mayor Dahlgren rode in the first automobile, accompanied by Mrs. W. J. Hynes, Mrs. Herbert M. Rogers and Mrs. W. R. Adams.

Mrs. W. D. Hosford was in charge of the parade and Mrs. F. W. Judson engineered the sale of autographed tags. Mrs. W. A. C. Johnson was treasurer of the tag day committee and thus everybody helped in some manner to promote the cause.

The following statement was issued last night by officers of the association: "The Visiting Nurse association wishes to thank the public for their generous response, the workers for their faithful and untiring service, the press, theaters and the Omaha Street Railway company for their hearty co-operation on our ninth annual tag day."

"Due to financial conditions we did not realize last year's amount, but feel that we had the active endorsement of Omaha's public. "MRS. WILLIAM J. HYNES, President. "MRS. WALTER D. ROBERTS, Chairman of Publicity, Bee Want Ads Produce Results.

"Disrespect of Law" Discussed By Rohrer At W. C. T. U. Meeting

"Disrespect of Law," was discussed by U. S. Rohrer, state federal prohibition enforcement officer, before the Douglas county convention of the W. C. T. U. at Grace M. E. Church, South Side, yesterday.

Mrs. M. D. Vieno presided. A feature of the convention was a declamatory contest for the Dorothea medal. Mrs. Mary Borcutt had charge of recruiting new "white ribboners."

Lord Northcliffe Lauds President

British Publisher Says Harding Will Stand in First Rank Of Chief Executives.

Sydney, Sept. 8.—According to the popular superstition President Harding's right ear should have burned, for Lord Northcliffe, in an interview here, was most enthusiastic in his praise of the American leader. "I made President Harding's acquaintance in 1917, when I was at the head of the British war mission in America," he said, "and in my opinion he will stand in the very first rank of American presidents. He is as broad-minded as he is good looking. With Secretary of State Hughes and the rest of his very able cabinet, he is determined that the Pacific ocean will become truly pacific by the limitation of armaments."

"Wherever I have been on this trip, except in Honolulu and the Fiji Islands, taxation and unemployment were the two vital topics of the workers. The United States, Canada and Great Britain are facing a difficult winter and at such a moment comes President Harding's call. I am convinced that an agreement can be reached and that an era of peace and prosperity can be opened in the Pacific.

"I cannot conceive of a subject of greater moment to Australia than that to be dwelt on in the Washington conference and I can not conceive of a greater disaster than the failure of the conference. If the conference breaks up in a failure, the inevitable result will be the continuation of the rush for military and naval supremacy in the Pacific."

Postoffice Orders. Washington, Sept. 8.—(Special Telegram.)—Postmasters appointed Otto McDonald, vice Ethel Hemen, resigned, Pauline Adams county, Nebraska, South Dakota; Elmer, Chester county, Warren M. Bower, vice Myron Goddard, resigned; Louis Mellette county, Edith Martin vice Joseph L. Kephart, resigned.

Receivership Looms for Green Star Ship Firm

Two Thousand Bondholders Sign Petition Asking Revision of Contract With Ship Board.

New York, Sept. 8.—Declaring the Green Star Steamship corporation is in danger of being thrown into receivership, 2,000 of its bondholders have signed a petition to the United States shipping board appealing for a revision of the contract under which the line purchased nine vessels, it was learned today.

Alvin W. Krech, president of the Equitable Trust company, made public the petition, which shows that the shipping board holds first mortgages on the vessels for \$13,743,331. The petition declares that if the board forecloses a receivership proceeding will be brought by the Equitable and possibly other banks among which the Equitable distributed an \$8,000,000 bond issue.

The petition asserts that the Green Star, through "an error" in judgment contracted to buying the shipping board vessels at more than double their present market value. Its resources are declared to have been so depleted by the falling off in ocean commerce that it is unable to meet payments due on the vessels.

Lowell Feeder Makes Money On Live Stock Shipments. A. F. Harsh of Lowell, who has been feeding cattle for 56 years, was a visitor at the stock yards yesterday and said that in all the time he had been in the cattle-raising business he had never lost a penny on a drive of cattle sold in the open market. He said he had fed them in bunches of 60 and as high as 1,000 in a season. Mr. Harsh brought in three loads of cattle yesterday and topped the market on all classes, getting \$10.25 a hundred, the extreme top for 29 head of yearlings.

American Relief Kitchen Is Opened in Petrograd. Riga, Sept. 8.—(By The Associated Press.)—The first American relief administration kitchen in Russia was opened last Tuesday in Petrograd, where 50,000 children are to be fed, according to advices from the organization reaching Washington today.

Be Our Guest at the

World's Series, 1921

All expenses for this trip will be paid by The Omaha Bee

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NOT A CONTEST.

The Omaha Bee wants you in its party of live fans who will leave here for the World's Series this year.

How to Do It Have you friends? Then go to them, tell them all you need is \$400 worth of paid-in-advance new subscriptions to The Omaha Bee to get that trip to the Series without expense to yourself. Hop to it; time's getting short. Drag in those subscriptions and the trip is yours. MR. PARSONS at this office may be able to give you some pointers. Come in and see him.

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