

### Only Thirteen Names Valid in Dunn Recall

"Petitions Speak for Themselves," Says Police Head; "We'll See Our Attorney," Says Wheeler.

A recall petition promoted by Lyman G. Wheeler against Police Commissioner Henry W. Dunn was found to contain only 13 legal signatures, according to a report submitted by City Clerk James Hector to city council Tuesday morning.

The report was approved by six members of the council, Commissioner Dunn not voting.

Under the law the petition will be held by the city clerk for 10 days, during which time additional signatures may be filed by Wheeler and his associates.

**Mayor to Investigate.**

A feature of the council proceedings was an announcement by Mayor J. C. Dahlman that he will have an investigation of alleged forgeries in the petition.

"We will proceed according to the advice of our attorneys," was the comment of Lyman G. Wheeler, former police captain, who is seeking to succeed Commissioner Dunn through a recall election.

"The check of the recall petition speaks for itself. There isn't much that I could add," said Commissioner Dunn when the result of the check was disclosed.

**9,531 Signatures.**

The recall petition promoted by Wheeler and sworn to by Homer E. Ruan, contained 9,531 signatures which were carefully checked by the city clerk and assistants.

After eliminating groups of names for various reasons, the city clerk reported that out of the total of 9,531 signatures, he checked 2,735 as appearing upon the voters' register at the office of the election commissioner.

From 2,735 he deducted 726 names of electors who requested that their names be withdrawn from the petition and that they be counted as opposed to the object and purposes of the petition. The net total of 2,042 names of qualified voters appearing on the petition was subject to further reduction of 2,029 names on account of neglect to insert a "general statement of the object and purposes of the petition" on the separate sheets; also neglect to append to the sections of the certificates of the various circulators, attesting to the genuineness of the signatures.

**39 Names Duplicated.**

"I, therefore, find," the city clerk reports, "that none of the names upon said petition, except those appearing upon the last sheet thereof, should be considered in determining the sufficiency of said petition."

The only sheet approved by the city clerk, on the advice of the city legal department, contains 33 names, of which 15 are not registered voters and only 13 are registered as signed.

In his detailed report the city clerk states the following: "Thirty-nine names were duplicated, 431 illegible even under a magnifying glass, 4,849 do not appear on the books of the election commissioner as registered

voters, 900 names do not appear on the voters' register in the same manner as they appear on the petition, 486 names do not appear in the registration lists with the same addresses as on petition, 58 names do not appear registered in the same form and with same address as on petition, 68 signatures found to be not genuine.

**23 Sign Affidavits.**

Of the 58 signatures reported not genuine, the clerk reported that he has received affidavits from 23 who stated under oath that the signatures were not signed by them.

The clerk's report indicates that even if the petition sheets had been properly executed as to statements of objects and certificates as to signatures, the best that could be made out of the 500 sheets would be a total of 2,042 signatures.

**Highest Vote Cast.**

John F. Moriarty of the city legal department advised city council that the signatures which checked properly with the lists of registered voters, but which are on sheets not proper as to form, may be reconciled only by the persons signing new petitions and those petitions properly executed as provided for by law.

The city legal department further ruled that a recall petition to be sufficient should contain not less than 30 per cent of the highest vote cast at the last election on any proposition. For present purposes, a recall petition should contain not less than 10,425 signatures of qualified voters, Moriarty advised. The highest vote cast at the last election was the vote for and against the "Police pension fund" amendment to city charter, which was 4,753.

In a letter filed Tuesday with the city council Wheeler takes exception to methods which he says were used by members of the police department in checking on the validity of signatures to the petition. He asserts that members of the department induced many signers to withdraw their names from the petition.

**Diller.**—Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wolken, farmers just south of Diller, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Monday, a banquet being spread and 25 relatives being present, mostly from Wymore and Beatrice.

### Coroner's Jurors Find Peklo Died From Body Blow

Coroner's Jury Satisfied Body Is That of Auditor; Clothes Discrepancy Revealed.

Frank Peklo came to his death as a result of a blow at the base of the skull, delivered by persons unknown. A coroner's jury at Papillion, investigating the death of the Woodmen of the World auditor, whose supposed body was found Saturday in Pappio creek after it had been missing 11 months, brought in this verdict Tuesday morning.

"We are satisfied the body is that of Frank Peklo," the jury's verdict said. "We find that he came to his death as a result of a blow from a blunt instrument, which fractured the skull. We find that the blow was delivered by persons unknown."

Members of the Peklo family were less certain of the identification than were members of the jury. John Peklo, father of the dead man, could not identify the dead man's dental work, nor his watch or knife as that of his son. Neither could Frank Peklo's brother, Charles. The handwriting in a notebook found on the body, "looks something like Frank's," Charles admitted.

**Insurance Firm Doubts.**

The verdict of the coroner's jury will not satisfy the Travelers' Accident Insurance company, in which Frank Peklo held a \$7,500 policy, the company's attorney, R. Keene, said after the inquest.

The handwriting in the notebook found on the body will be compared by a handwriting expert with known specimens of the missing auditor's script, Keene said, before the policy is paid. Other proofs of identification, accepted by the jury as final,

will not be conclusive in the eyes of the insurance company.

Owing to the condition of the body after its long exposure in the creek, the identification was based almost entirely on the clothing, the dental work and the notebook. The dental work was identified by Dr. E. L. Soukop, who said he was "almost certain" he had done the bridgework for Frank Peklo on April 15, 1920.

Anton Tomli, 5202 South Twentieth, positively identified the peculiar stitching of the clothing as that of a suit he had made for Peklo 18 months ago.

**Clothes Discrepancy.**

Peklo's father and brother testified that he had worn a blue suit and light hat when they last saw him. The body found Saturday was dressed in a blue suit, with a blue sweater under the coat.

Edward Brinkman, detective from the South Omaha police station, discredited this testimony when he read from the police records the description which the family gave police on November 6, 1923, a week after he had last been seen. According to this record, Peklo was wearing a brown suit and a black hat when he disappeared.

Peklo's father, John Peklo, testified Tuesday morning that he had last seen his son as he was on his way to investigate the robbery in his father's store, which occurred on October 30, 1923, at 8 a. m.

"The police called me to tell me of the robbery," John Peklo said Tuesday. "As I left the phone, I saw that Frank was dressing in his room. I told him the store was being robbed. 'I'll go right down,' Frank said. He went out, and that's the last I've ever seen of him."

Dr. Sam McEneaney, coroner's physician of Douglas county, testified to the cause of death, and said that Peklo had undoubtedly been killed by a blow from a blunt instrument, fracturing the skull.

Charles Peklo, Frank's brother, testified that he had last seen Frank three days before his disappearance. He denied that there could be any reason for suicide, as he said his brother earned \$175 per month, had no one to support, and was not in financial difficulties.

The coroner's jury was composed of George Sleh, Charles Pflug, Henry Bormann, G. A. Archer, M. J. McCoy and I. R. Carpenter.

The inquest was conducted by A. J. Collins, county attorney of Sarpy county. Gene O'Sullivan, attorney, represented the Peklo family.

**W. C. T. U. in Convention.**

Geneva, Sept. 30.—Fillmore county W. C. T. U. convention was held at the Methodist church here Tuesday.

Rev. Ina Innis of Douglas, field worker of the state organization, gave addresses afternoon and evening. A noon luncheon was served for delegates and visitors. All of the public school teachers in Geneva were guests at the luncheon.

**"Shall We Live on Earth Again?"**

A Lecture by Ernest Wood

Of Manchester, England, International lecturer for the Theosophical Society.

Wednesday, October 1, 7:15 P. M.

Theosophical Hall, 4th floor Old Elks Club, 315 South 15th street

Lecture over before electrical parade.

No Admission Charge Collection

**WHY "FEET OF CLAY" ???**

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| \$95 Steger, oak  | \$2.00 mo. | \$55  | \$250 Steger Console   | \$5.00 mo. | \$145 |
| \$100 Playerphone | \$2.50 mo. | \$55  | \$200 Sonora           | \$5.00 mo. | \$145 |
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