

## SHOTWELL KEEPS RECORD STRAIGHT

County Attorney Asserts That Stories Of Alleged Leniency Toward Negro Criminals False.

### ONE ASSAULT ACQUITTAL AND NO PAROLES

County Attorney Shotwell Indignantly Resents The Statement That His Office Has Been Lenient With Assaults Of Women—He Is Backed Up Absolutely By Court Records—Reports of these crimes having increased since the Chicago riots, Mr. Shotwell is of the opinion that the criminal element fleeing that city may be in part responsible for them.

"The cases of assault against women nearly all occurred after the Chicago riots," he added. "Previous to that period the record was comparatively clean of such outrages."

The county attorney believes that groundless stories concerning the leniency of courts and court officers toward alleged attackers were responsible for the tragedy gave out the following interview:

"On July 7 a South Side girl was ravished by a Negro who tied her to a tree. Police arrested a suspect and he was identified. Reports were widely circulated, and are still heard over the streets, that this prisoner was released.

### The Ninety-Day Case.

"As a matter of fact he was bound over from the county to the district court, was in the county jail the night of the riot, and is now in state penitentiary at Lincoln with the other colored prisoners taken from this jail, in default of \$5,000 bonds.

One of the most popular of the fake stories that were used to incite the riot was that a colored man had attempted to assault a 9-year-old girl, was arrested, identified and given 90 days in the county jail. The facts are that the little girl saw this Negro, and thought he was quickening his step toward her. She ran and told her mother. The Negro was arrested, but there was no evidence that he even touched the girl. Naturally this was no rape case, but a disorderly conduct complaint was filed against him, and he got 90 days. He, too, was on the roof of the court house when Brown was lynched.

"Still another story, positively false, was used in stirring up feeling that preceded the riot. It was said that a colored man was arrested for an assault upon a white woman, and that she identified him, but that he was later discharged.

### Discusses Callias Charge.

"In this case her identification was very weak, and the prisoner established a positive alibi, bringing in from Iowa the white foreman of a road gang of the Illinois Central railroad, who showed by his time-checks that the suspect was in Iowa on the day of the assault, and at work.

"This sort of propaganda must cease, because it is false and incites to riot," concluded Mr. Shotwell.

### SENATOR WILLIAMS COVETS EX-KAISER WILHELM'S POSITION

(Special to The Monitor by Chas. Stewart.)

Hannibal, Mo., Oct. 6.—"Where is our country drifting when a man who is elected by the people to help to make laws to govern us will stand in the United States Senate chamber and endorse lynching?" was the question asked by Bishop H. Blanton Parks of Chicago, in addressing the North Missouri African Methodist conference, which closed last night, after five days' session.

"I consider Senator Williams the American Kaiser," continued the bishop, "and unless this government calls a halt to men in high position condoning crime and criminality, the future of our country is dark. That senator who put his approval on lynching is guilty of high treason and should be punished."

Resolutions were passed extending sympathy to Mayor Smith of Omaha, who was assaulted by the mob; the same was telegraphed to the official. The conference went on record as opposing crime, criminality, anarchy, I. W. W. and bolshevism and all their kindred evils, and called upon those who make and construe the law to see that it was properly executed.

The conference selected Chillicothe for the next annual session. Revs. N. C. Buren, W. B. Brooks, W. S. E. Maloney and S. L. Smith were elected delegates to the general conference, which meets next May in St. Louis. In this session bishops are to be elected. Among the prominent candidates are Revs. J. R. Ransom, J. C. Caldwell, W. Sampson Brooks, A. J. Carey and W. D. Johnson.

Dr. A. Fox preached the educational sermon and Dr. Caldwell delivered a special lecture on the Bible. The session was the best in the history of the organization.

## POLICE OFFICER IS SUSPENDED

William Coulter First Of Several To Face Charges Of Neglect Of Duty In Connection With Rioting.

### STATED SOME OFFICER GAVE MOB DIRECTIONS

Probe To Secure Facts Will Be Unsparringly Used — Slightest Clue Being Followed In Rigid Investigation Of Rioters.

WILLIAM COULTER, a patrolman, was suspended October 4 by Chief of Police Eberstein.

The suspension is the first of a number it is expected will be made by the chief of police of officers who are alleged to have violated their oath of office during the riots of last Sunday night.

Charges will be preferred against Coulter before the city council. Police Commissioner Ringer said he did not care at this time to make public the specific acts of the police officer, which brought about his suspension.

"He failed to do his duty; that's about all we care to say about it right now," said Ringer.

Coulter said he had been informed he had been suspended for "something he had said."

### Says Didn't Yield Badge.

The suspended officer declared he did not turn over his gun or badge to members of the mob. "I'd die before I'd give up my gun," said Coulter.

"Did you say anything that might warrant your suspension?" he was asked.

"I didn't say a thing," replied the officer.

Coulter was transferred to the Omaha police force from the South Omaha force upon annexation of South Omaha by Omaha on June 21, 1915. He was appointed to the South Omaha force on May 1, 1901.

A thorough investigation of charges that a number of police officers violated their oath of office by turning their badges and guns over to members of the mob is being made by Commissioner Ringer and Chief Eberstein.

### Accumulation of Evidence.

Ringer said he had accumulated evidence showing that police officers were negligent in their duty Sunday and suspensions will be made.

Several officers, it is alleged, willingly turned over their guns to the mob leaders. They were in sympathy with the movement to lynch Will Brown. One officer is said to have "addressed" his revolver to himself and "mailed" it at a box in the court house.

The police commissioner is investigating information that it was a police officer who gave leaders of the mob directions how to reach the county jail by a back stairway and that it was through this information that the mob finally captured the prisoner from the officers.

This officer is alleged to have furnished leaders of a mob with a diagram of this stairway after he had turned over his gun and badge.

### 50 LAWYERS AID IN RIOT PROSECUTION

Will Be On Duty Throughout Day In Gathering Evidence Against Alleged Rioters.

AT the suggestion of County Attorney A. V. Shotwell, over fifty Omaha lawyers have volunteered to aid in the gathering of evidence against those in connection with the lynching of Will Brown, the attempted hanging of Mayor Smith, the burning of the Douglas county court house and the looting of pawnshops Sunday night. The evidence is to be placed before the grand jury when it convenes October 8.

At a meeting in the city hall October 3, organization of the lawyers was affected. R. M. Switzer was placed in charge of scheduling the lawyers for duty in collecting evidence. The attorneys will co-operate with Captain H. P. Haze of the police department in gathering material for the prosecution.

Three attorneys will be on duty at all hours of the day and in the evening when the occasion demands it, until the grand jury convenes. Headquarters of the attorneys will be at room 201 city hall.

Shotwell addressed the organization and outlined the work of the lawyers and the manner in which evidence is to be collected.

The attorneys' duty roster for Friday was announced: 1 to 3 p. m., C. H. Marley, George H. Thummell and George Pratt; 3 to 5 p. m., A. C. Thompson, A. C. Munger and D. W. Swarr. On Saturday, 9 to 11 a. m., Raymond Crossman, Arthur Palmer and L. T. Wall will be on duty; from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m., George H. Thummell, V. J. Haggart and Thomas Lynch; from 1 to 5 p. m., W. C. Ramsey, J. P. Palmer and S. O. Cotner.

### JUDGE REDICK'S

#### CHARGE TO JURY

That passed District Judge Redick's charge to the grand jury which relates to the recent rioting follows: "Gentlemen of the Grand Jury:

"You have been called together at this time to perform one of the most important duties of citizenship. Under ordinary conditions the county attorney and his deputies are able to investigate infractions of the criminal laws and institute proper proceedings to bring the offenders to justice, but an emergency exists at this time which has rendered it imperative that they be afforded the assistance of a grand jury. \* \* \*

"The emergency above referred to has been brought about through the efforts of certain lawless persons to take the law into their own hands and administer punishment in their own way, without the forms of law and without giving the ones accused of crime the opportunity to demand themselves before a jury of twelve men, or for that matter in any way whatever. As a result of their lawless endeavors it is asserted that a prisoner in the county jail was forcibly removed therefrom, and hanged, and his body dragged through the streets of the city; the mayor of the city attacked and severely beaten; the courthouse of the county set on fire, and seriously damaged; stores and warehouses broken into and the contents stolen.

"Large numbers of persons are said to have been engaged in these activities resulting in the commission of the crimes of murder, assault with intent to kill or do great bodily harm, arson, burglary, larceny, rioting and many others of less degree.

"If these things have been done, the perpetrators thereof should be punished, not only that the criminal laws of the state may be rigidly enforced, but that he lawless and criminal elements of the community may not be encouraged to make similar or other unlawful onslaughts upon the regularly constituted authorities of the state and all subdivisions thereof.

"The constitution of the state of Nebraska provides that 'No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law.' This is the guaranty of our liberties, a disregard of which involves the destruction of government, and the inauguration of a reign of terror.

"You should, therefore, approach the performance of your duties with calm and unbiased minds but with a stern determination to uphold the laws of the state and bring all offenders to justice.

"The first and principal matters for your consideration should be to inquire into and true presentment make. If in your opinion justified, of such persons as are now held in the county jail to answer charges preferred against them, especially with crimes growing out of the disorders above referred to, and this you should do as speedily as possible.

"In this connection you are specially cautioned that you should not allow yourselves to be influenced by passion, popular clamor, fear, favor, or prejudice, but should make presentment or refuse so to do without regard to any of those considerations, and solely as in your judgment the evidence produced before you warrants and requires.

"It is not for me to say whether any crimes have been committed, or, if so, who committed them—these questions are solely within the province of the grand jury and are to be determined in the manner above outlined 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 the manner and extent to which the criminal laws of the state are being enforced, and if crimes have been committed, bring the criminals to the bar of justice that they may receive merited punishment."

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