THE OMAHA BEE: FRIDAY, APRIIL 6, 1923.

Firemen Freed on Theft Charge by City Council

Members of Hook and Ladder **Company Testify They** Were Cleaning Up Floor Not Looting Store.

William J. Feeney and Howard Bag-ley, members of Hook and Ladder company No. 4 of the fire department, were acquitted Thursday afternoon of charges filed by City Commissioner John Hopkins, alleging that on March 16, while on duty at a fire, they tried to steal merchandise.

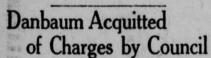
Feeney was acquitted after a hearing, whereupon Commissioner Hopkins moved for the dismissal of charges against Bagley, explaining that it would be futile to try the second case after dismissal of the first. Charges Contested.

The accused firemen contested the hase through Stanley Rosewater and F. A. Wallis. George Mercham, their attorneys. As-sistant Chief M. J. Dineen testified that he discovered the men in the with none the probable effect of the Omaha Companies Writing front storeroom of the Dundee Plumbing and Hardware company, 3912 Farnam street, crouched behind a showcase. He said the circumstances of their presence in the darkness arous-Feeney. The chief testified that when Feeney unfastened his belt he heard a noise as of articles falling on the floor. The firemen testified that they were cleaning up after the fire.

Showcase Broken.

Evidence was offered to show that the showcases in which razors and knives were kept had been broken during the fire, the contention being the force of the water caused this damage and also scattered merchandise over the floor.

Mr. Feeney has been seven years in the fire department and Mr. Bagley 13 years. Both have military rec-



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ly the following statement to a night lice reporter:

"When the crooks learn that the police department is demoralized, they will all flock to Omaha."

Mr. Danbaum entered a general denial of the charges and the evidence failed to substantiate the charges. Frederick W. Duerr, identifying himself as a night police reporter at central police station and 22 years old, was called as the chief witness for the police commissioner. He testified that on March 27, the date of Mr. Danbaum's demotion from de-tective sergeant to patrolman, he publicans triumphed over the demowent to the police station on an as- crats in the mayoralty contest here. demotion.

Little Crime Here.

asked Mr. Danbaum," witness "if he thought his demotion sald. would affect the police department. He said he did not know and he re-marked on the extensive knowledge he and Fred Palmtag had of criminals. I asked him if any increase in erime was probable and he said he



The first woman to hold such office in New York, Miss Martha Byrne, sworn in as secretary of department of corrections by Commi

demotion of himself or others.

Insurance Get Together Captain W. G. Russell, who was present during part of the interview Representatives of 20 Nebraska inbetween Danbaum and Duerr, said he surance companies, life, fire, health did not hear the statement ascribed and accident, meeting at the Athletic ed his suspicions, particularly as to the officer. He testified that the club, organized into what will be reporter in the case was sensational. known as "The Organization of Omaha Insurance Companies.'

Monsky and Butler Mix. At the conclusion of the hearing ganization is a desire on the part of

Attorney Monsky said: "The sooner Mr. Butler is put on record as to the motive behind these complaints, the before the clitzens of Nebraska II before the citizens of Nebraska. It sooner this commission will be rehas been felt that preference is often heved of these hearings and their attendant publicity. Here is a man who takes charge of the police denart cont takes charge of the police department without any regard for their financial and proceeds to discipline his men by making them shut their mouths. I standing, over companies organized in Market and the standing over companies organized in Nebraska, maintaining their offices, deny the right of a commissioner. in Nebraska, employing Nebraska

baum. We can have an efficient police department, even with Mr. But- manufacturers to secure money for

ler as the head, if we teach Mr. Butler that he is only human." "I am still here. You are insulting

the intelligence of the people of Omaha," Mr. Butler retorted. "I think Mr. Monsky overstepped his privilege by attacking one of the awaken the patriotism that permeates commissioners," Commissioner Hum-

mel interposed. "Butler has the police department and we are going to stitutions and encouraging other insupport him. But I cannot vote to sustain these charges." "I only intended to give Mr. Butler

some friendly advice which I thought | Temple Israel Passover he needed," Mr. Monsky replied. Services Close Tonight Closing services of the passover will

Republican Mayor Chosen be held Friday night at 8 at Temple Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Israel. Rabbi Frederick Cohn, pas-Columbus, Neb., April 5.—For the tor, will preach on "The Song of first time in nearly 18 years the re- Songs."

Saturday morning at 10 he will deliver a sermon entitiol "A New signment to quiz the officer on his Juilus Nichols, republican, defeated Thing." There will be special music. Mayor C. J. Carrig, democratic candi-



interest throughout the entire year.

the hearts of all Nebraskans for their

own state, thus building up state in-

stitutions, giving us a greater Omaha

as well as a greater Nebraska.

Louis Schreiber, L. Jasperson, Earl Record for Customs Sreeves, Omar Wilson, C. W. Minard, Record for Customs J. T. Cunningham, E. L. Hudson, S. E. Grosse, Robert Jackson, R. E. Seen as Settling Walter, Ted Albers, Alfred Christian

Praises English Rule in

Hindustan.

Bishop Homer C. Stuntz, speaking before the Concord club in Hotel Fontenelle vesterday noon, expressed the belief that the far eastern situation s becoming rapidly more settled. Discussing India, he defended the English for arresting Ghandi, declaring that while Ghandi is honestly endeavoring to work out the salvation of India, his arrest was necessary to maintain public order.

After reviewing the early history of India, Bishop Stuntz explained the steps taken by the English to educate the natives by founding five universities. An oversupply of men rained by these schools has resulted much unrest, he said.

The apparent conversion, of Japan from its former diplomatic intrigues, following the Washington conference, is of far-reaching importance, Bishop Stuntz said. He urged that President Harding's advice that this country participate in an international court be followed. He also called attention to the rapid improvement of conditions in China.

Attention of the Concordians was called to "Ladies night," which is to be held in Prettiest Mile clubhouse the night of April 12. Dancing and other entertainments are on the prothe home companies to bring the mergram.

Two Scout Officials Get

Red Cross First Aid Medals Capt. R. A. Fisher of the American Red Cross conducted the final session of his first aid class at Boy Scout headquarters Wednesday. An examinit is treasonable for an officer to ex-press himself. It was nonsense to bring this trivial charge against Dan-carrying all of their funds in Omaha first aid proficiency. Two medals banks, thus enabling merchants and were awarded to James McLaughlin and Louis Schreiber, scout officials their needs at a reasonable rate of who already have completed two courses of instruction in first aid, It is the purpose of the new organ. and now are entitled to the expert ization to furnish statements through first aid emblem issued by the Americombined advertising in the Omaha can Red Cross. These men were enrolled in the press, with the hope that it will

class: J. P. Atkinson, Earle Stirling,

der, old mother ! a sweet natural photo.

Have gathere do it

at-7409

When in Omaha Stopat



sen, Harold Grant, James McLaughlin, Adrian Mayer, Ernest Borsen, M. W. Bishop Stuntz in Club Session Childs, Virgil Ney, Ray Low, E. A.

R. V. Evans and G. H. Gendall.

that customs receipts for the fiscal said his estimate was based on cal-ing equitably. This is proved, he ex-Washington, April 5 .- Prediction Childs, Virgit Ney, Ray Low, E. A. Shue, A. B. Tebbens, Clifford Elliston, year ending June 39 would exceed ury and, if borne out, would exceed tions include almost every commodity

Receipts Predicted

Smoot of Utah, the senior republican the Payne-Aldrich tariff law. member of the state finance commit- Senator Smoot's study of the imtee and one of the leaders in drafting port records gave assurance, he dethe present tariff law. The senator clared, that the tariff law was work

\$600,000,000, was made by Senator 000,000 in receipts in one year under

\$550,000,000 and possibly approach the previous high record of \$387. known to commerce and trade.



thought there would be, particularly in the spring time. He said that, when the crooks learn that the police department is demoralized, they will flock to Omaha. I then asked him if they would hear of it, and he said they would in time. He also said that Omaha should not complain about crime, when crime in other cities is considered."

Mr. Duerr said his interview with Danbaum lasted about half an hour. and he added that he jotted down, after the interview, the alleged statement Danbaum made about demoralization of the department. He also stated that he and Danbaum had a misunderstanding two months ago. Acting Chief of Police Dillon testi-

fied that Mr. Duerr told him of the alleged statement by Danbaum which was published the following morning and which prompted Police Commissioner Butler to direct the acting chief to file the charges.

Inclined to Be Sensational.

Quizzed as to the reliability of Mr. Duerr as a news chronicler, the acting chief replied: "The young man is clined to be sensational and color the news."

Commissioner Hopkins asked the acting chief: "What is your opinion of Danbaum as an officer, of his abil-

"I consider him a good and capable officer," the acting chief' replied. Mr. Danbaum testified that he has served nearly nine years in the police department. In substance he tesuffied:

Danbaum Gives Version.

"I went to the station on the evening of March 27 with Fred Palmtag to arrange for my uniform, which I would need when I went on a beat. Duerr, the reporter, came into the captain's office and asked when I would go on a beat, and I said the next night. He asked me what effect my demotion would have on the police department, and I told him that I didn't know; that there were lots of other good men. He then referred to crimes in other cities, and asked what difference it would make be-cause of Palmtag and myself leaving the detective department. He asked me, when thieves learn that the police department is demoralized, will they some to Omaha. I said I didn't know, explaining that our work had been particularly after confidence men and pickpockets."

Mr. Danbaum made an emphatic denial that he said the police depart-ment is demoralized and that the ment is ooks will flock here when they learn of that condition. He said he went to the acting chief with the newspaper containing that statement and told his superior that he did not make the statement.

Questioned by Lambert.

Corporation Counsel Lambert sked Danbaum: "Did you have any thought or feeling that the changes nade by Butler were detrimental to the police department?"

Chairman Koutsky said that ques-tion was not material, that it was joing too deep into a man's heart. We will assume that if he was a

od officer he would have felt that Commissioner Hopkins inter-

Quizzed closely by Commissio Hummel, Danbaum said he disc

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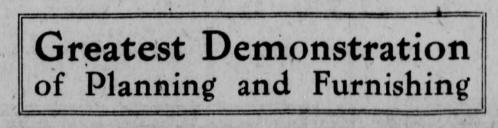
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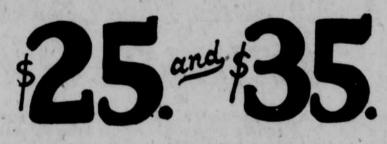
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