

AFFAIRS AT SOUTH OMAHA

Preliminary Hearing of Blake and Martin on Charge of Arson.

MOTION TO DISMISS UNDER ADVISEMENT

Little Direct Testimony to Support Theory of Incompetence Negro's Letter to a White Girl Gets Him Into a Serious Predicament.

The police court room was packed yesterday morning to listen to the rehearsal of the evidence in the case against J. W. Blake and N. Martin, who are charged with arson in connection with the Lee hotel fire.

Josephine Johnson, the woman who was landlady of the house at the time of the fire was the first witness called. Mr. Sweezy was her first clerk, and took charge of the house after 4 o'clock in the evening.

On cross-examination Mr. Mahoney drew out that witness had been at the hotel with Sweezy had worked for her two years in Hastings and had been with her here for the last year.

On direct examination Miss Johnson explained that the goods she offered for \$700 did not include all of her stuff.

On cross-examination Mr. Sweezy stated that about fifteen minutes before the last fire while sitting in the office, he heard a noise like something being dropped on the floor in the basement.

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TURN AGAINST AMBROSE

Clair's Attorneys Want Another Judge to Hear Street Railway Matter.

MAKE BITTER CHARGES OF PREJUDICE

Imputation Resented and an Explanation Made from the Bench—More Bitterness Between Opposing Counsel Manifested—Yesterday's Proceedings.

The street railway case was the drawing card at the court house yesterday, and the objective point was Judge Ambrose's court room, where the application for an injunction to prevent the collection of the \$5,000 judgment in favor of Matt Clair was set for hearing.

The knowledge that had blood existed between some of the interested parties was sufficient to pack the court room, and the spectators found the proceedings sufficiently out of the usual order to hold them until the noon hour.

Mr. Ransom, Gurley and Marple were present in behalf of the defendant, while John L. Webster and John D. Howe appeared in the interests of the plaintiff, the street railway company.

Mr. Ransom objected to the statement of the court that the affidavits had been offered in bad faith or that they were vicious.

Mr. Ransom objected to a stumpy speech and asked the court to pass on the motion. He was ready to believe that the affidavits were true.

Mr. Webster concluded by this time that a stumpy speech on the part of the plaintiff was just the thing and he interposed an objection.

The court said he would look over the affidavits during the noon hour and see if there was anything scandalous and impertinent which would have it stricken out.

At the afternoon session the introduction of evidence continued, and when the defense secured an inquiring Luther Drake, assistant cashier of the Merchants National bank, was called to the witness stand.

ACTING AS A FRIEND.

Negro's Conduct Toward a White Girl May Mean Serious Trouble for Him.

W. R. Johnson, a colored man, is in jail, but as yet no charge has been lodged against him.

A complaint will be filed this morning accusing him with assault with intent to commit rape, if the document is endorsed by one of the attorneys for the state.

The case is a peculiar one. John Wallander, the young attorney, is a white man and has a daughter named Esther who is about 16 years of age.

As an incident of the prejudice which Judge Ambrose allowed to feel against the affiants and his bias in favor of Webster, he had subsequently admitted that he might have done wrong in the matter.

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