

HUNT GIVES HIS VERSION

State's Main Witness in the Bechel Case Details the Story.

HOW THE OFFICE BANK WAS CONDUCTED

Charges of Manipulation of Expense Vouchers and Envelopes with Personal Checks and the Like Explained by the Witness.

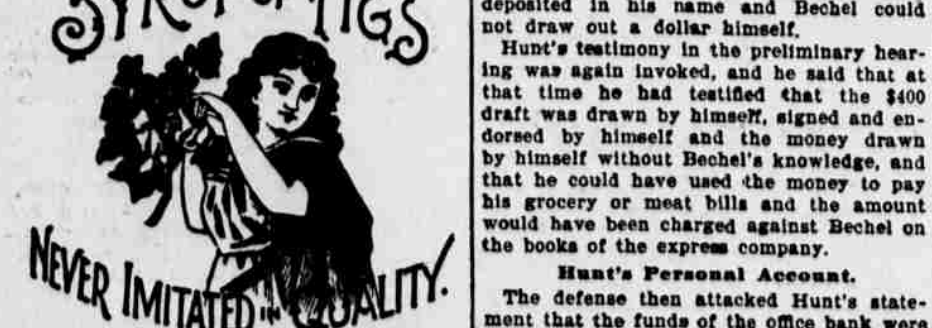
That Colorado mine in which various officials and employees of the Pacific Express company are alleged to be interested figured very prominently in the Bechel hearing before Judge Slaughter yesterday. Although the interests of A. J. Hunt and W. F. Bechel in that connection were almost constantly before the jury during the greater part of the afternoon, they have not been permitted to secure a place in the record, but have been made the subject of almost unending arguments between counsel in regard to their inadmissibility. So well sustained were the recriminations of the lawyers on this subject that just before adjournment the court took occasion to remark that while he was disposed to extend the utmost courtesy to attorneys that courtesy had reached its limit to a dot. The mining business came in on the cross-examination of Andy Hunt, the principal witness for the state. His testimony went to show that Bechel had received various amounts from the company with the connivance of the witness, some of which had subsequently been made good and others of which had never been paid back. On cross-examination the witness endeavored to show that during the time when these amounts were used Hunt was sending large amounts of money to assist in the development of this mine, some of which represented the various sums which he had asserted went to Bechel. To some extent the testimony was allowed, but every question was vigorously objected to by the county attorney and most of the objections were sustained. The court held that some connection must first be shown between these remittances to Colorado and the identical sums which were alleged to have been appropriated by Bechel. The squabble over this evidence was still on when the court adjourned until Monday morning. F. M. Powers remained on the stand yesterday morning for cross-examination and he testified that in cases in which he had drawn money in advance they received their salaries at the end of the month. This was in apparent rebuttal of the proposition advanced by the state that Bechel's signature on the pay roll was in fact a check drawn by the month and that any amounts that he might have received during the month were not advances of salary. The defense endeavored to show that the checks that had been identified on the stand were not drawn on the bank in which Hunt kept the money of the company, but the question was not allowed.

Andy Hunt on the Stand. The state then called A. J. Hunt, who testified that he had been employed by the express company from 1880 to 1898, and that during that period he had been in charge of the office bank in April, 1895. He testified that he was in charge of that account in his own name at both the First National and Commercial National banks. Expense letters were paid exclusively out of this account. He identified an expense envelope that had been previously identified as Bechel's and also Bechel's chronograph on each. The general method of handling the expense accounts was illustrated mainly as it had been related by previous witnesses.

The witness said that in 1895 he had asked Bechel what he should do with the expense envelopes, as Bechel had drawn on him, and was told to charge them to the refund account. The effect of this was to reduce the earnings by the company by the amounts charged off. Envelopes from other offices were also charged to the refund account, which was a legitimate refund was due those offices. The general expenses were charged against the funds to which they belonged, but in the cases of envelopes this was not done, because Bechel had directed the witness to charge them to the refund account. The office bank was reimbursed for these items by cash from the treasury of the company, secured on refund vouchers. These were in the form of credit letters, and in some cases the regularly vouchered amount on the credit letter was raised in order to cover the amount of one of these personal expense envelopes. He declared that these credit letters were raised under instructions from Bechel, but subsequently admitted that he assumed the instructions to raise the credit letters because Bechel had told him to charge the envelopes to the refund account.

Did Not Represent Salary. Continuing, Hunt swore that the amounts represented by the envelopes drawn on him by Bechel were in no way deducted from Bechel's salary. He had not deducted the amounts because he had been instructed to charge them to the refund account. During 1896 and 1897 he had had conversations with Bechel relative to advancing money. Bechel had asked for money as often as once a month and he had given it to him.

SYRUP OF FIGS



NEVER IMITATED IN QUALITY. THE EXCELLENCE OF SYRUP OF FIGS is due not only to the originality and simplicity of the combination, but also to the care and skill with which it is manufactured by scientific processes known to the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, and we wish to impress upon all the importance of purchasing the true and original remedy. As the genuine Syrup of Figs is manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, a knowledge of that fact will assist one in avoiding the worthless imitations manufactured by other parties. The healthfulness of the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. with their medical profession, and the satisfaction which the genuine Syrup of Figs has given to millions of families, makes the name of the Company a guaranty of the excellence of its remedy. It is far in advance of all other laxatives, as it acts on the kidneys, liver and bowels without irritating or weakening them, and it does not grip, nor nauseate. In order to get its beneficial effects, please remember the name of the Company— CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. NEW YORK, N. Y. MOBILE, ALA.

These payments did not represent salary and the check paid from the office bank were not made by checks or cash, but were not charged to Bechel on the books of the company. They were covered up by raising credit letters, as in the case of the expense envelopes. He had never refused to give Bechel money when he asked for it. The account of the office bank was kept in the name of Bechel on the books of the company, while the bank account was kept in the name of the witness. Hunt identified the three checks that were offered in evidence on the previous day and said that he had drawn them on the office bank in favor of Bechel. The amounts had never been charged to Bechel and he had never made them good to the company. At the afternoon session Hunt was questioned in regard to the payment of salaries. He testified that he paid the salaries of Bechel and of all the employees of his department. They were paid either in checks or cash. Advances of salary had been made to Bechel as frequently as once a month. He had also paid a local building and loan association \$15 a month at Bechel's order, as well as a number of other personal bills. He identified a number of checks on the Commercial National bank as those which he had issued to Bechel on account of salary and explained the fact that the amounts were less than those shown by the check, as he had made deductions for money advanced on account of bills that he had paid for Bechel. He also identified a number of auditor's drafts on the treasury of the company on account of salary. W. F. B., for example, had been paid \$1,000 a month, but Bechel had paid him \$500.

MORTGAGES ON UNGROWN CROPS.

Another Nice Point in Law Raised by a Bank and a Farmer. A case of considerable interest to farmers, bankers and loaners of money generally is under advisement by Judge Powell and a decision may be rendered Monday. It is the chattel mortgage foreclosure suit brought by Banker Abram Castetter of Blair against a young farmer, William Sutherland, whose place is near that city. The chief point involved is as to the validity of a verbal chattel mortgage given on a crop which had not yet been sown. Sutherland's defense is that there is no mortgage to foreclose because at the time the arrangement was entered into between him and Castetter there was nothing to mortgage.

Sutherland is said by Castetter to be indebted to him to a very considerable amount before the last deal. Through a fire he suffered the loss of his barn, some horses and wagons and various farm machinery and implements. According to the story of the banker Sutherland went to him and arranged for Castetter to let him have enough money to purchase new horses, wagons and machinery and to supply him with provisions for his family and seed wheat and oats. Castetter agreed to do this if Sutherland would give him a chattel mortgage on the teams and wagons purchased and his coming crop. Sutherland gave him a promise to this effect.

This somewhat lax agreement ran along smoothly enough until it was charged that some of the checks drawn by Sutherland on the bank were for other purposes than those specified in the agreement. The bank refused to let him have any more money and Castetter in an action got possession of the teams, wagons and implements purchased and foreclosure proceedings were commenced on his crop (by this time grown) and his new live stock.

Whalen-Kitchen Case Submitted.

Judge Scott is to decide the Whalen-Kitchen controversy over Paxton hotel stock this morning. The two Whalen boys now live with their mother, Mrs. Lizzie Whalen, at Melrose, Ia. When Ralph Kitchen died in 1890 he left to each of the two boys, Herbert and Wallace, \$10,000 worth of stock in the Kitchen Brothers' Hotel company and a 195-acre farm in Leavenworth county, Kansas. James B. Kitchen was made the executor of the will. The particular provision covering this request was that Mr. Kitchen could exercise the option with "see that they are not done over to each of them \$10,000 in cash. The stock was in time made over to them, but their attorney, W. D. Beckert, in whose name the suit was brought as their next friend, has contended that it was not done so until the three years had passed. The farm went to Mrs. Whalen.

Bringing in Prisoners.

The deputies in the office of Marshal Thummler are beginning to gather in the parties recently indicted by the grand jury. Deputy Allen has returned from the Winnebago reservation, bringing with him James Nobles and John Crow, two Indians charged with introducing liquor upon the reservation and also with selling the same to the Indians. Deputy Ackerman has returned from the north end of Holt county, having James and Fanny Green in custody, both of whom are charged with interfering with the transmission of mail and delaying a mail carrier while engaged in the discharge of his duties. In this case the road which was usually traveled passing over and owned by the prisoners. It is said that last fall they refused to permit the mail carrier to travel over this particular road.

Joseph's Overcoat Stolen.

Joseph Kelsey, one of the jurors in the McCarty case, was on trial in United States court, in minus an overcoat. The garment was hanging on the rack in the main court room yesterday and when he went to get it at the evening recess it was gone. Mr. Kelsey is of the opinion that some thief picked up the coat and took it with him when he left the room.

Ignored the License Law.

Deputy Marshal Keim came in from Aurora last night, bringing Bernard Dourchak, indicted on the charge of having sold liquor without having secured the required authority from the United States.

Notes of the Courts.

Notice has been given that the action of Henry Coombs to test the garbage contract between the city and Alexander MacDonall will be called up before Judge Scott this morning.

Worked Well with the Counterfeiters.

Agent of the Secret Service Gets in with the Counterfeiters and Does a Good Business Until the Time for Arrest Arrives.

The trial of the case of the United States against John McCarty and John Brown was resumed before Judge Munger and a jury in the United States court, with Austin V. Burk still on the stand. Upon the convening of court, the attorneys for the defendants moved to strike out the testimony of the witness, alleging that having been convicted of crime and sentenced to a term in the United States penitentiary, he could not be given credence. Assistant United States Attorney Rush, for the government, explained that while it was true that Burk had been sent to the penitentiary, he had been pardoned by President McKinley and restored to citizenship.

Shurik Gets a Diploma.

City Electrician Shurik has been presented with a diploma and medal by the Trans-Mississippi Exposition for the work he did last summer on the exposition grounds. Both medal and diploma state that he was awarded "for valuable services in the electrical department, and consequently possesses the only exposition medal awarded to any city official."

Overcome evil with good.

Overcome your coughs and colds with Omeu Cough Cure. It is so good children cry for it. It cures croup, bronchitis, pneumonia, grippe and all throat and lung diseases.

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Shrewd Shoppers! Seasonable Suggestions. Knabe pianos in walnut, mahogany and rosewood cases. Kimball pianos in oak, French walnut, mahogany and rosewood cases. Krnach & Bach pianos in butternut, Sandomingo mahogany and French walnut cases. Hospe pianos, Royal pianos, Howard pianos and all the finest veneers. Prices less by \$100 than the equal can be obtained elsewhere, on terms of \$25 to \$50 cash and from \$8 to \$25 per month. Stools, seats, covers in great variety. Open evenings.

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Holiday Gifts—

In exquisite perfumes, fancy cut glass bottles—fancy glass pitchers—hand-painted and silver perfume bottles—colored glass atomizers—perfumes in fancy boxes—sachet powders—manicure sets—kodaks and cameras—gold-rimmed eyeglasses and spectacles—any of these items make very acceptable and useful Christmas presents—you should include our store in your list of shopping places.

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HARPER & BROTHERS, Publishers, New York and London

DETECTIVE TELLS HIS STORY

Detailed Account of How the McCarty Mint Was Finally Shut Down.

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Donnels Gets in the Game.

Witness testified that on June 16 of the present year, while in the employment of the government, he visited John McCarty's home in Sarpy county, and there was shown the dies and plant for making counterfeit money. The next day he said he bought a quantity of coin from John McCarty and that the delivery was made at a saloon at Twenty-fourth and L streets, South Omaha. Upon this occasion Agent Donnels of the United States secret service department was introduced to McCarty and Brown as a man who could be trusted and who wanted some of the spurious coin to take into Iowa. Twelve of the bad dollars were delivered, Donnels paying for the same the sum of \$3. At this meeting it was arranged that McCarty and Brown should bring up another lot on the following Saturday. Donnels, who had been introduced as Bob, an ex-convict suggesting that he could use at least fifty of the counterfeit dollars. At this time McCarty cautioned Donnels about going into Iowa, saying, "They give counterfeiters a hell over there."

Speaking About Christmas—

And Christmas presents—there are some things that are better than others—Drexel L. Shoen's feels sure that boys' shoes are about the most sensible gift for boys—more sensible than usual w.e.n they come from our store—the best \$1.50 shoe we've ever sold is the genuine calf solid soled school shoe that we offer this winter—better than ever—the little toes never get cold with these shoes and the little feet can't kick them out with ordinary wear—come and select your souvenirs now while the assortment is complete—a new lot just received.

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