

# TURNING STATE'S EVIDENCE

*The Chief Executive of North Dakota Anti-Saloon League Admits Over His Own Signature That Prohibition Does Not Prohibit*

## READ THE RECORD IN WATKINS' AFFIDAVIT

Editorial From Bismarck Daily Tribune:

Watkins' affidavit, showing the amount of liquor shipped into Bismarck, is interesting for several reasons. Many of the shipments took place while Mr. Watkins was a chief executive of the State Law Enforcement League and also constable acting under Chief Commissioner Patterson.

During most of this time Mr. Watkins was clothed with as much power as he would have been under the proposed law creating a temperance commissioner. It might be interesting to the members of the State Temperance Union to know why Mr. Watkins let such large quantities of liquor come into the capital city when he was constable, charged chiefly with enforcing the prohibition law.

Here is a portion of Mr. Watkins' affidavit, made in connection with the suit brought by Attorney General Linde under the Webb-Kenyon Law:

"That the population in said city is approximately 6,000, and during the month of August, 1913, the defendant carrier transported and delivered in the city of Bismarck 1,042 cases of beer, or 25,008 quart bottles thereof; that during the month of July, 1914, the defendant carrier shipped and delivered to persons within said city of Bismarck 1,371 cases of beer, amounting to 32,904 quart bottles, and 11 cases of whiskey; that during the month of August, 1914, the defendant carrier shipped and delivered in the city of Bismarck 1,106 cases of beer, or 25,544 quart bottles, and 37 cases of whiskey; that from and since about the 1st day of January, 1915, to the 12th day of April, 1915, the defendant carrier has shipped and delivered to persons within the city of Bismarck 3,404 cases of beer, of 57,696 quart bottles, and in addition thereto, 273 cases of whiskey; that in addition to the foregoing, as this affiant is informed and believes, there has been shipped into said city, over various express routes, other intoxicating liquors; that the defendant company transported and shipped such liquor in excessive and unusual quantities to individuals in such quantities that it knew or must have known that the same was being used by such individuals for purposes contrary to the law of the State of North Dakota."

These figures show that considerable sales of liquor must have been going on in the city of Bismarck during the period covered in this

affidavit with very little effort to stop the traffic.

In a little more than three months more than 57,000 bottles of beer were shipped into the city and 273 cases of whiskey. The Attorney General's office states that this record was exceeded even by a former period.

## WATKINS' LETTER TO FARGO, N. D., PAPERS

"To Friends of Law Enforcement:

"A number of States' Attorneys have complained to me that their county commissioners will not set aside the amount provided by law to obtain evidence against violators. The law provides that the county commissioners set aside any amount not to exceed \$1,000.00 per year for the use of the State's Attorneys for such purposes. A number of State's Attorneys have asked for aid and have been refused any money whatever for such purposes, so they write me, and others say that their county commissioners tell them to go ahead and they will O. K. the bills after such bills come in and if they find them satisfactory. This is not fair, as the State's Attorney goes ahead and spends money, only to be refused payment, and often he is left holding a pack of trouble over a bill he cannot pay.

## REFUSES TO ALLOW EXPENSES

"On one occasion our detectives were put on trail of such Board of County Commissioners, and they were found to be gambling and drinking in a bad resort. One other occasion the State's Attorney collected from cases, started on evidence furnished by the North Dakota Law Enforcement league, attorney fee to the amount of \$1,200.00 and fines amounting to \$300.00, besides sheriff and witness fees, thus making a clear gain of \$1,500.00 for the county. Yet, upon the request of State's Attorney, the Board of County Commissioners would not and did not allow a bill of expense of more than \$300.00 costs, to get the evidence. They cut the bill to about \$150.00 and allowed it.

## TO USE PUBLICITY

"If the State's Attorney will report these conditions to the North Dakota Enforcement league, we will in the future look up the matter and publish the facts in the paper so the people may know that their County Commissioners are in league with the blind pigger, gamblers and bawdy-house keepers,

"I suggest that the people and our Vigilance Committee over the state find out the facts in their county and start a movement to leave at home in 1916 election any commissioners who will not do the right thing by law enforcement.

## TO FRIENDS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

"State's Attorney, Burley County, North Dakota, has been conducting an exhaustive inquiry into the booze question in Bismarck.

"During the past week numerous and sundry persons around town have been made to appear and give their evidence as to where and when and how they obtained their booze. **These parties have ranged in age from boys of sixteen to men of seventy, and have included high school boys and business men,** in fact, everybody who is properly supposed to take a "nip" at times was summoned.

"State's Attorney Berndt, in connection with Law Enforcement Officer Watkins, and Attorney General Linde, are gathering evidence against the blind piggers and boot-leggers **who have waxed bold through long having been able to violate the prohibition laws with impunity.**

"The examination was the outgrowth of recent seizures of booze consigned to fictitious names at the Soo depot. The Soo agent, believing that some of the liquor was intended for illegal purposes called the State's Attorney's attention to the shipment. Within a short time warrants will be sworn out against seven of the illegal sellers of liquor and their cases will be pushed for conviction."

The speakers for the Prohibitory Amendment have been telling the people over this state how successfully the prohibition law works in North Dakota. They have been told this so often that a great many are beginning to believe it; in fact, a few of the speakers have told it so often that they are beginning to believe it themselves. We are aware of the fact that the average man does not have time to look up the records as to the workings of prohibition in the various states.

The prohibition orators have been telling the people how they would reduce crime and save the boy and girl, if only they would adopt prohibition. Has crime decreased in North Dakota? Have the boy and girl been saved in that prohibition state? Did not the head of the Law Enforcement league state over his own sworn signature that 57,696 quarts of beer and 273 cases of whiskey were shipped into Bismarck in a short period? Did not the head of the Law Enforcement league state that high school boys had been summoned before the State's Attorney in order to state where they secured their liquor? Doesn't it appear to you from the above statement of the head of the Law Enforcement league that anyone who wants liquor in North Dakota gets it regardless of age or sex? Do you think the boys have been saved?

Think it over.

# Douglas County Tax Payers' League