

Matters Goes on Witness Stand in Behalf of Self

Man Accused of Aiding in Embezzlement That Tottered Bank Tells History of Land Deal.

Thomas H. Matters, charged with aiding and abetting in the embezzlement that tottered the Pioneer State bank, now defunct, took the witness stand yesterday afternoon to testify in his own defense.

Beginning with the time he first heard about the timber and coal lands in West Virginia, he traced the history of his own connection with the Colonial Timber and Coal corporation.

While in Kansas City, he asserted, Mr. Culver, then unknown to him, endeavored to interest him in the West Virginia tract of land.

Having insufficient funds, Matters refused, but followed him to Omaha where he induced W. L. Stickle to finance the company. Matters taking some share in the investment.

Stickle and four others investigated the land, according to Matters, and reported to him in letters that 180,000 acres was a wilderness.

Says Was Urged to Sell. He was urged by Stickle to sell his interest in the corporation, he said, and refused at first but later consented to sell for \$250,000 to pay his debts.

When he insisted that he needed the money in November, 1919, Stickle gave him a check for \$50,000 on the Pioneer State bank, Matters said.

Admits Conviction. Matters admitted that he had once been convicted and sentenced to Fort Leavenworth, where he was pardoned after 44 days.

Scared Away Week Ago. The same burglar who appeared at the E. R. Allen home, 5010 Burt street, March 13, only to be scared away, entered the house again Wednesday night and carried away \$500 in silverware.

Three "Cleanup Days" Designated in April

April 13, 14 and 15 have been designated officially as "clean-up" days, according to an announcement by Dr. A. S. Pinto, health commissioner, who has been in conference with the civic affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

Details of the plan that will be followed are to be made by the health commissioner, who expresses the hope that Omahans will not wait until these particular days to begin their annual spring cleaning.

"We are going to make a real effort to rid alleys and yards of unsightly and obnoxious rubbish," said the health commissioner. "We will have less flies if we clean up. I trust that householders will catch the spirit of this and will clean the interiors as well as the exteriors of their homes. Get rid of the old trash."

Burglar Suspects Nabbed Almost at City Jail Doors

Driving almost to the doors of central police station in a baggage wagon filled with alleged loot, William Bussey, 2212 Seward street, and Herbert Williams, 206 South Thirtieth street, were arrested early yesterday morning by city detectives and are being held for investigation for burglary.

The baggage wagon was engaged at Fourteenth and Dodge streets, detectives said, and was loaded with a trunk of women's apparel taken from a house at Fourteenth and Jackson streets. The men then drove toward the city jail and four detectives, who had been following all the way, arrested them almost at the prison door.

Park Bond to Pay for Paving Elmwood Drives

A resolution, offered by Commissioner Joseph Hummel, was adopted by city council yesterday, authorizing appropriation of \$75,000 from park bond fund to cover expense of paving the drives in Elmwood park with asphaltic concrete.

The low bid on this work was \$222 per yard, offered by Bauer and Johnson Construction and Supply company.

Scared Away Week Ago, Burglar Returns for Loot

The same burglar who appeared at the E. R. Allen home, 5010 Burt street, March 13, only to be scared away, entered the house again Wednesday night and carried away \$500 in silverware. He was identified by Mrs. Allen who came down stairs with a revolver. She did not fire at him.

Margot Asquith Wins Audience by Personality

Omahans Divided in Discussing the Value of English-woman's Lecture; Manner and Smile Please.

Margot Asquith lectured at the Brandeis theater yesterday afternoon and won her audience by sheer personality, not by what she said, the consensus of feminine opinion is. "She's entertaining—that's all," commented Miss Eunice Stebbins, Mrs. C. M. Pitts, Mrs. E. S. Rood, Mrs. J. W. Robbins and a host of others.

A perfect dear to meet personally," added Mrs. O. T. Eastman. Some were frankly disappointed.

"She didn't tell the audacious stories we expected," commented Mrs. Frank W. Judson.

"I think she was audacious to come here and give us so little from the platform," said Mrs. R. Beecher Howell.

"I thought she would roast the flapper," exclaimed Miss Dorothy Judson, of the younger set. "She seemed nervous," some one volunteered.

"She has nerve, you mean," retorted Mrs. S. V. Chase. Besides a few prohibition jokes, a few glimpses into the life of Gladstone, Tennyson, King Edward, Mark Twain and other personalities, the Omaha audience will remember the heralded "woman of the serpent tongue" as a slight little woman with a vivid smile, an ingratiating manner and no discernible traces of vituperation.

Voices Few Margotisms. She did voice a few typical "Margotisms," but "I'm on my good behavior," she confided.

"Believe in God in spite of what the preachers say!" she said. She related how she sat on Tennyson's knee and how her husband waited in the next room when the present Prince of Wales was born, to be sure a changeling was not substituted.

King Edward enjoyed it very much, she said, when she, Margot, told him, in a joke, that her husband, the prime minister, had run off with a lady-in-waiting. Otherwise, Margot's anecdotes were voted "very tame."

Gives Cordial Handshake. After her talk, a large part of the audience went back stage to shake hands with the noted visitor. She greeted each one with a cordial handshake and an individual comment.

She told C. F. Stebbins and J. W. Robbins that she had picked them out in the audience; a Mrs. Garland that she "had a beautiful face." "You're trying to spoil me," she laughed at several women who complimented her on her talk. "This is the best dress I own," she exclaimed gleefully when someone expressed admiration for her taupe-colored frock, with cloth of gold bodice. With it she wore as ornaments, a pearl necklace and a large jeweled crucifix.

Has Debutante Slouch. A debutante slouch and a funny old-world curtsy, when she moved on and off the stage, were notable mannerisms.

Newspaper folk here were "lacking in awe of her," but treated her very kindly, she said. She'd like to be an actress, but she can't remember who Fatty Arbuckle, William Taylor Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford are.

Matthew Hall, British consul, introduced her.

Clearing House Adopts Tribute to John C. French

The Omaha Clearing House association adopted resolutions yesterday expressing appreciation of the service performed by John C. French, vice president of the Stockyards National bank, who died at Biloxi, Miss., March 22.

"We place on record our sincere appreciation of Mr. French's high character and many qualities, and his fine sense of personal honor and integrity," the resolutions said in part. Sympathy for the bereaved family also was expressed.

Juror Fined and Fired by District Judge Leslie

Martin McTigue, 2828 Dodge street, was scored by District Judge Leslie, yesterday, discharged from jury duty and fined two days' pay as a juror.

An impaneled jury was discharged Wednesday after the judge smelled liquor on McTigue's breath. Yesterday when McTigue's name was called for another jury he was absent. He appeared shortly before noon and was summoned before the judge.

Divorced Man Hides Second Wedding for Seven Months

The fact that Walter Bishop Graham, music teacher and music director at Hanscom Park Methodist church, who was divorced October 20, 1920, had secretly married Miss Freda L. Hobson, one of his pupils, in Papillion last September came to light yesterday. Not even the choir of the Methodist church nor his large class of pupils knew that the wedding had taken place.

Friday in Our Bargain Basement

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Fine white cotton handkerchiefs with white and colored initials—long or boxed initial style. All initials, but not in each style. All perfect handkerchiefs made to sell for 15c to 35c; each, 10c



Basement—Arcade

A Striking Economy Sale of 500 Silk and Cloth Dresses 3.99

Worth 5.95 to 10.95



Women's and misses' dresses for immediate wear at a very low price. There are new and attractive styles developed in crepe de chine, taffeta, satin, serge, tricotine, all-wool poplin in colors, spring weight velours and wool jersey. Included in this style are a group of popular jumper dresses in striped silk faille, red and tan all-wool jersey, striped prunellas and lightweight tricotines. Friday only, each, 3.99

- 5.00 Beaded Georgette Blouses—Extra size blouses in dark colors with long sleeves. Sizes 46 to 54. 2.99
- 1.25 Sateen Bloomers—Firmly made knee length bloomer of high luster sateen in white, black and various colors. 89c
- 69c Women's and Misses' Muslin Step-ins—In flesh or white, fancy machine stitching or lace edged. 49c
- 2.00 and 3.00 Fancy Silk Blouses—Many pretty styles to choose from. 1.49
- 2 Girls' Cotton Frocks—Pretty styles in wash materials. Sizes 2 to 6 years and 8 to 12 years. 2 for 1.00
- 2 Colored Smocks or Middies—For women, misses and girls in a big variety of colors and styles. 89c values. 1.00

Basement—East

Islam Is Aflame Against Christian Rule

Little spurts of flame that seemed hardly worth noticing in India, Egypt, Tripoli, Morocco, and Asia Minor during the past weeks and months now appear to many keen observers to be ominous manifestations of underlying volcanic fires that may set the Moslem world of 250,000,000 fanatical believers ablaze almost any day.

Turning to the news dispatches of recent weeks for evidence in support of this statement, the following items are encountered: India's demand for the rehabilitation of Turkey; unrest among Egyptian Mohammedans, resulting in Britain's pledge of self-government to Egypt; a Moslem revolt against Italian rule in Tripoli; a fresh uprising against the Spaniard in Morocco; and a renewal of Kemal Pasha's campaign against the Greeks in Asia Minor.

Reports from India, notes the Washington Herald, indicate that certain Mohammedan leaders dream of making the country a Mohammedan state; and as a reminder that the Mohammedan faith is historically grounded in conquest and conversion by the sword, it quotes the following characteristic passages from the words of the Prophet:

"Fight in the path of God with those who fight with you. . . . And kill them whosoever ye find them, and thrust them out from whence they thrust you out; for dissent is worse than slaughter. . . . Fight them till there be no dissent, and the worship be only to God. . . ."

"I swear by God, in whose hand is my life, that marching about morning and evening to fight for religion is better than the world and everything that is in it; and verily the standing of one of you in the line of battle is better than supererogatory prayers performed in your house for sixty years."

THE LITERARY DIGEST this week, March 25th, presents as its leading article an intensely interesting and comprehensive explanation of the unrest which exists in large areas of the Eastern Hemisphere. The article is accompanied by a map which shows in graphic form the territory where the Moslems are challenging the rule of the Christian powers.

Other enlightening news-articles are:

- A Flare of Revolt in South Africa Wanted: The Truth About Coal "Tactful Pressure" on Europe
- Labor and Prohibition
- The Indian Explosion in England
- Washington After-Thoughts from Japan
- Where China's Salvation Lies
- Mining the Air
- Arctic Tractor Sledges
- A Jointed Passenger Train

- How to Keep Vitamins
- Misrepresenting New York in Fiction
- Housecleaning the Theatre
- The Tragedy in Bert Williams's Career
- A Prayer for Landlords
- Stage Stars and Moral Standards
- Darwinism in the Schools
- O. Henry As Letter Writer and Sketch Artist
- Topics of the Day

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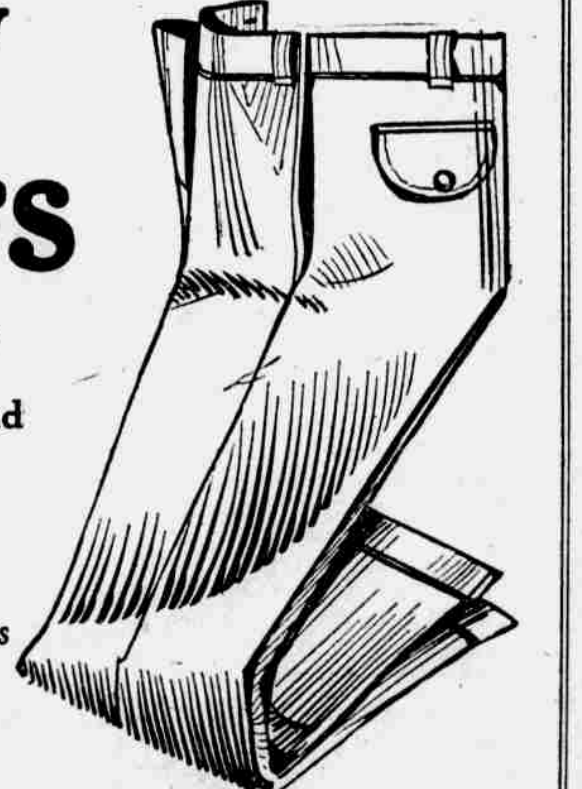
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Basement—East