

Omaha Police Force Will Become Political Football

Widow Robbed of \$10,000 by Attorney Detweiler, She Alleges

CIVIL SERVICE GONE MAKES IT POSSIBLE

New Body Will Form Nucleus for Big
Gangster Combination.

RINGER AND THOMAS FOR HALFBACKS

Harry Zimman Talks Out in School When Ringer Regime Comes
Up Before City Council—Nobody Wants Job on
Police Force.

Omaha people are now witnessing one of the most remarkable spectacles in the history of the city, so far as police affairs go. It is viewing a pitiful condition. Commissioner J. Dean Ringer is attempting to secure 100 men who will take jobs as police officers. It would appear that he should have no trouble, but he is having plenty of trouble.

With a law removing the civil service from Omaha's police force, and making it a political football for the crowd that is now in control of the city's affairs, it is no wonder that nobody wants a job as policeman. Men who hope to make a success in life even as a police officer, are not going to accept positions which are only temporary and where they will become the political puppets of designing police officials.

Mr. Zimman suggested the other day in city council meeting that people themselves would transfer Ringer to private life year from next May. In that event, without a civil service law, Omaha's police force would again come in for an extensive reorganization. It has not required any undoing of the civil service from Mr. Ringer to demoralize the police department, as shown by the work a mob two weeks ago at the court house. If he is to be given more rope we can understand how he himself will solve the problem of getting onto the force an entire new staff of men. He has paid no attention to the civil service laws and has slashed right and

left until he has simply made tin soldiers out of the entire force.

With such a condition, it was not surprising to see such an outbreak as came when the mob well nigh destroyed the court house. Mr. Zimman's proposition to remove Ringer and put another man in his place was a good one. This paper, admittedly, has never liked Mr. Ringer, but that cuts no figure. He has come into bad repute with thousands of Omaha citizens, even among his own supporters. Only the other day he is said to have sent an emissary to a South Side gentleman to ask if that gentleman had anybody he wanted put on the police force. The reply he received was that if any of his friends came after a job Ringer should thump their heads and then his own. If they sounded anything alike he thought they should not be employed.

The feeling has become pretty general that Ringer has been an absolute failure in the position he was elected to nearly two years ago. Omaha should have learned the lesson sooner, before such calamities as recently befell the city could have come about. This paper has not always agreed with Harry Zimman, but nothing was ever truer than the things he told the councilmanic body this week.

Just so long as men like Ringer are permitted to run loose with the city's money and the people's safety, just so long will conditions like those through which we are passing continue to be

(Continued on Page Two)

FIRST BREAK IN COMMISSION COMBINATION HAS SIGNIFICANCE

Attempt to Railroad Coulter Receives Upset When Falconer and
Towl Break Over Traces for First Time—Wise Council-
men Refuse to Be Made Ringer Goats.

The majority in the city council which has been able heretofore to carry out its wishes in a high-handed manner, has disappeared. The first break came Thursday when Commissioners Falconer and Towl joined Butler and Zimman in a vote by which the council declined to oust Officer Coulter from the Omaha police force.

It is the first time that Mr. Ringer and Mr. Ure have not been able to whip Towl and usually Falconer into line on any question of political significance. The vote is indicative of how these two men have felt on many matters that recently have given significance to the operation of the city's police department.

Both Towl and Falconer are admittedly associates of Ure and Ringer, but it is a relief to the public to know that they will not stultify themselves in the interest of Ringer's political ambitions, as opposed to the

public welfare. Mr. Falconer has been only lukewarm toward many of the bad projects put forth by Ringer and in many instances has openly opposed them. Mr. Towl, than whom no other person has stood higher in his own community, has stuck to Commissioner Ringer for policy sake. But Towl believes in fair dealing when it gets down to regular citizenship and has always opposed political chicanery of the sort Ringer has put forward.

The vote on the Coulter proposition has just this significance: Mr. Ringer can not get away with the rough stuff he has been pulling off in his department and Falconer and Towl are not willing to be a party to things which are so unsightly as the attempt Ringer has made to make fools out of his associates.

Incidentally, it will not be long before Omaha has another city campaign for a new commissioner lineup.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN



Doings In Omaha Fifty Years Ago

Frank Keegan visited with his wife for a few days during a lull in business at Keegan's office.

Jimmy Silk secured a patent on some new soft drink concoctions that were pronounced to be the latest in society necessities.

Oscar Leiben was just recovering from a stroke of funingitis, suffered while inflicting stunts on Ak-Sar-Ben friends.

Ed Malone was out with his usual line of stuff about who killed Cock Robin. He sure could spread it.

Jerry La Fontine dropped into our fair city to visit old acquaintances and "threw the bull" on North Sixteenth street.

The story about Ora Hulse being out looking for dead ones was declared to be all bunk. He charged Ted Rippen with starting the story.

Jimmy Cosgrove was taking an extended vacation in Iowa.

Harry Pearce was working overtime at the court house. It was not true that the fire destroyed all his private stock.

E. F. Roby spent a few days in looking over various locations for new business. Roby is said to have quite a number of places in view.

W. Nathan Watts dropped a penny into the sewer while purchasing an evening paper and then shorted the newsie.

County Attorney Has Immense Problem

These are unending days of labor for County Attorney Shotwell and his corps of assistants. Something like eighty-five men were placed in the county jail in connection with the court house fire and the lynching of September 28. In addition, innumerable felony cases of different degrees of seriousness are before him. The grand jury is charged with ferreting out the guilty ones and taking action.

Upon the county attorney falls the task of furnishing evidence and procuring witnesses in these cases and to appear at intervals with such evidence as may be at hand. Aside from this work he also has the usual term of the district court to take care of, so far as all criminal cases are concerned.

Altogether, Mr. Shotwell has nothing to do but work. He has been on the job about sixteen hours out of every twenty-four for the last two weeks, with no end in sight. Sundays are not holidays for him and his assistants. With so many cases to be heard, it would appear that the work of the grand jury is only fairly begun. The work of this body is an important one. Douglas county has had no grand jury for a long time and, even had there been no riot, it would seem that there was a vast amount of work for such a body.

The county attorney, in his official capacity, has had the work of presenting hundreds of criminal matters for action by that body. He is charged with various duties which, to a certain extent, make him an official investigator. Thus Mr. Shotwell is certainly earning his salary. He has been acting with a firm hand, but at the same time been using good judgment. It is part of his work to avoid trivial affairs and at the same time leave nothing undone to see that no real offender is overlooked. If all signs are true, Shotwell has not overlooked any bets thus far.

MRS. MICKEY RECITES TALE OF PERSECUTION

Says Well-Known Methodist Leader
Returned Stone for Water.

LAWYER PAYS \$500 FOR ASSAULTS

Remarkable Story of Prosecution and Robbery Told in District
Court Petition—Daughter Chases Detweiler From
Mother's Home on One Occasion.

Through a petition recently filed in the district court has come to light one of the most glaring cases of persecution of a widow, to say nothing of something bordering on highway robbery that has ever come to the notice of the courts of Douglas county.

The petition is made by Joicy O. Mickey against John O. Detweiler, with offices in the Paxton block, who makes pretense of practicing law and dealing in real estate. Mrs. Mickey is a widow, whose son was a victim of German bullets in France. His body now lies in a national cemetery near New York. Detweiler is a "pillar" of the First Methodist church. When Rev. Titus Lowe prays "God bless us and keep us" Detweiler, from his pew near the front, shouts "Amen," and other incantations to emphasize the minister's appeals to God Almighty.

Detweiler, according to the petition, became Mrs. Mickey's attorney and financial manager several years ago. She placed complete confidence in him in her various troubles. When her son was called to the army, she could do naught but employ some person to care for her different interests. The son was the victim of three German bullets, which disfigured his face beyond recognition. He was returned to New York and underwent nine operations at Bellevue hospital. His nose, which had been entirely torn away, was replaced by the grafting system and other parts of his face similarly treated. He declined to return home until he felt that he would be presentable to his family. He was being taken with other convalescents in a parade in New York some months ago and fell dead, the result of much tissue having been removed to replace the facial depredations of the German bullets.

Meanwhile, Detweiler was doing something besides defending his country. One night Mrs. Mickey's married daughter came home from Sioux City on a visit. As she approached the door she heard her mother scream and rushed into the home. There she found her mother with her clothing well nigh torn from her body and heard some person rush up the stairway. She raced up behind the man, only to find Detweiler hiding in a bath room closet. She dragged him out and kicked him downstairs, crushing his hat over his head as he went. For this bit of degenerate foolishness Detweiler paid \$500 for the civil action without it coming to trial, but the criminal end of the matter was never pushed.

Mrs. Mickey owned two pieces of Omaha property. On one of these she built a residence. She gave the German Bank of Millard a mortgage for \$2,200 which money she used to build the residence. Later she borrowed \$500 from the German Bank of Millard for similar purposes. She executed mortgages on both pieces of property to cover these loans.

Now, to better understand these

loans, let it be known that the Detweilers own the German Bank of Millard. In other words, Detweiler acted for Mrs. Mickey as attorney, personal adviser, and financier. When he got through with her he had every nickel she possessed, according to the petition.

After negotiating these loans, Detweiler secured from Mrs. Mickey an order turning over all rents, incomes and profits collected on her property, to the German Bank of Millard. About that time a local fixture concern filed a mechanic's lien on Mrs. Mickey's property for \$33.75 for some fixtures that had been placed in one of the houses. The Bank of Millard was made a party to the lien. Mrs. Mickey asked Detweiler to take care of the matter and have the claim satisfied and dismissed. He assured her he would do so, and she gave the matter no further thought. But he "wrongfully, fraudulently and deceitfully failed to appear," says the petition. Default was permitted on payment of one \$100 note and of taxes by Detweiler, the petition says, and Detweiler caused foreclosure to be made on the property.

Detweiler bid the property in on foreclosure and secured an order of ejection from the court. A sheriff's deputy was thus forced to eject Mrs. Mickey from her home. She also lost property valued at \$10,000, all of which came into Detweiler's hands, the petition states.

This is one of the most remarkable cases ever coming before the courts, and shows to what extent this unprincipled pup has gone to rob this widow woman of every penny she possessed. The rentals on the property were sufficient to care for the mortgage and taxes and Mrs. Mickey believed Detweiler was using her money for that purpose.

"It was the saddest day of my life when I was compelled to enforce that order of eviction," said Deputy Sheriff Jimmy Lindsay. "It was at a time when Mrs. Mickey was grieving over the loss of her son in the war, and after she had been robbed of her last nickel by an unprincipled brute of German extraction."

The Detweilers were under fire during the war. Their Millard bank was charged more than once with pro-Germanism and the owners were said to be under espionage throughout the duration of the war.

Detweiler's conscience does not appear to hurt him any. He still poses as one of the big benefactors to the First Methodist church. One of the leaders of that fine church who is a lawyer, refused to take up Detweiler's defense and other attorneys of standing have shied at it.

Up in the Paxton block, where Detweiler has an office, some very uncomplimentary remarks were heard of him. One of the tenants, a real estate dealer, said he charged a local business man \$325 for negotiating a loan of \$1,000. Others have told of similar doings.

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WOMEN WILL VOTE AT NEXT ELECTION

The women of Douglas county, and especially of Omaha, are preparing to make themselves felt at the coming November elections, where the principal matters at stake will be the propositions to issue bonds. It is practically conceded that most of them will vote for the bonds and that they will be carried by substantial majorities.

At the same time, politicians will take note of the results of this election. It will hardly be indicative of the power of the woman vote, because the issues are not such as will appeal to any particular class of the gentler sex. It will be interesting, however, to see them in action and political statisticians will give considerable time to studying the result of their vote at this time.

When the bars are laid down to women for voting on all questions we will doubtless witness the same divisions of opinion that we see in other lines of feminine life. The same political differences that have been heretofore fought out by the men will then be fought out by the women. The scraps ought to be worth reading and writing about. We know hundreds of women who are just as good fighters as the men and their differences of opinion will be just as emphatically registered as are those of the masculine sex.

When "Dutch" Minnie and Mrs. Garrity go to the polls and take their friends with them they will all register right up with the Dundee society crowd and will elbow with them at the polling booth. Maybe there will be some hair pulling. We doubt not that business will be good, once it gets regularly under way.

POPE BENEDICT OBSERVER OF WOMEN'S FASHIONS

Pope Benedict has had some things to say about women's dress, and he has spoken about as plainly as anybody could ask him to speak. In that brief, but to the point address, he also gave renewed evidence of his keeping quite in touch with the doings of the world while caring for the spiritual being of the millions of Catholics who reverence him.

Truth is, women's fashions have run the male population of the world ragged. These fashions have become so pronounced in brevity that even the pope of Rome has felt it necessary to take cognizance of the situation. Some of our Omaha ladies have undertaken to say that Pope Benedict's remarks concern only Europe and eastern America, but they are wrong.

Thousands of Omaha women have adopted the "stylish and up-to-date fashions," many of them designed with small consideration for female modesty. Most of the modern dresses are designed with a view to displaying well formed lower limbs and better developed "large artillery," with bodices trimmed for the display.

These contrivances are really attractive for even the old codger, no longer harmful to society. But sprightly young America never fails to make notes of these fashions. They actually please him. Many the case of pneumonia and tuberculosis that has followed the observance of these fashions, but they go on just the same. Many old maids, who had no other physical or mental charms, have snatched the opportunity of modern female dress to get into the limelight. Many the old male fossil who has taken the fall for the "simplicity" of the modern old maid.

Pope Benedict has not overstepped the mark, but, like bolshevism, the custom has almost got beyond control. The good pope, in his beneficent concern for the Catholic people, has made some suggestions about woman's dress reform. His concern, also, extends to the Protestants, because he feels the same concern for all people.

Talk about high prices being responsible for the abbreviated waist and skirt will not make much of a hit with those who are familiar with female lingerie. What has been trimmed from the upper and nether garments, so far as price is concerned, has been added to the daintiness of the festoons which have been conceived by the designer to cover in their partial manner those important portions of female anatomy.

His holiness has tackled a big subject. He, like the rest of us, lives in a time when even the women do things. In his long and useful life he has not failed to get a good conception of the weakness of man and the frailty of women. His latest remarks on woman's dress are the natural outcome. Many Catholic women, representing great organizations of their sisters, even forestalled the pope in his declarations, by passing censure on some of our modern ideas of female dress.

While Catholics will doubtless take due cognizance of the holy father's remarks, those of other faiths will do well to consider them carefully and benefit to an extent which will make dress reform for women a proposition of "up and down from the center" instead of "down and up."

So far as Holy Writ reveals, Eve was about the only person who dressed in accordance with our modern notions of female raiment.

MEDIATION

The columns of the Mediator are open for expression of opinion on any of the subjects enumerated below. Communications must be accompanied by name and address of writer. Capital and labor are equally invited to respond to this invitation. Send communications to 512 Brown Block.

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 The Preying Stock Gambler.
 The Evil of Strikes.
 The Misunderstanding of Labor by Capital.
 The Wrong View of Capital Held by Labor.

CIVIL SERVICE GONE MAKES IT POSSIBLE

(Continued from Page One)
 the result. When he took on Elmer Thomas as an adviser, he made a serious mistake. Thomas apparently had little or no interest in public matters, except a wish to pay off some old political scores. The result was that between Ringer and Thomas they have made a sickening spectacle of the police department.

When the matter came up in council the other day Mr. Zimman gave evidence of being very much on the job and also indicated that he was unwilling, as a councilman, to share the responsibility for the utter hopelessness of the police department.

Just what good excuse there was for passing legislation taking the civil service system away from police department is not understood by those who have stood for good service. With the new order of things it is to be expected that a political ring will be formed, with the police department forming its nucleus. It has been charged that Omaha was under gang rule before the last election. If that was true, the bad condition has been increased a thousand fold.

MISS NEILSON SAYS "STOCK" FOR AMATEURS

The girl who plays the Hawaiian dancing girl in "A Night in Honolulu," which will play a return engagement at the Brandeis next Sunday, is a young woman who has made her way on the stage by careful study. Players are often asked about how to get on the stage, and how to succeed after they have managed to secure an engagement.

The inevitable question was put to this miss and the interviewer found that the young lady had very definite and set ideas on the subject of her profession. Miss Constance Neilson, who plays this part, says that the only and practical way for one ambitious to learn the ways of the stage is to "act." The various schools of acting may be well enough in their way, but her observation of the graduates has been that they are harder to fit into a role than a person who has had no training at all.

The stock company is the best school which can be found in the country today, while there is little chance for study and characterization still it does give the student the opportunity to study and see the result certain intonations and gestures have on an audience.

Miss Neilson will be seen at the Brandeis Sunday evening in "A Night in Honolulu," where it is booked for a return engagement on the one night only.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BACKS YANKTON BRIDGE

The proposed new bridge across the Platte at Yankton, S. D., is receiving favorable consideration by Omaha Chamber of Commerce officials. The completion of this bridge will open a new highway from Nebraska leading directly into South Dakota, and is a project which has been advocated by Omaha business men for a number of years. The construction of a new gateway from Yankton into the well developed Dakotas will mean a tremendous volume of business for Omaha and surrounding trade territory. A special committee from the Omaha chamber has been sent to Yankton to confer on the proposition.

NEBRASKA CLOTHIERS NAME ANNUAL MEETING DATE

At a recent meeting of the directors of the Nebraska State Clothiers' association it was decided to hold the annual meeting in Omaha, February 4 to 6, 1920. The Men's Apparel Club of Nebraska will hold their meeting in conjunction with the clothiers' convention. Schuyler M. Durfee of Pierce, Neb., is president of the clothiers' association, and N. C. Holman of Lincoln is secretary. Mike Kelley of Columbus is president of the Apparel club, and Dan Dorsey of Omaha is secretary.

REAL ESTATE BUSINESS DEMORALIZED BY FLAMES

Indexes in Register of Deeds Office Destroyed by Rioters Puts Realtors in Bad Fix.

People in Douglas county are beginning to count the cost of the riot of September 28, when the court house was fired and records of inestimable value were destroyed. Real estate men are among the big losers because of the destruction in the office of Register of Deeds Harry Pearce.

Although the concrete record books, in which are recorded deeds, contracts and other important documents pertaining to real estate transfers were recorded, were safely stowed away in the vaults, the indexes to these records were on the shelves and were destroyed by the fire. The work of making new indexes will require many months' employment of numerous clerks. Meanwhile the efforts of real estate men and abstractors to secure records of transfers is almost at a standstill. The same condition has upset entirely the work of realtors to carry on the business of buying and selling real estate.

When there is a transfer of real estate an abstract is required, for instance. Nobody purchases property without an abstract, sworn to by a bonded abstractor. These abstractors depend on the county records for their information. The records are so voluminous that a good sized library of indexes to these books is necessary. The indexes have all been burned.

Now abstractors are confronted with the work of going over hundreds of immense volumes to find even the smallest realty transfer. The result is that the real estate business is well nigh at a standstill.

GRAND JURY ON JOB WITH MUCH BUSINESS

The grand jury is busy and is daily receiving many witnesses who are being interrogated. Already a bunch of indictments have been returned, as a result of the rioting at the court house two weeks ago.

Matters before this body, it is said, are numerous and include many things outside the court house affair. The meetings are secret, of course, the only reports coming out being those of indictments which are given out from time to time.

The grand jury is an important body, in whom much interest always rests. The length of existence of the present grand jury is very indefinite, because of the large number of cases expected to come before it in connection with the riot and lynching.

AK-SAR-BEN MAKING BIG PLUNGE FOR THE FUTURE

The Ak-Sar-Ben exposition, to be financed for a million dollars, is something that will interest every Nebraskan. The plans are elaborate and it will be one of the greatest enterprises of its kind in the country. Long ago this big booster organization outgrew its second childhood and is now out in front for permanent success. The location is almost within the city limits. With added transportation facilities, this can be made the acme of expositions and annual fall shows. Everybody should get behind the project to raise the million dollars.

DOUBLE-HEADER FOOTBALL GAME IN OMAHA OCTOBER 25

On Saturday, October 25, one of the greatest football games ever scheduled in the state will be played in Omaha. After considerable effort on the part of the University of Nebraska Alumni association arrangements were made to have a game played in Omaha. On the above date Nebraska will meet the University of Oklahoma, and Creighton university will play Marquette university. Tickets for the game can be obtained by addressing the office of the Real Estate Board, 308 South Eighteenth street, Omaha.

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