

KOKOMO WOMEN FIX MEETING AS CRIME PROTEST

Call Sent Out Demands Action to Check City Wave of Thugger.

Special to The Times.
KOKOMO, Ind., Feb. 17.—A general meeting of women has been arranged for Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the city council chamber. The call for the meeting has been signed by Mrs. L. M. Knepple, Mrs. N. T. Gause, Mrs. A. B. Armstrong, Mrs. W. T. Arnold, Mrs. Ols A. Smith, Mrs. C. M. Randolph, Mrs. Ida B. Hopkins, Dr. Anna Landen, Mrs. R. H. Wattles, Mrs. Emma Wright, Mrs. C. K. McCullough, and Mrs. L. R. Nafziger, all prominent in social and civic affairs of the city.

The call reads:

"In view of the deplorable conditions and the abandonment which has obtained in our city during the last few months, culminating in some of the most distressing episodes in the history of Kokomo, it is evident from the number of flagrant misdeeds, the robbery and other felonies that we are dominated by the thing element. This condition has brought much embarrassment to the citizens of Kokomo as a result of the notoriety obtained thereby.

"The situation has become so acute and the patience of the better class of citizens so tried that a demand has arisen for immediate action to prevent a further occurrence."

VAN BRIGGLE IS INDICTED FOR USE OF MAIIS

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he received large amounts on royalty contracts from the company.

News of the indictment of Van Briggle occasioned no surprise to persons about the Federal building, as the action was forecasted about a month ago, when a large number of men, known to be stockholders in various Van Briggle enterprises, came from all over Indiana to testify before the grand jury.

The career of Van Briggle in the past few years has been little short of sensational, his rise in the commercial world being only exceeded in rapidity by the sudden fall in the last six months. Less than a year ago he was widely regarded as a financial genius and a coming captain of industry.

Mr. Van Briggle was an active member of the First Baptist Church and took a prominent part in religious affairs. It is said that in his first days in the meetings of his companies were opened with prayer, and that only a few weeks before the crash came the teacher of one of the largest Sunday school classes in Indianapolis had devoted a large part of one lesson to pointing to Van Briggle as the type of man who was both a sinner and a saint, a man who had sinned and holding him up as a man worthy of the emulation of members of the class.

ORGANIZED COMPANY IN 1915.

After practicing law in Indianapolis for several years as a member of the firm of Wiley & Van Briggle, he organized the Van Briggle Motor Device Company in 1915 with himself as president and began the manufacture of the Van Briggle carburetor, which soon became a standard automobile and was added to the line, and it was the manufacture of this article that eventually started the company on its downward plunge that ended in the collapse of the entire string of Van Briggle enterprises.

Meantime the Van Briggle Manufacturing Company was organized to manufacture an automobile trailer and operated two plants, one at Fowler and one at Mooresville. In 1917 the Van Briggle Motor Company was organized to take over the manufacture of a well-known proprietary article. A year ago the three Van Briggle concerns were at their peak and it is said that there was a ready market for their securities.

The first cloud in the skies of prosperity appeared last spring when Judge Albert B. Anderson, Ind. Federal Court, ruled that a suit for injunction filed by the Van Briggle Motor Device Company was an infringement on patents owned by Robert H. Hassler, Inc., of this city, and granted an injunction forbidding the manufacture of the infringing article. He also ordered an accounting.

CHANGE IN AFFAIRS BEGINS.

Right here the Van Briggle sun began to set. Late in August a suit for receiver of the Van Briggle Manufacturing Company was filed in Superior Court, room 3, and Judge Solon B. Moore, William E. Ritter as receiver. This started the avalanche. Within less than a month the Van Briggle Motor Device Company was thrown into receivership in the Marion Circuit Court by stockholders of the company and Judge Harry Chamberlain named W. R. Hirst as receiver. The Van Briggle Chemical Company underwent a complete reorganization and was taken over by the Celery-Vease Company and Van Briggle was dropped from the directors.

In November, William E. Ritter, receiver for the Van Briggle Manufacturing Company, filed suit for \$100,000 against Van Briggle and individual members of the board of directors for mismanagement of the affairs of the company. This was preceded by a suit for \$100,000 filed by W. R. Hirst, receiver of the Van Briggle Motor Device Company, making similar charges. These suits are now pending in the local State courts. In these complaints and in the complaints asking for receivership, serious charges of a sensational character were made. It was alleged that Van Briggle, while an officer of the company, had a secret understanding for stock and for himself that had misappropriated funds, that he had misappropriated the financial affairs of the companies, that he had paid out company funds without the authorization of the board of directors, and that he had even gone so far as to make a false income tax return and to pay out a large sum in income taxes for one of the companies in order to create the impression that it was making a great deal of money when as a matter of fact it was on the verge of insolvency. Many charges of this same general character were made.

F. Prange Funeral to Be Held Sunday

Funeral services for Frederick Prange, 86, who died at his home, 337 North Davidson street, Wednesday after three days' illness, will be held from the residence Sunday with the Rev. J. G. Mathis as officiating. Burial will be in the Lutheran cemetery.

Mr. Prange was in the grain milling business in Indianapolis for many years. He was born in Germany, Nov. 10, 1843, and came to the United States in 1854.

The widow, two daughters, Minnie, of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Louise Klinck of Lafayette, and two sons, Fred, residing at 1320 East Vermont street, and Henry, thought to be in Wyoming, survive.

GO TO INSANE COLONY.

Charles Iris Hornerock, who killed his father and brother, and John Hungate, charged with a criminal assault on a 12-year-old girl, today were taken by Sheriff George Sander to the insane colony at the State Prison. The sheriff was accompanied by Dr. Paul F. Robinson, county coroner, and several policemen.

EMPLOYERS SCRAP LABOR SPY SYSTEM

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Spies were being squeezed out of the nation's industry today.

Elaborate intelligence systems maintained by employers as "strike insurance" are being dismantled in the present re-adjustment period.

The methods of labor spies to work beside employees in industrial plants was a product of the labor scarcity in the boom days during the war.

Reports given to employers on the state of mind of employees enabled the former in many cases to prevent labor difficulties by remedying conditions or eliminating agitators.

Strikes no longer are feared by man-

ufacturers, they say, because of the present abundant labor. Men now think many times before throwing down their tools, employers believe, because they know large numbers are jobless.

Another reason for scrapping the intelligence systems is the retrenchment of the war.

A survey just completed by the Chicago Federation of Labor showed that industrial intelligence operatives are rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

Several strike-breaking agencies have closed their doors here recently. Thousand of "pinks," as professional strike-breakers are called, have joined the army of unemployed.

BILL TO AID IN CITY BUYING IS NOT PREPARED

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who prepares the city administration. The corporation counsel, being opposed to most legislation in city government, said he had not the authority, it is said, is deliberately delaying preparation of the bill. Meanwhile, Mr. Ritter, his friends say, has been morally prevented from having the bill prepared outside the administration because Mayor Jewett has not yet taken back his promise to put the measure through.

Friends of the storehouse system and some people who still believe Mr. Jewett meant what he said when he promised Indianapolis a business administration, are unable to understand why the legislative plans have been sidetracked. If the mayor had been seriously inclined to support the plan he would have seen to it that the bill was among the other administrative measures presented in the Legislature several weeks ago, they say.

Both men were released on bonds. The women were not arrested.

In city court both men were convicted of operating a blind tiger and were fined \$50 and costs, which they paid.

Lieutenant Winkler and a squad of police failed an alleged resort at 230 North Liberty street in arresting Edna Phillips, 45, on a charge of keeping a resort, Nellie Demal, 26, on a statutory charge, and two men, who give the names of John O'Brien of Columbus and Charles Marion, 49, West New York street, on the charge of associating.

Sergeant Volderauer and a squad raided 456 East Ohio street and arrested Philip McDonald, 37, and Kate Leveron, 30, on statutory charged.

The police arrested Beatrice Jackson, negro, 621 East Court street, charging her with keeping a resort. Herman Lessley, 29, 118 North Noble street, was arrested on a charge of associating.

Two men giving the names of Nellie Jones, 23, 118 North Noble street, and Anna Bobb, 623 East Ohio street, were arrested on vagrancy charges in East street near Washington street.

Patrolman Roman arrested Dan Ban and Fleming Garden on a charge of operating a blind tiger. The policeman declared he found two gallons of "white gold" whisky in a buggy in a basement.

The woman was riding in West street.

The Senate also passed Senator Strode's bill giving judges of Circuit Courts power to appoint bailiffs at a salary not to exceed \$4 a day. The measure would raise the present bailiff's salary from \$2 a day to the option of the judge.

The Senate also passed Senator Strode's bill fixing the salary of the commandant of the State Soldiers' Home at \$2,500, the adjutant at \$1,500 and the surgeon at \$2,500 was passed.

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