

BOOTLEGGERS SAYS BANKS HELPED HIM

Inside Story of Whisky Business Is Told to House Alcoholic Committee.

SENSATION IS EXPECTED

Big Names Mentioned, Including Dry Chief Andrews.

By Roscoe B. Fleming
Times Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, June 17.—A small, middle-aged, crippled man, poorly dressed and carrying a crutch, sat before the House Committee on the alcoholic liquor traffic and testified Wednesday afternoon and night.

As he testified one could feel the attitude of the whisky committee change into electric interest. For, in the bootleg vernacular, the little man had the "stuff." He made the spectators and the committee feel that a real figure in that mighty industry of the shadows, bootlegging, was lifting the curtain upon the actual workings of the industry.

Big Names Mentioned

His name is William C. Davidson and he lives in Los Angeles. As a bootlegger his name was William Caine, he said. He had been a liquor salesman and buyer. Big names on the enforcement side of the law, including those of General Lincoln C. Andrews and Wayne B. Wheeler, entered into his story.

He said high officials in national banks in California, Oregon and at Detroit, Mich., handled and expedited his bootlegging deals.

He gave names, dates and places. When he had forgotten a man's name, he told how he looked, what he wore, where his desk was.

The Bank's Part

The bank's part, it appeared, was to hold the cash of checks concerned in the purchase or sale of whisky until the deal was completed. Buyer and seller were mutually suspicious.

And Davidson only told a fraction. Time after time he refused to detail cases, because, as he said, "that guy gave me a square deal." Only when he felt he had been double-crossed, it was evident, would he talk.

Then he told how 10,000 cases of high grade wines and whiskeys had been concentrated in Crawford County, Ohio, just before the Shrine convention of 1923 in Washington, for a "big annual visit in Washington." Two thousand cases of this, he said, had been brought to Washington and the rest distributed in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit and Indianapolis. The Crawford County plant, he said, was at the hub of a wheel, from which distribution was easy.

Used Circus Car

He told how, pretending to be a vaudeville performer, he had repeatedly with the connivance of railroad officials, loaded whisky on a circus baggage coach and shipped it to and from Memphis, New Orleans, Los Angeles and other towns.

He told how he had decided to "turn straight" on June 2, 1925, and had wired General Andrews in Washington in September that he had important evidence, detailing it. Andrews referred him to the southern California prohibition chief, he said. He got the Anti-Saloon League interested and he and the League's southern California head worked to get the district attorney to take action. Finally, he said, he was cut off by W. W. Anderson, assistant southern California prohibition director, under peculiar circumstances. The California "special agent" had already offered him \$10,000 for his story, he added.

Tried to See Andrews

Then he came to Washington to see Andrews, he said, and, unable to see him, went to Representative La Guardia of New York with his story. La Guardia had a row with the committee and threatened to hold a "one-man hearing" if the committee didn't hear Davidson and the hearing was finally arranged. Davidson promises to become the center of a big prohibition sensation if he lives. He refused to give his Washington address, because, he said, in a matter of fact tone, "I don't want to be bumped off."

Telling Truth

"He's telling the absolute truth," said Kvale. "What a rotten mess it is under present enforcement methods."

"The man was telling the truth," said Upshaw. "It's a terrible expose. Two years ago I advocated revocation of the charter of a national bank found having such relations with the bootleg industry. This hearing shows I was right two years ago."

ODD TOMB IS PREPARED

Agnostic Seeks Burial Place That Is Different.

By United Press
FRANKLIN, N. H., June 17.—Wishing to have his last resting place different from the conventional P. L. Kennedy, 75-year-old agnostic, has erected a tomb to receive his ashes at death.

The walls of the sepulchre, which is fashioned somewhat after a prison cell, are decorated with pictures of Robert Ingersoll and Thomas Paine.

Parade, Contests Feature Firemen's Session



Some of the delegates attending Northern Indiana Industrial and Volunteer Firemen's Association convention.

THROGS GREET CARDINAL TRAIN

(Continued From Page 1)

chimes on all Catholic churches in the city echoed a welcome.

When the luxurious red train stopped a few churchmen, garbed in somber black, alighted and they were followed by the cardinal's train. His red robes gleamed through the mist and fog which hung threateningly over the city.

Embraced by Mundelein

Cardinal Mundelein, also garbed in red cardinal robes, stepped forward and embraced the representative of Pope Pius XI—embraced him in the name of the church, the city and in the name of friendship.

Numerous of the other churchmen grouped about knelt and kissed the cardinal's ring as he extended his hand. Immediately following Cardinal Bonzano came eight other princes of the church, all but one from foreign countries.

After the greetings at the station, the procession started along through cloistered Michigan Blvd. to the Holy Name cathedral, seat of the Chicago archdiocese.

March in Rain

Despite the spitting rain and threats of a downpour, women garbed in their Sunday finery and men—many in full morning attire—stood waiting for the procession to pass. Most of the men were bareheaded.

As the procession turned off spacious Michigan Blvd. onto the street which leads to the Holy Name cathedral, the crowd increased. Mounted police kept the lines open for the procession.

Mighty Throng

The throng around the church was one of the greatest single crowds Chicago had ever seen. Down every street extended the thousands who had arrived to pay reverence to the eminent visitors. Every sidewalk and street was crowded.

The ten cardinals, in groups of two, slowly marched up the carpeted stairway and entered for the first informal services of the great congress.

The church was brilliantly decorated. Papal colors adorned all of the walls. Festoons of grapes and grains hung along the sides and the lights were dim as the ten princes of the church slowly walked to the altar.

Mass was celebrated, following which the nine visiting cardinals said prayers of thanksgiving for their safe arrival. Cardinal Mundelein issued the welcome address and Cardinal Bonzano gave the response.

SPEED THROUGH LA PORTE

2,000 Gather at Station to See Special.

By United Press
LA PORTE, Ind., June 17.—The Red Cardinal Special passed through La Porte at 7:45 a. m. but did not stop. Nearly 2,000 persons saw the train speed through the city.

WELCOME AT SOUTH BEND

Ten Thousand See Papal Train—Stop at Elkhart Also.

By United Press
SOUTH BEND, Ind., June 17.—South Bend today paid a noisy but reverent welcome to the nine princes of the Catholic Church who passed here for ten minutes on their cardinal special train, en route to Chicago for the twenty-eighth International Eucharistic Congress.

Led by a sixty-piece band, garbed in scarlet uniforms, more than 10,000 persons were assembled at the New York Central station at the brilliant seven-coach train came to a halt near the station.

Benediction

Black-robed priests from the University of Notre Dame and many students for the priesthood were among the throng that stood cheering and waving as the nine cardinals appeared on the observation platform. Silence fell upon the throng, for only a moment, while John Cardinal Bonzano, papal delegate to the congress, pronounced a solemn benediction.

Then, after a ten-minute pause, the cardinal train moved slowly from the station at 7:05 a. m. It was due to arrive in Chicago at 10 a. m., where George Cardinal Mundelein will welcome the visiting cardinals.

Stop at Elkhart

The luxuriously appointed cardinal special train, arrived here at 6:55

The Northern Indiana Industrial and Volunteer Firemen's Association closed its two-day convention today with a parade, starting at 1 p. m., and firemen's contests of ladder climbing and hose laying at 2 p. m.

Bluffton Wins

In the morning session the Bluffton, Ind., volunteer fire fighters won over the Bowser Tank Company's industrial smoke eaters, of Ft. Wayne, in a water battle. In the preliminary battles the Bowser company beat the General Electric team of Ft. Wayne, and the Bluffton company beat the Lynn, Ind., company.

Members of the winning teams were: Bowser Tank Company, J. Bechtel, G. Shaver and N. Stuffer; Bluffton, J. Bales, E. H. Brooks, and

a. m., a 15-minute run from Elkhart, Ind., where an earlier 10-minute halt was made.

At Elkhart between 1,000 and 2,000 persons were gathered. Cardinal Bonzano was presented with a golden trumpet, gift from an Elkhart man. The papal legate spoke a few words of appreciation.

Mayor Chester R. Montgomery, headed the city's official reception committee here and presented the distinguished churchmen with a bouquet of American Beauty roses.

NEW TRIAL IS SOUGHT

Gas City Man Convicted of Shooting Girl.

By United Press
MARION, Ind., June 17.—A new trial was sought today for Nelson Fleener, 38, married man of Gas City, convicted of assault and battery with intent to commit murder. The conviction carries a prison sentence of two to fourteen years.

Fleener shot and wounded Olie Mae Creek, pretty 22-year-old stenographer, because, it is alleged, she rejected his attentions.

CAR LICENSE CHANGED

Patrolman Discovers Stolen Car With Plates Switched.

Hopes to find an auto reported stolen by Reese E. Adams, 52 S. Eighth St., Beech Grove, Ind., deserted in the city, were blasted early today when Patrolman James Farrell, found an auto reported stolen by Ray H. Mount, 1421 E. Vermont St., at Pike St. and Ralston Ave.

Some washers were found behind the Mount auto where the thieves had changed the license plates. Adams license was number 523-860. The plates on Mount's auto were dealers' license M-650.

Police said the same men probably stole both autos.

AUTO THEFT CHARGED

Brothers, Another Youth Held on Vehicle Taking Charge.

Charles Reddington, 17, of 1456 S. Belmont Ave., and Paul Minter, 18, Maywood, were charged with vehicle taking today by State Policeman Charles Bridges.

The two with Ray Minter, 19, a brother of Paul Minter, who was arrested previously, are alleged to have stolen a car owned by Morris Freeman, 1288 Oliver Ave., and driven it to Waverly, Ind. Detectives Lansing and Maas questioned the trio.

COOLIDGE AID WEDS

By Times Special
NEWPORT, R. I., June 17.—Mrs. Margaret Pakenstock Stokes of New York, Washington and Newport was married here Tuesday to Lieut. Benjamin L. Holcombe, junior aide to President Coolidge.

MYERS RELIGIOUS JOURNAL EDITOR

Appointment of Newspaper Man Announced.

Joseph Myers Jr., Indianapolis newspaper man, has been selected as the editor of a new liberal weekly journal of religion, "The Christian."



Myers

Myers received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Washburn College in 1916, with election to Phi Beta Kappa, and the Bachelor of Divinity degree from the College of the Bible, affiliated with Transylvania College, Lexington, Ky., in 1919. He was pastor of a church of the Disciples of Christ in Kansas City and a member of the editorial staff of The Kansas City Post before he came to Indianapolis in 1921.

Recently he has been executive secretary for Indiana of the League of Nations Nonpartisan Association. His successor in this work will not be selected until September. Headquarters of the association will be maintained in the office of Dr. Alva W. Taylor, secretary of the Board of Social Welfare of the Disciples of Christ, in the Occidental Bldg.

REBUILD DRILL TOWER

Firemen Reconstruct Structure at Engine House No. 30.

Firemen today were busy reconstructing the drill tower dismantled when the city garage was built on the ground it once occupied back of the central fire station at New York and Alabama Sts. The six-story structure will be erected at Station 30 at New Jersey and South Sts.

PROWLER TEARS SHIRT

Man Reports Tussle With "Peeping Tom" in Yard of Home.

Robert Calvelage, 2243 N. Pennsylvania St., has a torn shirt today as a result of a scuffle with a "peeping Tom" who was looking in the window of his home late Wednesday.

Calvelage told police the man fled after he failed in his attempt to capture him.

ELLER REIMBURSED

By Times Special
CONERSVILLE, Ind., June 17.—Hod Eller, Indianapolis policeman who lost his purse while catching a rum runner, here recently, has been reimbursed. Citizens raised \$30 for him.

INDIANAPOLIS GIRL NAMED

By Times Special
FT. WAYNE, Ind., June 17.—Grand president of the Psi Iota Xi sorority today was Miss Helen Seward of Indianapolis. Officers were elected at the national convention here Wednesday.

FORTY GET DIPLOMAS

By Times Special
MARION, Ind., June 17.—A four-day commencement program at Taylor University here was concluded today. Forty graduates were awarded diplomas Wednesday.

POLICE RAPPED BY CHURCH MEN

(Continued From Page 1)

was expected that the Federal quizzes eventually would dovetail.

The Letter

The letter follows:
"Dear Chief Johnson:
"The attention of the members of the Downey Avenue Christian Church Men's Club has been called to a number of statements in the newspapers of recent date, which suggest that you have taken umbrage at remarks made by Mr. W. H. Remy, prosecuting attorney, at a recent meeting of the Men's Club, and that you have therefore taken an unfriendly attitude toward Mr. Remy."

"The members of the Men's Club are greatly surprised at the attitude and actions ascribed to you in the newspapers, and feel that you must be acting on an inaccurate report of what transpired."

"May we give a resume of what took place at the meeting referred to?"

"Mr. Remy was speaking about the difficulties in the way of law enforcement, and dealt with them under three general heads: (1) The connection between police and politics, (2) cumbersome legal procedure, including professional bondsmen and trick lawyers, (3) the parole and pardon system."

Emphasis Equal

"No more emphasis was placed on the police situation than on either of the others."

"The statements made in regard to the police department were, for the most part, such as has been substantiated frequently by stories published in the news columns of our daily papers."

"The essential thing was that the department as a whole is in the grip of politics. Surely this cannot be questioned in view of the fact that the law requires half the policemen to belong to each of the major political parties in the city. Nor does it seem possible to deny it, when each change in the city administration brings with it a complete re-shuffling of the entire force."

"And when certain policemen are definitely proved to have connived open violation of the law, and are retained on the force after receiving a 'slap on the wrist,' and a fine, a matter given wide publicity in our papers recently, what reason other than political influence can be given for their retention?"

"Tipping Off"

"Mr. Remy referred to other things which are more or less matters of common knowledge to all who read the papers, such as the 'tipping off' of persons whose places are about to be raided, and the retaining of men on the force, who have been guilty of drunkenness and the like. But, dear chief, nothing was said derogatory to you personally."

"On the contrary the statement was made that we have a good chief of police, but that he too is hampered by the political system. Nor was condemnation passed on every policeman, in fact, Mr. Remy stated, that he felt 75 per cent of the police force was sincerely and honestly trying to enforce the laws."

"Mr. Remy gave his hearers the impression that he could abundantly prove all his assertions. His attitude throughout was calm and judicial."

"His one constructive suggestion, in regard to the police force, was that the police be taken entirely out of politics and put on a civil service basis, and promotions and assignments be based solely on merit."

Agree With Suggestions

"With these suggestions, every one of his hearers, we believe, agreed. His address was a powerful indictment of a system which good citizens deplore, and would like to see corrected, but had nothing in it which could be construed as an attack on you."

"May we say that statements and actions attributed to you since the address, such, for instance, as the withdrawal of detectives assigned to Mr. Remy's department, look to the club members as a failure to cooperate in attempts to enforce law—a thing we all greatly deplore—and have not shaken the confidence of men in the accuracy of Mr. Remy's statement nor increased the confidence in the police department."

"What the Downey Avenue Men's Club wishes to see is hearty cooperation between the police department and the prosecuting attorney, the dismissal of incompetent and unworthy police and withdrawal of the force from all semblance of political control or meddling."

"May we count on this from you?"

(Signed by executive committee, Downey Avenue Men's Club.)

NOAH SIMMONS, President.

A mysterious telephone call from a man purporting to be Polk, missing witness in the Webster-Casey trial, was received late last night by Federal officials, it was learned today.

W. O. Holman, prohibition agent; Dry Chief Harris, and Judge Baltzell are said to have been called by the man.

The call spurred Federal agents into action this morning and C. W. McPhail, district attorney of justice head, took over the investigation, replacing John J. Maroney, who was originally assigned, but who is out of town. Harris also left Indianapolis early this morning.

The man told Harris and Holman that he was Polk and he had just arrived in the city and learned of the subpoena service on him as a Government witness.

McPhail and Holman gained entrance to the Polk apartment and found the subpoena on the table untouched, but there was no trace of either Polk or his wife. Persons at the apartment said neither of them had been seen about the building.

Combines Probes

Ward said he expected to combine the investigation of the corrupt practices in connection with prohibition enforcement begun under Yel-lowley's order with that begun in connection with the charges against Keeney and Polk. He said if the two could be brought together he will call a special grand jury session sometime before next September.

"It all depends on how suddenly we are able to get our hands on all the evidence," Ward declared.

Remy is expected to confer further with Ward and turn over certain sworn statements that pertain to the case.

In ordering the investigation Judge Baltzell said: "In connection with the disappearance of the witness, this court wants to know what happened to him. This court is in a position to find out."

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session all the time and the witness can be brought before it. One thing is certain that this court or any other court should not stand for its witnesses being tampered with. It seems very suspicious that the witness could not be found."

In a sworn statement by Casey, to Police Chief Johnson, introduced by the Government in the Webster trial, it said that Casey paid Keeney \$300 for the purpose of "taking care" of the witnesses and "as to have paid an additional sum of \$100" the court case.

It was Keeney's content that he was seeking to trap Casey into offering him a bribe on orders of Remy. Federal Agent Louis Wein was working with Keeney in this connection.

"Polk is the one who is supposed to have been kept away by receiving the money," Judge Baltzell commented.

"Yes," replied Johnson.

Casey pleaded guilty to the charges against him and Webster was found guilty by a jury. They will be sentenced Saturday.

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A new automatic and self-regulating device has been invented by John A. Stransky, G-567, Stransky Building, Pukwana, South Dakota, with which automobiles have made from 35 to 57 miles on a gallon of gasoline. It removes carbon and reduces spark plug trouble and overheating. It can be installed by any one in five minutes. Mr. Stransky wants distributors and is willing to send a sample at his own risk. Write him today.—Advertisement.

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