

DAVIS TRIAL POSTPONED

Edward Stowman, State Witness,
Said To Be In St. Paul, Minn.

LEFT THE CITY WEDNESDAY

Agreement Is Made To Go On With-
out Him, But The Arrangement
Is Upset.

Through the sudden departure last Wednesday of Edward Stowman, the leading witness, and the refusal of counsel on each side to accept his previous sworn testimony, the trial of Robert E. Davis, generally known as "Bob" Davis, was postponed yesterday. The trial was to have begun before Judge Dobler, in Part 2 of the Criminal Court, on an indictment charging Davis with obtaining \$75 from Maggie Hunter by false representations. The proceedings will not be resumed until Stowman can be brought back to Baltimore from St. Paul, Minn., where he is said to have gone.

The disappearance of Stowman was looked upon at first as a quietus on the State's case, but Deputy State's Attorney O'Dunne met the situation by declaring his willingness to proceed on the acceptance of the record of Stowman's testimony both before the Police Board at the investigation at Maggie Hunter's Carey street house and at the trial before the board of Police Captain Ward, when the Captain was dismissed from the force.

Left Wednesday For St. Paul.

A few minutes before the court convened Stowman, who, it is alleged, took the money from Maggie Hunter to Davis to be used in an effort to keep the grand jury from indicting the woman, was reported "non est" by Sheriff Hanson. He told Mr. O'Dunne, who was detailed to prosecute the case, that Maggie Hunter had declared that Stowman had left Wednesday morning for St. Paul, and later, in the presence of Judge Dobler and Thomas C. Ruddell, counsel for Davis, said that he had gone to see his two grown daughters, who live in that city.

Just why Stowman left when he did, evidently knowing the date for which the trial had been set, is what is puzzling Mr. O'Dunne.

"I don't know why Stowman left, and I do not care to express an opinion on his departure," he said. "But it seems strange that a man like Stowman, who has been two years away from his family, and in that time has lived in Maggie Hunter's house, should have such a sudden fondness for his family overcome him."

Mr. Ruddell, who appeared as Davis' counsel in spite of the latter's declaration that he did not intend to be represented by an attorney at the trial, ascribed no reason for the principal witness' absence.

"Davis would not have had a lawyer to represent him if Stowman had appeared," he said. "It was the failure of this witness to materialize that decided Davis to retain counsel. Everybody knows what Stowman is."

Agreement Made And Rescinded.

The Court was kept waiting a few minutes until Maggie Hunter, who was accompanied by her sister, appeared. Then, after taking a muster of his witnesses, Mr. O'Dunne said to the Court:

"The State is not ready to go on with this case, as Edward Stowman, who, next to Maggie Hunter, is the principal witness,

left last Wednesday, as I am informed, for St. Paul, Minn. Why he went we do not know, for he had always found Baltimore a satisfactory place to live in up to Wednesday."

Mr. Ruddell immediately objected to a postponement, saying that the defense was ready and the trial should proceed without delay. Judge Dobler favored Mr. Ruddell, and ordered the trial to go on.

Mr. O'Dunne then asked Mr. Ruddell if he would be willing to accept as evidence the testimony given by Stowman to the Police Board. Mr. Ruddell understood that the record to be offered was that of Stowman's testimony given the Police Commissioners when they visited Maggie Hunter's house, and he signed an agreement to that effect.

The jury was sworn and was in the box, but before Mr. O'Dunne was ready to open his case he told Mr. Ruddell that he meant to include the testimony given before the Police Commissioners at Captain Ward's trial as well.

Mr. Ruddell objected, and in spite of the fact that the jurors were all sworn, asked that his previous agreement be withdrawn and the case postponed.

Judge Dobler decided to do this, and the trial was deferred until the State can reach Stowman and bring him back to Baltimore. It was said after the trial that this can probably be done in time to have Davis tried before the end of the May term, or rather before the beginning of the summer recess, which usually commences about June 25.