

# CAPT. WARD TO BE TRIED

## Commander Of Northwestern District Relieved From Duty.

### BOARD TO PREFER CHARGES

#### Failure To Have Woman's Name Sent To Grand Jury Said To Be The Main Allegation.

**Captain** Bernard J. Ward was relieved from the command of the Northwestern police district at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon by the Police Board and today charges of dereliction of duty will be preferred against him. He will be given a public hearing before the Commissioners as soon as he has signified that he has had sufficient time to prepare a defense.

This action of the board followed a secret investigation of a complaint made to Marshal Farnan, by Sergt. Charles E. Hurley, in which the sergeant stated that after he had obtained a statement from Mrs. Maggie Hunter, keeper of an alleged disorderly house on North Carey street, that she had paid \$75 to Robert E. Davis, a local politician, **Captain** Ward ignored the report.

The exact nature of the charges which the board will have preferred against **Captain** Ward was not divulged, but it was stated authoritatively that the chief charge would be that of failing to have the name of Mrs. Hunter sent down for indictment, when it is alleged that **Captain** Ward knew the character of her house for over a year.

Some doubt was expressed as to the board preferring the charge of ignoring the report of the \$75 payment, it being said that the board regarded the other as the most substantial one and resting more on the facts adduced from the secret investigation.

Although Sergeant Plum and Patrolman Webster appeared before the board and testified that Louis Katz had several times told them that he was paying **Captain** Ward certain sums of money for immunity from raids on his saloon, the board, it is understood, agreed not to press that portion of the charges at this time.

From an authoritative source it is learned that the board has decided that the testimony on these points is garbled and for the time at least it will be dropped. Whether it will be the subject of future investigation Colonel Swann declined to say.

#### Colonel Swann's Statement.

Colonel Swann made the following formal statement:

"The Board of Police Commissioners is unwilling to hear any more testimony in regard to this matter in secret session. The Commissioners have ordered that **Captain** Ward be relieved from duty pending the filing of charges against him and the trial of these charges before the board. The two lieutenants in the district will in the meantime assume command of the Northwestern police district, subject to the order of Marshal Farnan.

"**Captain** Ward is at liberty to prefer charges against any one in the department whom he considers has violated the rules of the department in any way or did anything that is wrong.

"It is impossible at this time to give the exact charges, but I will say that no testimony so far brought out shows that **Captain** Ward received any part of the \$75 spoken of."

Colonel Swann expressed himself as extremely surprised and saddened by the situation and stated that all possible precautions would be taken to see that the trial is fair and thorough.

#### Captain Ward Gives Up Command.

**Captain** Ward was notified by telephone by Marshal Farnan of the action of the board and appeared at the Marshal's office at 2 o'clock in uniform. He was not stripped of his accoutrements, his relief from duty being different from suspension.

After a conference with the Marshal **Captain** Ward emerged to state that he would not discuss the situation until he knew what the charges would be, and then he would make a statement covering the entire situation. This he is expected to do today.

"I can take care of myself," he told a friend, and he has asserted confidence that the charges will not result in anything that will hurt him.

He went to the Northwestern Police station, where the affairs of the station were formally turned over to Lieutenant Carter, who, with Lieutenant Kalbfleisch, will have charge of the district. This done, he left the station.

#### Board Goes To Hunter House.

At 11 o'clock in the morning, after hearing the testimony of a number of the Northwestern district patrolmen, the members of the board suddenly decided to go to the home of Mrs. Hunter. Varying stories of her illness had been given, and some doubts were expressed by her friends as to her ability to appear. The Commissioners, accompanied by Secretary Kinsey, Marshal Farnan and a stenographer, went to the house in the Central district automobile patrol. The patrol was halted at Patterson avenue and Carey street, and the Commissioners walked the remaining two squares to the house. The appearance of the patrol and the alighting of the occupants attracted much attention, and a crowd followed them to the house.

They had not notified Mrs. Hunter that

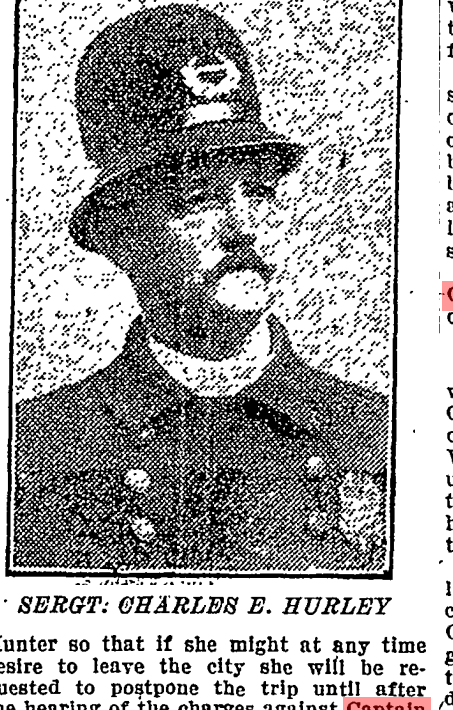


CAPT. BERNARD J. WARD

they were coming, and when she opened the door they walked in. She was interviewed in the parlor, the stenographer taking down her statement.

She told the board, it is understood, that **Captain** Ward had stationed men in front of her door for a number of nights and had harassed her in that way. She said that she had sent \$75 to Davis by Edward Stoneman, but she said she had no knowledge that **Captain** Ward had received any of the money. She declared she was afraid of **Captain** Ward and Davis.

The Commissioners have made arrangements for keeping in close touch with Mrs.



SERG'T. CHARLES E. HURLEY

Hunter so that if she might at any time desire to leave the city she will be requested to postpone the trip until after the hearing of the charges against **Captain** Ward. She signified her willingness to testify at the hearing when it becomes necessary.

#### Questioned As To Delay.

After the Commissioners had returned to their office **Captain** Ward was called in and was there for probably half an hour. He was told the exact nature of the testimony and given an opportunity to state his side of the case.

The **Captain** told the board that he had heard the rumor of the \$75 being paid to Davis about six months ago and had at that time made an investigation. He told

the board that he had personally gone to Davis and asked him if it was true and that on being told it was not true he paid no further attention to it. He gave this as his reason why when Sergeant Hurley presented the report to him he had not paid any attention to it.

When asked concerning the reason why the woman had not previously been indicted by the grand jury, **Captain** Ward said he had not been able to secure the necessary evidence against the house and that he had asked several of his men to secure it. He also made a general denial, it is said, of the statements made before the board by Sergeant Plum and Daniel T. Mattison, who alleged they had received information that **Captain** Ward had been taking money from saloonkeepers in return for immunity.

The board questioned **Captain** Ward at some length, but did not go deeply into the charges, for the reason that at this stage of the proceedings the members thought it better to have no more secret sessions. The board also agreed that the allegations made against **Captain** Ward warranted a public hearing, at which they could either be substantiated or dismissed.

It was then agreed by the board that the **Captain** be relieved of duty and that charges be preferred against him.

#### Patrolmen Give Testimony.

A number of patrolmen from the Northwestern district were brought before the Commissioners for the purpose, it is said, of ascertaining whether or not **Captain** Ward had ever had the proper evidence upon which to send Mrs. Hunter's name to the grand jury. All of the patrolmen who have worked near the house were questioned.

It is also understood that the board has learned that in July, 1907, in a divorce case, the record of which is now in Circuit Court No. 2, Patrolman Dunn and Sergeant Pfennig, now of the Eastern district, testified that Mrs. Hunter was keeping a disorderly house.

Patrolman Dunn was one of the officers detailed to secure evidence against the house the night **Captain** Ward is alleged to have ignored the report of Sergeant Hurley. It has been charged against the **Captain** before the Commissioners that if he had desired to have the Hunter house indicted he could have secured evidence a year before he did so.

**Captain** Ward denied this and stated to the board that he had tried to get evidence against the house and that Sergeant Hur-

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