

CAPT. WARD'S DEFENSE

Plea To Be That There Is Plot To Oust Him, It Is Said.

MR. HAYES ISSUES STATEMENT

He And Mr. Harry B. Wolf Retained As Counsel By Accused Officer—Trial To Begin Soon.

The Police Board will have a conference this morning with ex-Mayor Thomas G. Hayes and Mr. Harry B. Wolf, counsel for Capt. Bernard J. Ward, formerly of the Northwestern district, to arrange a date for the trial of the Captain upon charges of neglect of duty, receiving money from a saloonkeeper and other specifications, as made by Marshal Farnan, acting under orders from the board.

A closed session of the board was held yesterday morning to discuss the case and at the end it was announced that the Commissioners desired to begin the hearing of the charges next Tuesday, if that is found agreeable to Captain Ward's counsel.

Captain Ward appeared at the Court-house in the morning, accompanied by Mr. Wolf, but did not accompany the attorney when he appeared before the board to discuss the selection of a date for trial. Mr. Wolf told the Commissioners that Mr. Hayes was at Belair and would not be able to return for several days.

Mr. Hayes made the following statement concerning the case:

"Captain Ward saw me at my residence on Wednesday evening and retained me as counsel in the pending charges. The Captain gave me all the facts, which demonstrated his absolute innocence. Captain Ward urged me to have the case tried at the very first moment I could, as he is anxious to have himself exonerated. This I promised to do as soon as I was free from Belair.

"Captain Ward informed me that members of his family, his wife and daughters were annoyed by the charges and joined in the request to have the trial as soon as possible."

To Decide Date Today.

Mr. Wolf said it will require several days for Mr. Hayes and himself to obtain witnesses for Captain Ward and arrange other features of the defense, but that at today's meeting the entire question would be finally settled.

It is understood that the plan of defense will be based in part upon the allegation that there is a plot being pushed against Captain Ward by politicians and men of his own district in order to secure his dismissal from the force. The Captain, it is understood, will deny that he has ever been able to secure evidence against the house of Maggie Hunter at 1439 Carey street, and will state that he did not desire to injure the woman's character by reporting her name when he did not have the proper evidence. He has stated that he was afraid of a suit being filed against him by the woman.

Captain Ward denies, it is stated authoritatively, that there is any foundation for the charge that he received presents of money from Louis Katz, a former saloonkeeper, as is charged. One close to him states that he will tell the board that he had heard of the "Katz story" for several months before Sergeant Plum, of the Northwestern district, but now of the Northeastern, told it before the board and that he looked upon it at all times as a scheme which Sergeant Plum was working to oust him from the district.

Counter Charges Talked Of.

It is understood that Captain Ward will, in his defense, charge improper motives upon the part of Sergeant Plum. He will also declare, it is understood, that Sergt. Charles E. Hurley, who made the original complaint which led to the present charges, was changed from one bailiwick to another because on his first bailiwick was the saloon of August Roth, whose bartender was Daniel T. Mattison, a brother-in-law of Sergeant Hurley.

Friends of Captain Ward to whom he has talked say also that he will deny the allegations made by Patrolmen Stevens and Emerich that he attempted to intimidate them.

It is the intention of the Police Board, it is understood, to hold both day and night sessions when the trial begins. It wishes to have the hearing over in several days if all the witnesses can be examined in that time. Captain Ward will have the right to bring as many witnesses as he desires.

While none of the commissioners will discuss the situation it is expected that if any additional information is adduced at the trial on which charges can be preferred it will be done, and that as the result of the hearing, no matter what may be the result in the case of Captain Ward, there is to be a general shake-up in the department and an effort made to ascertain if any patrolmen have been intimidated by superior officers when they were trying to do their duty.

The members of the board, it is said, have been struck by the sincerity of some of the patrolmen who have come to the front in the investigation and stated conditions. Precaution will be taken to see that no petty persecutions follow the patrolmen who have testified.

Colonel Swann Gives Statement.

Col. Sherlock Swann, president of the board, stated positively yesterday that no further investigation of the statement of E. R. Raymond, the fortune teller, that he was promised police protection in return for money, will be made.

"State's Attorney Owens, before whom Raymond made the statement," said Colonel Swann, "assured me that in his inquiry he had made sure that no member of the Police Department had been in any way implicated."

"Will the entire case be dropped?" he was asked.

"There is nothing to investigate. Our men were not implicated in any way."

A Previous Notification.

It developed that the Antisaloon League sent a letter to Marshal Farnan July 9 last telling him that it was "alleged" a disorderly house was being run at 1439 North Carey street, and also that a "complainant" had stated that liquor was being sold there.

Marshal Farnan says he sent this letter to Captain Ward, together with a letter written by himself, in which he called the Captain's attention to the league's letter and instructed him to investigate and report. The Marshal said that he had never received any report from Captain Ward concerning the letter.

The Marshal called attention to the fact that in the charges which he has preferred against Captain Ward, at the instance of the board, Captain Ward is accused of knowing the character of the house on June 8, a month before the Antisaloon League called the department's attention to it.

Captain Ward told the Marshal that he had given a patrolman the report with orders to investigate, but had not remembered which patrolman it was. He promised to look into this.

Plea In Hunter Case.

Mr. Thomas C. Ruddell, counsel for Maggie Hunter, denied the report that she would appear in the Criminal Court in the near future and plead guilty.

"My client," Mr. Ruddell said, "is too ill

to go out, and I cannot say when she will be able to leave her house. I saw her this afternoon at her home, and I know she is sick. She may plead guilty to the charge, but when I cannot say. It will not be soon."

State's Attorney Owens said he understood that the woman will plead guilty, and that he will accept the plea whenever she comes into court and makes it.