

WARD HEARING DEC. 27

Police Board And Officer's Counsel Agree On Date.

TO GO TO BOTTOM, SAYS WOLF

Interesting Developments Of Conditions In The Department Are Promised By Defense's Counsel.

It is predicted that interesting developments of conditions in the Police Department will mark the trial of Capt. Bernard J. Ward, of the Northwestern district, against whom charges are pending. The trial will begin December 27.

The Police Board held a meeting yesterday morning behind closed doors, when the date for the trial was set. The date was decided upon after a long conference between the Commissioners and Captain Ward and his counsel, Messrs. Thomas G. Hayes and Harry B. Wolf.

Attorney Wolf, when asked what the nature of the defense would be, declared that Captain Ward is being harassed by enemies and that when the searchlight is turned on at the trial it will be seen who the guilty parties are who have been getting the "best end" of their connection with the Police Department.

"We feel certain," said Mr. Wolf, "that there will be developments which will cause a revelation, and that the guilty persons will be brought to task. We are going to get at the bottom of the whole affair, and do not intend to spare anyone, high or low. Our investigations make it plain to us how these charges originated and we are going to probe deeper and show these people up."

Delving Into Case.

Captain Ward's counsel are making a thorough investigation into every detail of the case and are questioning persons familiar with its phases. In some instances affidavits are said to have been taken by counsel for the accused officer. While the lawyers are probing for information, the board announces that it is ready to hear from anyone who can throw any light on the case.

After the date of the trial had been decided upon, Attorney Wolf asked if the board had any objections if Captain Ward's counsel summoned certain police officers of different rank at Mr. Wolf's office to be questioned regarding their knowledge of the case, in order that they could get witnesses before the trial.

The board again went into executive session. A few moments later the board called Mr. Wolf and Captain Ward and announced that it had no objections to Mr. Wolf and Mr. Hayes examining patrolmen or other members of the department if the board's attorney, Mr. Alonzo L. Mues, was permitted to be present during the questioning. This was agreed to, and Captain Ward's counsel today will summon a number of policemen to Mr. Wolf's office.

When Captain Ward was asked if he had any statement to make he answered:

"I am in the hands of my attorneys and they have instructed me not to discuss the case."

"Do you think there is a conspiracy against you?" he was asked; "it is said that this will be your line of defense."

"I decline to talk about the matter. See my attorneys."

Promises The Truth.

Mr. Wolf said:

"All Captain Ward wants is for the public to withhold its judgment until after the hearing. We promise that the truth will come out. He wants no favors from anyone. All he wishes is his just dues and that justice be given him."

Colonel Swann would say nothing further than that the date for the trial had been settled and that the board is making a further investigation.

May Consult With Sergt. Hurley.

It was stated at police headquarters that Sergeant Charles E. Hurley, who complained to the board about Captain Ward ignoring a report which he made to him about the alleged disorderly house on North Carey street, will again be brought into consultation by the board. Attorney Mues is constantly at headquarters in order to become thoroughly acquainted with the case and to plan his course.

Among the witnesses whom it is said the defense's attorneys will have before the board will be Sidonia Young, colored, whose home on Tyson street was raided about a year ago, when a prominent man was arrested. This man was blackmailed, it is reported, out of a large sum of money. Into whose pockets the money went is not known to many, but conditions became such that recently the victim is said to have gone to Europe in order to evade the persons who were after him. The raid was in the Northwestern district.

The question of veracity between Louis Katz, the saloonkeeper from whom Captain Ward is alleged to have received gifts, and Sergeant Plum and the four patrolmen is an important phase of the case. Katz has been questioned over and over again and says he will make affidavit that he never told the officers that he had given Captain Ward money for police protection. Katz was interviewed with Mr. Owens, and was promised

Mr. Owens Tells Of Case.

State's Attorney Owens said that neither Captain Ward nor any other official, as far as he had gone into the case, had received any money or presents from Raymond and Kohler, who were arrested in the Northwestern district for alleged fortune telling. Raymond left town after he had been released on his own recognizance for a further hearing.

The sitting magistrate to safeguard himself got a professional bondsman to furnish bail for the man, which was done. The bondsman to protect himself in turn obtained an attachment on Raymond's furniture, valued at \$800, and an automobile which Raymond and Kohler both owned.

After leaving town Raymond communicated with Mr. Owens and was promised conditional release from the charges if he came back. The attachment was released

when he came back, and he and Kohler both left afterward for New York.

It was stated that when Raymond came to Baltimore he put up money with a saloonkeeper, which was to insure him police protection to practice fortune telling and to deal with his clients in stocks of his own imagining. But Marshal Farnan sent two headquarters men to Raymond's house on Linden avenue, near McMechen street, and he was arrested.

Has Dropped This Case.

"I instituted an investigation," Mr. Owens said, "and when I completed it I found that no official had been guilty of any irregularity in the case. I started the case against Raymond, while Kohler was indicted by the grand jury and later dismissed on my recommendation, because I wanted to get the two men out of town. I heard rumors that they were to pay for police protection if they opened up here, but both stated that while this had been their attention no money had been paid."

"There will be no further investigation of the case since the recent disclosures?" Mr. Owens was then asked.

"No; I have dropped the case."

It was rumored that State's Attorney Owens intended to assist Mr. Mues in the Ward case, but he denied this, as did members of the Police Board.