

# MAY CHANGE CAPTAINS

## Police Board Said To Have Plans In View.

### WITNESSES FOR GRAND JURY

#### Further Investigations Said To Be Forthcoming As Results Of Cap- tain Ward's Dismissal.

It was stated in authoritative circles yesterday that the Police Board will probably change two district captains from their present commands and also send to the grand-jury for investigation on the charge of perjury the name of at least one if not more witnesses in the trial of Captain Bernard J. Ward, who was dismissed Saturday.

This action, it is understood, will be taken simultaneously with a through investigation of the charges made against certain officers during the trial of Captain Ward. The statements of other witnesses in the trial alleging that \$75 was paid to Robert E. Davis by Mrs. Maggie Hunter will go before the grand jury probably today. State's Attorney Owens said that he would give the charges careful attention if they came to him.

It is also understood that the board is in somewhat of a dilemma as to the charges made against Sergeants Hurley and Plum, for the reason that the allegations consist in the main of sworn statements alleging that witnesses paid the two sergeants various sums of money for immunity from arrest when they were violating the law. It is understood that Sergeant Hurley has the confidence of the board, but that the charges will be sifted to the bottom nevertheless.

At the meeting this morning, it is understood that the board may decide to assist Marshal Farnan in the preliminary investigation of the charges against the two sergeants and Patrolmen Webster and Stapf and that the work of calling and examining the witnesses will be rushed through with as much alacrity as is consistent with thoroughness and equity.

The board, it is understood, will delve into the motives which actuated the men to come forward with affidavits charging the sergeants with offenses said to have been committed nearly a year and in some instances several years ago.

As far as could be learned, Mr. Alonzo L. Miles, counsel to the Police Board, has not been called into the case of the charges against the two sergeants and two patrolmen, and it is said that unless these men should retain counsel he will not be required to attend.

It is said the board contemplates changing Captain Poulton, of the Western district, where he has been stationed since he was made a captain, nearly two years ago. The board, it is understood, believes that a younger man could secure better results in that district. It is understood that the board does not desire to change Captain League, of the Eastern; Gittings, of the Northeastern; Henry, of the Central, or Moxley, of the Northern, and that either Captain Poulton will be retired or else Captain McGee, of the Southwestern, and he change places. Captain McGee formerly worked the Western district, but was transferred to the Southern and then to the Southwestern by a former board.

There are also other changes in lower ranks which the board, it is understood, will make, but these, it is said, are dependent upon the changes which may have to be made in the Northwestern district following its taking over by Captain Santry.

Captain Santry made a good record, it is said, in the Southern district, and it is understood that at the conference with the board on Saturday it was decided that he was to set to work in his new district to "put the house in order," keeping in close touch with the Marshal and the Commissioners, who were to assist him. The Marshal had a conference concerning the situation with Captain Santry at the Southern Police Station yesterday at noon. At the end of three weeks or a month after he has had an opportunity of thoroughly studying conditions, it is understood that he will then confer with the board and any changes found necessary will be made.

Because the changes may involve sergeants and a number of patrolmen the board, it is understood, will not make any general changes until this time so as not to disturb the smooth working of the department. This the board has tried to avoid during its term and will, it is said, continue to do.

Careful inquiry as to what steps Captain Ward may take to contest his dismissal from the force lead to the belief that no appeal will be taken in the courts, but that the Legislature will be petitioned to reinsate him. This, his friends say, will be difficult. Captain Ward was usually a Democrat, but he is said to have had Republican leanings recently.

The Captain will make no statement nor will his counsel, ex-Mayor Thomas G. Hayes and ex-Congressman Harry B. Wolf.

Capt. John J. Santry, who will today assume his new duties as successor of Captain Ward in the Northwestern district, bade farewell to his men in the Southern district last night. Much feeling was displayed at the parting.

Lieutenant McGovern also leaves the force for the Central district.