

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS-LETTER

The Highwood Agitation

Secretary of War Taft is said by army officers to be behind an investigation of saloon dives, gambling resorts, and other disorderly places at Highwood, begun yesterday by the federal grand jury. At least two persons charged with demoralizing the troops are certain of indictment, it is said. There is evidence sufficient to cause the arrest of seventy-five others.

The future laws governing Fort Sheridan and other posts are directly at issue. The army canteen is involved. A situation has been created which is attracting closest attention from the National W. C. T. U.

Army officials learn that the Highwood resorts have cost soldiers of the post more than \$400,000 within a few years. The demoralizing condition resulting from operations of the places have been shown in pages of a novel by Brig. Gen. Charles King.

"We have evidence enough to hang some of these saloonkeepers," said one officer who appeared before the jury.

Capt. Saville, who has done most of the investigating and Lieut. Comstock were the principal witnesses before the jury.

It developed for the first time Rev. Parisoe, the Highwood minister, who swore out warrants against the saloonkeepers following sensational sermons in which he depicted the ruin of souls and bodies of the enlisted men by the Highwood divekeepers, was acting for the government.

Capt. Saville appeared before the jury with hundreds of pages of government reports. These related to crimes for which the divekeepers were held directly responsible, to illness among the men, the result of the association with vicious characters, to government property bought from the soldiers that they might have the wherewithal stigated by the divekeepers, and to a hundred other things giving evidence of the difficulties that the army authorities have in maintaining the discipline and health of the troops.

Much of the evidence related to the cases of Edward Hart, a restaurant proprietor accused of having bought car loads of government equipments from officers, and E. T. Matthews, a saloonkeeper, charged with the same illegal traffic, although to a lesser degree.

The following statements were made in the testimony of the soldiers showing the increasing demoralization of the post:

Discipline is becoming increasingly impaired and desertions alarmingly numerous.

Women and men of the lowest character are imported to Highwood to attract soldiers to the saloons.

Two hundred soldiers have contracted disease in the last eleven months. Some have died, and it is impossible for others to recover.

Soldiers pawn their overcoats and other clothing and even their arms to participate in the saloon orgies.

In the Park hotel, conducted by Matthews, an ex-Chicago policeman, two enlisted men were found dead, one of them having been robbed of \$500.

Five dollars interest a month is charged for the use of five by the dive money lenders.

Twenty-five violent deaths have occurred in Highwood in the last eighteen months.

Only one place in Highwood where pure whiskey is sold, according to the government analysis. There are seventeen saloons to a population of 400.

Every saloon with one exception is a gambling house, and not one of the games is on the square.

There are 150 blind pigs in Lake County.

Mayor Gibbs and the city council and powerful capitalists are in a ring to prevent the government

from interfering with the divekeepers in the interest of the morals of enlisted men.

"The cases under investigation today," said Capt. Saville, "are those of Hart and Matthews. Hart for years has been buying government property from the soldiers in violation of the statutes. That practice is bad enough, but it is what is behind it that is being brought to the attention of the jury. Hart and Matthews, I believe, will be indicted. At least seventy-five other arrests will follow. The government is determined to put down the dives at Highwood. The Law and Order league is giving efficient assistance.

"The men have disposed of their equipment for whisky and women. An overcoat that costs the government \$9 is sold for \$1.25, dyed, and disposed of to Chicago, Waukegan, or Milwaukee dealers for \$4. Fur coats, caps, gauntlets, revolvers, and other government property are sold the same way. The government is determined to prosecute these men to the limit. It is the only way to protect the post. These divekeepers have connived at the desertion of men who would be in a position to give damaging evidence against them, but if necessary the government can substantiate its case by the evidence of 200 men.

The Secretary of War is behind this investigation, and the National W. C. T. U. is interested."

The above is a fair sample of the reports that have been printed in the metropolitan papers about the city of Highwood. The pity of it is that a large part of it is true, although in some instances, existing conditions have been exaggerated, we believe.

A Complex Question

An informal meeting of the Republican Central Committee of Lake County was held in the court room of the county building at Waukegan last Saturday evening. The subject of the new primary law under which method of the electing of county officers is radically changed.

There were twenty committeemen present and nearly all the attorneys of Waukegan, the members of the Lake County press, and several distinguished visitors from outside the county, among them being Congressman George Edward Foss, speaker Shurtleff of the last Illinois House of Representatives, and his colleague from this district, Representative Covey.

Chairman Whitney called the attention of the assembly to several points in the new law which were not clearly shown in the text, the two discussed at this meeting being as follows:

First. In case the Central Committee should decide to hold a delegate convention, have they the power, under the law to specify that a plurality vote shall nominate?

Second. Shall members of the County Committee be considered as County officials, and elected under the law?

A discussion of these questions kept the assembly occupied all day, and then no decision was reached. There were a score or more of debaters, and each had a different opinion of the law. Shurtleff was to speak on the subject, as it is reasonable to suppose that he knew what the intention of the Legislature was in this respect, but he was obliged to take an early train for his home. It was at length decided to appoint a committee to look into the matter further, and report to the official meeting of the committee to be held in February, and chairman Whitney, Senator Tiffany and Committeeman Jackson of Shields were chosen as the committee.

Senator Albert N. Tiffany of Antioch was host at dinner and entertained his guests royally at the Methodist Church, where the tables were served by the ladies of the church.

A Daring Robbery

Suppose you found a wallet containing \$200 and put \$40 of your own with it to make it look like \$250, and with a proper conception of honesty wrote the supposed owner asking him to claim his money, and then a highwayman, with a cold, cold, revolver pressed to your forehead, took it all away from you? What's the use? Capt. A. H. Meyer, assistant commandant and post adjutant of Northwestern Military Academy, who early Sunday morning reported at the Central police station in Chicago that he had been held up at Van Buren street and Fifth avenue and robbed of \$200, thinks there's no use at all.

The highwayman left the wallet and it still contained the card of Harry H. Lynn, 558 Broome street, New York, which was in it when Meyer found the purse on the ledge of the ticket window of the Pere Marquette Railroad. Meyer and Edward Marble, of Oak Park, were at the depot Thursday night, starting on a hunting trip, and when they reached Lakeside, Mich., where Marble has a cottage, Meyer wrote Lynn at New York. Returning late Saturday night, empty-handed, save for the money, the friends separated. Meyer starting to the Northwestern depot to reach the military academy in Highland Park, where he is instructor in athletics, as well as assistant commandant and post adjutant, although only 21 years old.

"At the alley north of the Grand Central," said Captain Meyers, "some one grabbed my arm, put a revolver to my forehead and pulled me into the alley. I had a suit case in each hand. He took the \$249 and dropped the wallet. Then he ordered me to move on. He did not take my watch. I had dropped the wallet in the station, exposing the bills, and think some one saw it and followed me. Now every time I hear the door bell ring, I think it is Harry H. Lynn coming after his money."

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