

BLACKMAIL CHARGE AGAINST VARE MEN

Salus Aides in 4th Ward Also Accused of Attempt to Bribe Magistrate Imber

ONE DEFANDANT IN CITY JOB

A story of alleged conspiracy, bribery and blackmail involving the political satellites of Senator Samuel Salus, was heard today before Magistrate Meclary in City Hall.

The defendants in the case are Nathan Steiger, forty-eight years old, of Eighth street, below South, a political lieutenant of Senator Salus and a writ server in the sheriff's office, and Joseph Bockel, thirty-eight years old, of Third and Bainbridge streets, proprietor of the "Tea Room" in the Fourth ward.

They were held under \$1000 bail each for a further hearing on Thursday a week, charged with conspiracy, extortion and solicitation to commit bribery and to prefer false criminal charges.

Herbert Salus, brother of the senator, represented the defendants, and James Gay Gordon, Jr., assistant district attorney, was prosecutor.

Arrested on Robbery Charge

Jacob Skopp, forty-two years old, of 941 So. Fifth street, and Morris Brick, fifty years old, of 912 1/2 South Fifth street, both teamsters, were arrested on Labor Day by Patrolmen Tommie and Swartz on suspicion of robbing the safe in the store of Morris Rurberg, 708 South Fourth street.

According to Mr. Gordon, they were arrested without a "show of evidence" and have been held since then for a series of further hearings by Magistrate Harry Imber.

Skopp and Brick reported the matter to District Attorney Rotan's office some time ago, and they were advised to let the case continue without "advancing" the fact that the district attorney's office had been notified.

In an affidavit presented today by Major Samuel O. Wynne, assistant chief of police, he accused Steiger and Bockel of a conspiracy to "intimidate and levy blackmail" on Skopp and Brick.

Marked \$50 bill reported in Case Prosecutor Gordon said.

Steiger met the defendants in Bockel's tea room, and Skopp gave a marked \$50 bill to Steiger. It was later found in Steiger's possession.

In the affidavit, Major Wynne stated that Steiger and Bockel "did solicit and offer to give to Magistrate Imber certain moneys for purposes of influencing his judgment in criminal action" against the defendants.

And it was further charged that Steiger and Bockel conspired to force a charge of crime against the two men.

After the hearing, Prosecutor Gordon, before Judge Monaghan in Quarter Sessions, Room 453, stated that Skopp and Brick were again held under \$1000 bail today for a further hearing on September 17 by Magistrate Imber.

Magistrate Imber declined today to discuss the charges.

RAPER COMMANDERY DRILLS

Indianapolis Templars Seek to Carry Off First Honors

Raper Commandery, Knights Templar, the Indianapolis Masonic organization of which Vice President Marshall is a member, is drilling today in expectation of carrying off first honors tomorrow as the best-drilled of all the commanderies of America.

The commandery has twice won that honor, in Chicago in 1916 and in Denver in 1917. It took second place in 1918, but expects to again lead in this contest.

It will compete with from twenty-three to twenty-six other commanderies, nearly all of the large cities will be represented in this contest, except the cities of Pennsylvania, which will not compete in order not to enter rivalry with their own.

Raper Commandery is composed of leading men of Indianapolis. The officers are Captain L. J. Scovener, First Lieutenant George Thomson and Second Lieutenant Walter Handy.

WOMAN UP FOR ELECTION

Seeks School Directorship—Campaign to Raise Teachers' Pay

Lou Merion township is plagued with handbills urging voters to cast their ballots for Mrs. Henry J. Gibbons as school director.

VARE'S "HOME" LACKS WATER, LIGHTS AND TELEPHONE

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Senator Vare said the gate was open when he entered.

The array of witnesses was of varied character and pursued, from the terrified old owner of the adjoining property to the trim young clerks of the Manufacturers' Club and Bellevue-Stratford, who swore to the number of times Senator Vare had spent a night there in January, February and March of this year.

Come the Grocer and Ice Man

There were assessors from Montgomery county, who told of the property holdings of Senator Vare at Amber. The rural grocer and ice man also added their nite to the gallery of the occasion. They swore that the Amber residence was served with provisions and household necessities all last year and this, save in part of January, February and March. During this period the Senator's family was in Florida.

Then the representatives of the F. G. L., the Philadelphia Electric Company and the Bell Telephone Company testified that their companies had no connecting lines in the famous 2009. All of which was deftly used by Mr. Vare in the attempt to demonstrate that the house was non-habitable.

Uses Portable Lights

The senator swore that he used portable electric lights, and Recorder of Deeds Hazlett told how since the senator's wife had resumed possession of the house they had taken their breakfasts at the Hazlett home.

There was very little cross-examination by Mr. Brown. He was by turns urbane, crisp and semivagant. It all depended upon who the witness was, now and then the official commissioner, Mr. Woodruff, interposed a pertinent inquiry. The interested chairman of the board, Mr. Fell, gazed benignly upon all the array, as it drifted up and back from the little snop of a witness stand.

Law at Issue

It is very evident that the turning point in the case is whether or not Senator Vare should have lived at 2009 South Broad street sixty days before the election. The senator declared in an interjected explanation to the board that he was living at Amber and maintaining a voting residence in the First Senatorial district he was "doing no more than 50,000 other people in Philadelphia were doing."

SENATOR 11 MINUTES LATE FOR HEARING

Stage Set Promptly in Registration Commissioners' Room

The hearing to decide Senator Vare's personal residence was set for 10 o'clock in Room 630, City Hall, before the full registration commission, E. Lawrence Fell, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, George G. Phipps, Ignatius Quinn and William Walsh.

Every one concerned was there at the opening hour except the senator himself. After a ten-minute wait Francis Shink Brown, former state attorney general, and the senator's counsel, became anxious.

Mr. Brown was inquiring for a telephone when at 10:11 a. m. the senator walked into the room. The organization leader was as nattily dressed as Mayor Smith ever was.

He wore a new dark blue suit with a pin stripe, a black four-in-hand tie, white concealing a big diamond in his shirtfront, and a straw hat. A fat grin jutted at a combative angle from his mouth.

The Room Was Crowded

The hearing room was crowded, but there was only a scattering of important politicians present. Recorder of Deeds Hazlett was there as were Leopold C. Glass, state representative, and William T. Conner, the attorney who escaped a mayoral kiss a few months ago.

The first witness called by Owen J. Roberts, for the petitioner, was James de Charo, of 1019 Market street, the Benoit Service Club.

Through this witness was established service of a copy of the strike-off petition at the South Broad street house. De Charo said he slipped it under a door after knocking and waiting for five minutes without bringing any one to the door.

De Charo said in second-story window Senator Vare had been sitting in the front row, but at this point moved his chair close to the witness stand.

On cross-examination of the first witness, Mr. Brown merely led the hour de Charo's visit, which was placed at 1:45 p. m.

Mr. Roberts asked the former attorney general if the establishment of service was necessary.

"You don't need to prove service on anybody," broke in Senator Vare, but addressing Brown.

HILL CALLS HOUSE DIRTY, NEGLECTED

The petitioner, Samuel Hill, 2224 South Christian street, who challenged Senator Vare in the polling place of the fifteenth division, thirty-ninth ward, was the next witness.

It was Hill who applied a number of epithets to the house, describing it as "empty," "dirty," "neglected" and "dilapidated, over a long period."

Hill said he had known the South Broad street property for ten years. Up to four years ago it was headquarters for the Y. M. C. A., he said.

"What happened then?" he was asked.

"It became dilapidated. I passed the house three times a week and for the last three months I have passed it every day. It was entirely empty and showed no signs of life."

"Please talk louder," interrupted Commissioner Woodruff.

Windows Never Cleaned

The house appeared to be unoccupied," repeated Hill in louder tones.

LOOKS LIKE CONTRACTOR'S YARD

Mr. Brown took the witness.

"You passed the house frequently for the last three months and saw no one there?" he asked.

"No, sir."

Mr. Brown then asserted: "If you had passed the house you would have seen no one there either."

Hill was followed by John M. Smollock, Republican Alliance leader of the Thirty-ninth ward.

A year ago, according to Smollock, the yard to the south of 2009 South Broad street was filled with wheelbarrows, shovels and street sweepers' brooms. The house looked dilapidated, he said, and some one was using part of the yard as a vegetable patch.

"The whole place looked like a wild, desolate barn," concluded Smollock.

RECORDER HAZLETT TESTIFIES FOR VARE

Recorder of Deeds Hazlett was then called to the stand.

Questioned by Owen Roberts, he said that Mr. Vare and two maids went to the Broad street house last Saturday afternoon. The witness said that Mr. and Mrs. Vare took meals at his home on Saturday, Sunday and Monday and carried their clothing in a grip each night to the Broad street house. He did not know whether they had any other clothing at the house or not.

Mr. Hazlett could not say whether there was coal in the cellar, and said an electric lamp was used for lighting.

Hazlett to the Rescue

The witness asserted that he bought the house at 2009 South Broad street for Senator Vare several years ago, and frequently visited him there.

Mr. Hazlett said that he had visited the Vare home last Saturday. Replying to a direct question put to him by Mr. Roberts, he declared that he had never visited Senator Vare at his Amber home, except in the summer time.

Fred Zoller, a district manager of the Philadelphia Electric Company, said the house had not been connected electrically, and Harry Taylor, a manager of the Bell Telephone Company, said it had not been equipped with a telephone.

"Are there not other homes in this city without phones?" asked Mr. Brown.

"Unfortunately there are," replied Mr. Taylor.

Leo B. Foley, 1214 McKean street, a resident of that neighborhood for years, testified that he had known of the Vare house for at least ten years. During all that time the Vare home on South Broad street has never been occupied, he declared, until last Saturday. It has been closed, the shutters tightly drawn.

Says Hazlett Carried Broom

On Saturday the witness testified he saw Mr. Hazlett enter the house carrying a broom and he also saw women inside the place engaged in cleaning.

Louis Henson, 2005 South Broad street, aged and nervous of the witness stand, testified at his examination that he was not a neighbor to his neighbor's affairs, nor a busybody, but that he had seen no one in the Vare house within the last two years.

Children of the public school in the neighborhood, he said, had raised some fine vegetables in the garden of the house during the war. He had reason, he asserted, from the condition of the premises and almost daily observation, to assume the place unoccupied.

GENTLEMAN'S TAX OF VARE IS \$200

Christopher C. Hooker, real estate assessor of Whitehorse township, Montgomery county, was brought forward by Mr. Roberts as a star witness against Senator Vare.

Mr. Roberts announced that he intended to prove that the senator had paid his personal tax in Montgomery county for this year.

"He has not paid his personal tax," retorted Mr. Brown.

"I propose to prove it," said Mr. Roberts.

Mr. Hooker testified that the senator was assessed for seventy-one acres at \$85.

"They say his palace at Amber is worth a million and a half," Mr. Brown remarked.

In answer to another question, Mr. Hooker replied:

"Occupation tax, gentleman, \$200."

Allows Man to Vote

"In other words," said Mr. Roberts, "the occupation tax is similar to our poll tax? It is the personal tax which allows a man to vote."

took up the cross-examination of Assessor Hooker.

"You speak of personal tax," said Brown. "That is a personal property tax."

"The gentleman is an individual tax," retorted Hooker.

Brown Resorts "Lecture"

In an exchange over taxation between Mr. Brown and Assessor Hooker, Brown remarked:

"I am somewhat familiar with taxation. Please don't lecture me about that."

In another discussion over the meaning of the "gentleman" tax, with Roberts asserting it was a "personal" tax, similar to the poll tax, Brown said:

"They have a personal tax for everybody, no matter where they are."

"Oh, yes," said Roberts. "Oh, yes, but pardon," said Brown. Senator Vare, seated near the witness stand interjected with:

"I pay all my personal taxes in Philadelphia."

Charles B. Herach, tax collector of Whitehorse township, testified that Senator Vare this year paid his tax on the assessment of \$200 as a "gentleman."

Never Assessed as Voter

William B. Rhoads, who was the assessor of Whitehorse township prior to 1915, said he had never assessed Senator Vare on the occupation basis.

Sensor Vare suggested to Brown that he ask the witness if he had ever assessed the senator as a voter.

Mr. Brown then asked Rhoads: "You mean to say you never assessed Senator Vare as a voter?"

"No, sir," was the answer.

"Do you assess voters?" asked Brown.

"Yes," replied Rhoads.

"Ever assessed from his house?"

"No, sir, never anybody from his house," was the final reply.

Family Away During Winter

Samuel R. McVaugh, ice dealer of Amber, said he asserted in the Amber home of the senator ever since the senator lived there. He said the senator was away from January to March, as far as he knew. He added that he did not know whether or not the senator's family was in the Amber home during any part of the time.

"H. Hoover, Amber grocer, said that the Vare family bought supplies from his store."

George Davis, who lives on Senator Vare's property at Amber, and was described by the latter as a watchman, said the house was closed in winter.

"They usually go away in the fall," said Davis. "The children come back in the spring. The children come there off and on during the winter."

Albert Hornick, chief clerk at the Manufacturers' Club, said Senator Vare spent thirty-three nights at the club, from January 14 to June 18 of this year.

Sort of an Open Secret

In answer to a question from Brown, the clerk said he knew Senator Vare's family was in Florida during those three months.

Chairman Fell broke in with a question as to how the clerk knew where the senator's family was.

"I don't know," replied Mr. Brown. "I suppose he knew. He says he does. Nearly everybody about a club knows everybody's business."

To which Mr. Roberts replied: "If 'I don't know,' Chief says so, I will agree with it."

Mr. Brown countered with the statement that everybody knows everybody's business in an ordinary club.

Mr. Roberts remarked that it is not legal evidence, but it is pretty good data sometimes.

Mr. Brown flashed back: "A good deal has gone in here is not legal evidence."

40,000 KNIGHTS TEMPLAR PARADE HERE IN SPECTACULAR ARRAY

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Black plumes, gauntlets, black Martinic aprons and other obsolete parts of the uniform attested the antiquity of the various commanderies wearing them.

Service Men March

Yonkers Commandery No. 47 of Yonkers, N. Y., furnished a uniform feature by the presence in olive drab of five of its members who had served abroad.

Boy Scouts, in their brown uniforms, carried the markers indicating the respective divisions.

St. John Commandery of Philadelphia, said to be the oldest commandery in the country, had a place in the eleventh division, along with the other commanderies from this state.

Members of Boston Commandery, No. 2, who point to their history dating back more than 150 years, were in the second division. They dispute with the local organization the honor of the "oldest in town," but the grand encampment has awarded the distinction to the St. John Commandery.

Lu Lu Band Greeted

The Lu Lu Band had a place of honor at the head of the Fourth division, made up of commanderies from Ohio, Kentucky and Maine. The manner in which the efforts of this band were received by the spectators was a notable testimonial to its popularity in Philadelphia.

Many champion prize drilling teams were in line. Two of the chief captains for honors in executing difficult figures along the route was the drill team from No. 2, Columbia, South Carolina.

The Bethlehem delegation was led by the Bethlehem Steel Company Band. The bass drum of this band was so big that it was mounted upon a small carriage and drawn by a small pony.

Washington Commandery, No. 1, Washington, D. C., called proud at the time to its war record by the presence of forty-six service stars in the banner announcing the name of the organization.

Levittown Commandery, No. 29, was one that drew much comment because of the prominence of the skull and crossbones in the uniforms. In the case of this delegation a severe black uniform was set off by a black apron decorated with the death sign in raised golden braid.

Each commandery was attended by its high priest in his robes.

Calvary Commandery, No. 13, one of the strong Rhode Island delegations, was conspicuous by the white Knight of Malta cape, half-opened, thrown across the left shoulder.

Newport Men Attract

Washington Commandery, No. 4, from Newport, R. I., with seventy-eight men in line, presented a fine appearance. The black plumes and baldrics, decorated with silver skull and crossbones, and the buckskin gloves of the knights made the commandery one of the most observed in its division.

The commandery has the honor of being named the fourth oldest in the United States. The commander is James Livezey.

Maryland turned out in the eighth division, one of the strongest in the parade. Maryland, No. 1, was led by J. P. H. Shure, Baltimore, No. 2 by J. B. White, Monumental No. 3 by James Becker, Mayor Broering and Chief of Police Carter, of Baltimore.

Washington Commandery, No. 4 was led by Guy Mottler; Crusade No. 5 by E. B. Marden; Benesauw No. 8 by Louis Heuter, with 250 men in line, and Thomas J. Shryock No. 11 by Robert D. Grier.

Gethsemane Commandery, of York, Pa., was escorted to the starting point by several hundreds of fair friends and relatives of the knights, and the ladies took up their position near Broad and Master streets and kept up a continual roar of applause during the several hours of the parade.

The three Bennett brothers, from Baltimore, again carried the banner of Baltimore Commandery, No. 2. The brothers—Anthony W., Daniel L. and Marion W. Bennett—have had the distinction of carrying this banner in every procession in which the commandery has participated for many years.

The eighth division boasted of one of the few bands of pipers in line. The reception given the music during its course through the streets was ample testimony to its popularity.

Allegany Commandery, No. 35, from Pittsburgh, was one of the very few Pennsylvania delegations. Its position as escort to the grand marshal was guaranteed by the fact that he is a member of that commandery.

Governor William Durbin, of Indiana, was a member of the delegation sent by Indianapolis Commandery No. 1. He marched the full length of the parade on foot.

Pennsylvania, banner state of Templary, made up the largest division, the fifth. Philadelphia Commandery, No. 2; St. John's, No. 4; Kadosh, No. 29; Mary, No. 36; St. Alban's, No. 47; Kensington, No. 54; Pennsylvania, No. 70; Germantown, No. 82, all of Philadelphia, held conspicuous places in line and were liberally applauded on their fine showing.

Grand Marshal Clement and his party reviewed the parade from a point on Broad street opposite Grand Encampment headquarters in the Bellevue-Stratford.

Arriving at this point each division commander and staff turned out of line and joined in the review.

The Reviewing Party

The reviewing party included: Grand Marshal R. E. Sir Charles Maxwell Clement chief of staff, Sir Hayes H. Duncan; aides, Sir Louis G. Grob; Sir James Reimer, and Sir Louis L. Strausburger; adjutant, Sir William W. Hattot; quartermaster, W. Freeland Kendrick; surgeon, Sir Henry G. Bruner; executive aides, Dennis S. Miller, W. Lawrence Kalmeyer, Benjamin N. McClain, Allen L. Krepps, Richard P. Morrige, William McCosmos, Edward F. Roberts and Harry W. Low.

Each command passing the reviewing stand presented swords to the flag and standards were dropped except the national colors.

Similar honors were extended to the grand master.

The grand master and Governor Sproul reviewed the attendants at the conclusion of a special grandstand on the Parkway. The former led the first division to that point and then took his stand on the platform, where he received the individual salutes of the 40,000 delegates as they passed.

The police arrangements at the start and along the line were good. Superintendent of Police Robinson took personal charge of the arrangements. Hayes H. Duncan, captain of the Fairmount Park Guards, was chief of staff.

Every one of the visiting divisions was aided during the parade by the presence of a "lions officer" taken from local commanderies. Many police department horses were loaned to visiting commanderies who rode at the head of their delegations.

SONS OR DAUGHTERS DIDN'T STAY IN HOUSE

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"Has your family ever lived at 2009 South Broad street?" asked Roberts of Senator Vare.

"My wife and I have lived there," was the reply.

"I say, has your family ever lived there?" repeated Roberts.

"Yes," replied the senator.

"Have either of your boys ever spent a night in 2009?" asked Roberts.

"No; my boys are at college," the senator replied.

The senator then was asked if any one of his four daughters ever spent a night there, and the senator replied that they had not; that they spent their winters either in Florida or in school.

The senator testified Mrs. Vare occupied the South Broad street home last March and the early part of April. He said she spent several nights there.

Used Water in Basins

"Was there any gas turned on in that house?"

"No. We have electric lamps."

"Is the water turned on in that house?"

"I can't tell whether it was turned on or not."

"Can't you tell whether you had water facilities?"

"Oh, yes, we used water. That is an old-fashioned house and we use water in basins."

"Any coal put in during the last three years?"

"I suppose so."

Replying to another question, the senator said he did not know whether or not coal had been put in. He added that he thought there had been a fire in the range, but that he could not tell when.

Mr. Roberts asked the Senator if the time he was in the South Broad street home in March was "just prior to the primary election."

"Why I think so," replied the Senator.

"And," asked Roberts, "was it for that reason that you went down there and spent two or three nights at 2009 South Broad street?"

"Well," replied the senator, "partly so."

"I thought so," said Roberts.

"Well, you are right about it," added the senator.

It was then brought out that the time in question was in 1918.

Knows It's His Home

"Let me ask you," said Roberts, "do you consider 2009 South Broad street your permanent residence?"

The senator replied: "I do not consider it. I know it is. That is my home."

Further the senator testified that the South Broad street house was his only home and the home of his family.

"And Mrs. Vare has spent how many nights there?" asked Roberts.

"I don't know," said Roberts. "I don't know," replied the senator. "I don't know," he replied to a question as to how long he had lived there.

"I don't know," he replied to a question as to how long he had lived there.

VARE'S SON CLAIMS AMBLER AS HOME

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Mr. Roberts asked the senator if he knew his son, a student at the University of Pennsylvania, had given Amber as his home.

"I don't care where he lives," replied the senator