

### BUTTERWECK LOSS FIXED AT \$389,000

That Sum in Mortgages Recorded in Year; Victims to Raise \$1000 for Prosecution

#### SECOND MEETING IS HELD

Special Session in Evening Public Ledger, Allentown, Pa., Feb. 4.—Additional expressions of determination to prosecute featured the second mass-meeting in the courthouse last night of victims of Harry A. Butterweck, whose mortgage transactions landed him in prison on a formal charge of forgery, and whose confiding customers fear losses of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Among those present was reported the man to whom he mortgaged part of the city park. As was the case of the first meeting, the ticket of admission was a "bum" Butterweck mortgage. Those who did not lose anything through their dealings with Butterweck were not there. Mortgages recorded by Butterweck totaled \$389,000 in a year.

High points brought out were assertions that the district attorney is about to investigate, that a lawyer close to Butterweck is responsible for a quarter of a million, and that Kohler and Yungst, who are under arrest on three charges of false pretense in connection with Butterweck mortgages, are responsible for \$100,000.

Most of those present were people who had made their investments through Kohler and Yungst, and one of them said: "They look as though they had nothing." To this former Congressman Jack Allen, the chairman, first but not last, replied: "You cannot always go by appearances."

Three New Victims  
New to the public as victims were J. J. Geiger, Thomas Eichelberger and T. J. Bergstresser. The last is a grade-school man, who said he lost \$2,000. Mr. Eichelberger said he had given money for a mortgage for what he supposed was a house with a fire insurance policy thereon, but finds his lien is on a vacant lot.

A number of women were present, including one who is reported to have threatened to shoot. The big guy of the assemblage was Congressman Arthur G. Dewalt, who had been mentioned in the resolution of the previous meeting as one of the buyers to be interviewed by a committee of streets. He came on from Washington to attend this meeting. He told the gathering that the approving of the Butterweck mortgage would be a tremendous task and concerted action needed. From cases that had already come to him, he was free to state that he had found a multiplicity of mortgages and mortgages based upon buildings which were never erected. Many are ostensibly first mortgages and others are upon buildings different from those designated.

Court Must Decide Claims  
Referring to indemnity bonds, which have been signed by Fred H. Steiner, Congressman Dewalt said he did not believe Mr. Steiner would repudiate an obligation, yet each and every case would have to be determined separately by a court of competent jurisdiction. "You gain nothing at this stage by dragging people into jail," said Mr. Dewalt. "The main consideration is to get back your money. That will be worth more to you than putting anybody in prison, much as they might deserve it as an example to others not to do likewise."

"In the case of one object of mine," continued Mr. Dewalt, "I found that the mortgage called for a house on a

certain street. Upon investigation I found no house there; in fact, no house within two blocks. Then I took the mortgage to the party who negotiated the transaction and said: 'Here are the papers; my client wants the money.' They asked for time, and I replied that was too indefinite an answer and said if the matter were not squared I would proceed. I got the money."

"We cannot try to get justice on our own; we must enter on our own," said Mr. Geiger. On motion Chairman Allen was empowered to have drafted a legal paper to be signed by at least two hundred victims who would pledge themselves for no less than \$5 a piece for legal retainers.

Mortgages for \$389,000  
It was reported at the meeting that according to the index books kept in the office of Recorder of Deeds Schlechter during the year beginning January 1, 1920, and ending December 31, 1920, Butterweck mortgages in the sum of \$389,000, largely lost to investors in one year alone. Several more were given, but they are marked "satisfied." Many queries have been received as to where this money went, but as yet no

satisfactory answer has been given. In addition to this sum of \$389,000 received by Butterweck in one year, there were other sources from which he received money. His contracting business, it is said, brought in returns. There is enough to show that Butterweck received during the year considerably more than \$400,000.

During the month of January, 1920, Butterweck mortgages entered on the docket in the recorder's office amounted to \$21,300. In February must have been a slump only two being issued amounting to \$2,000. In March there came a boom with a total of \$42,750. Although thirteen mortgages were given in April the total only reached \$16,000. May brought the sum of \$29,400 and June \$24,100, while in July things boomed because the total ran up to \$44,700. A reaction came in August when there came a drop to \$13,900 and September went up to \$24,200, but last October was the banner month with a total of \$80,200. In November the amount dropped to \$19,400 and in December to \$13,800. Just before his arrest four mortgages were entered in January of this year aggregating \$18,000, the last one on the docket bearing the date of January 8 for \$4,000.

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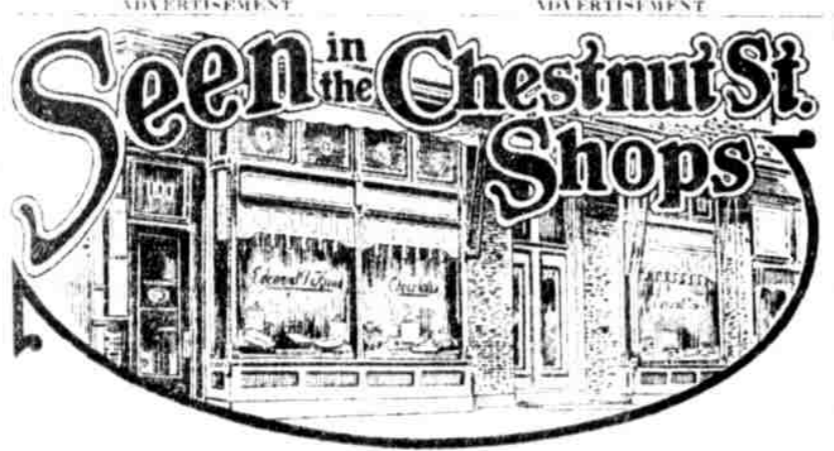
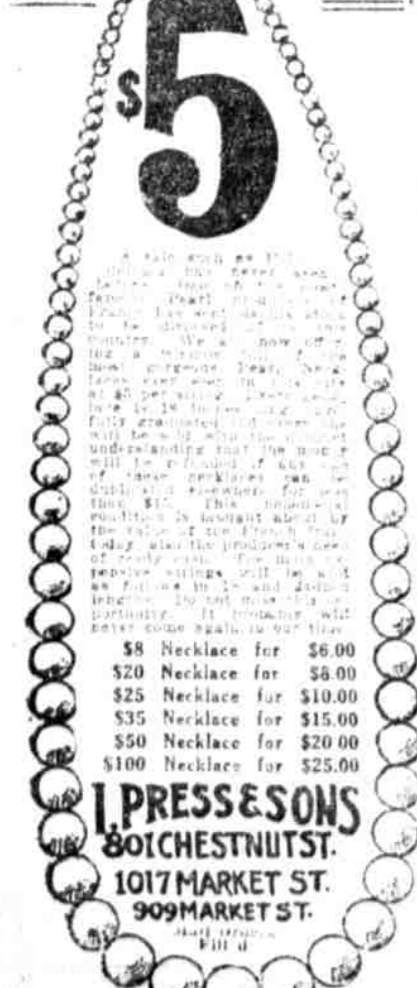
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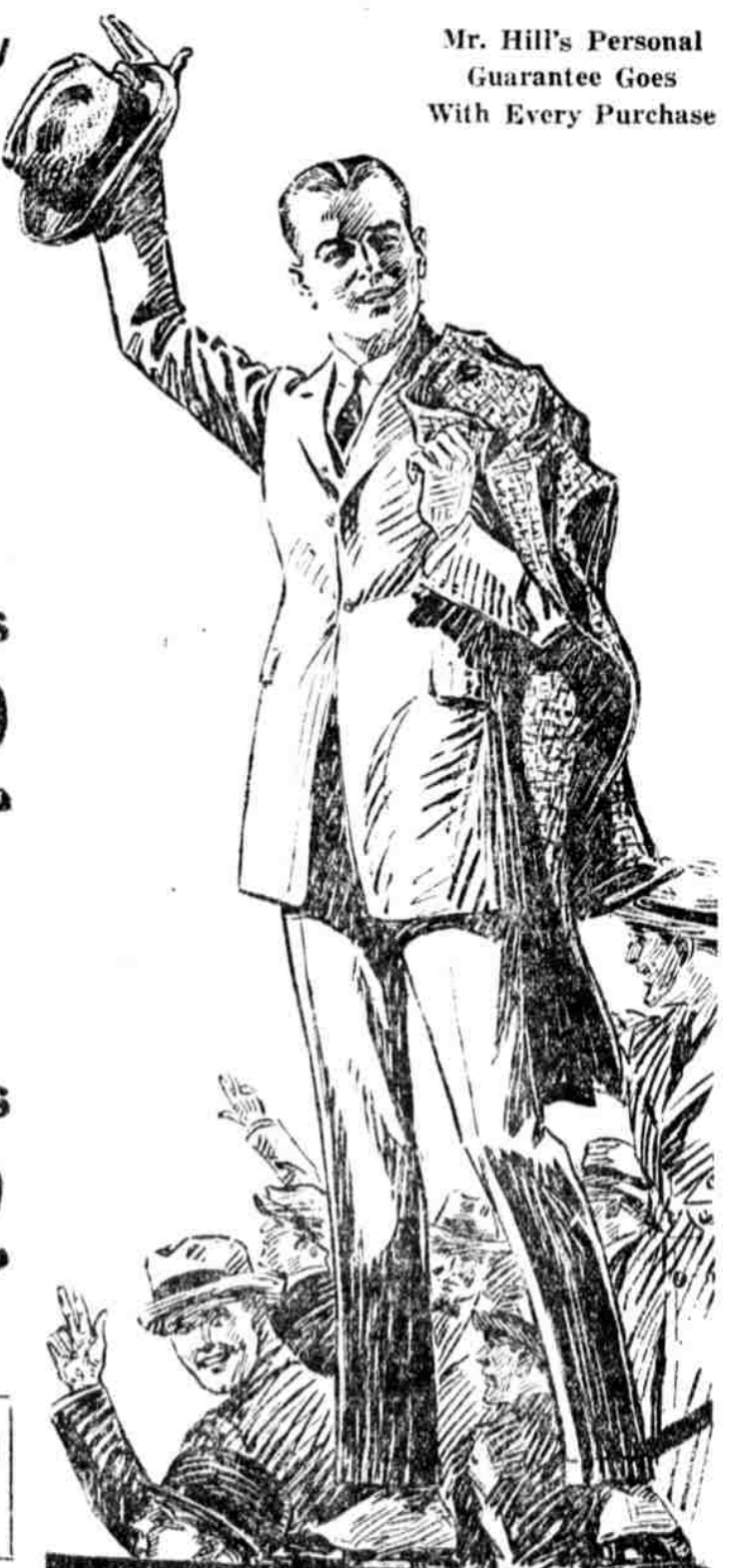
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