

Ex-Policeman Makes Charge Of Theft Against Former One Matthew Kavanagh Tells of Burglary by Policeman—William Pyne, Sergeant Baxter And Janitor Earle Also Testify

The investigation into the affairs of the police department, conducted by Commissioner McLellan, was continued last night. Sensational statements were made by witnesses who testified, and the Cronin affair, the Brayley Drug Co. matter and several other cases were referred to at length. Among the witnesses last night were William Pyne, manager of Mrs. T. J. Cronin's liquor store, German street, Matthew Kavanagh, an ex-policeman on the force, Sergeant Baxter, and George Earle, janitor at central police station.

The court room was packed to the door with interested people. The hearing lacked the laughter which marked the previous sessions, and practically the entire evening from 7.30 until 10, the crowd remained silent, evidently greatly interested in the evidence presented.

Chief of Police Clark took the stand again at the beginning. He produced, as he was requested, the records of several private investigations he had held, and the commissioner referred to the Cronin matter. In this case, William Pyne, manager of the Cronin liquor store, reported Policemen Thomas Sullivan and Ira Perry to the chief for entering the liquor store in German street. The commissioner read from the record the names of several witnesses who had testified, and the finding of the chief in which he fully exonerated the two policemen of the charge made against them.

Mr. McLellan asked the chief if both the accused and the accused were present at the hearing of this investigation, and he replied that they had been notified. The chief then stood aside and William H. Pyne took the stand.

Q.—Did they make any excuse for being there? A.—None. I stepped out on the street and they followed me. They stood beside me on the street and looked at me. Q.—Who locked the door? A.—I did. After I stood in the street with them staring at me, I began to feel lonesome and I looked around for somebody. I heard someone in Market street and I went to meet him. The two policemen followed me. I shouted back: "You opened the door, now close it." I learned since that the man I met was Patrick Pye. He came down. I called his attention to the door being open and he watched me close it, and so did the two officers. After that I started along German street, intending to go right home, and not report the matter until next morning. I turned up King street and when I got half way up the hill I looked around and I saw Sullivan and Perry just rounding the corner almost at a run. They were coming toward me. I ran across the street and up the hill. Near the Dufferin I met Policemen Crawford, not Alexander Crawford, and after I told him the story he sent me to Sergeant Campbell at central police station. I went there and found Campbell asleep on a bench. After I spoke to him he stretched and yawned for a time and when he heard the story he said: "My, this is awful." Some of the policemen looked up the report book to find how many times my door had been found open. It was four times, and the report in each case was made by two policemen, and Perry was always one of the two. Campbell fused around for a long while and then he came out with me. At the corner of Carmarthen street he told me I could go home, that he would look after the matter.

The next morning I went to see the chief. I told him the story. "Now don't be talking about this to those reporters," the chief said; "we must keep this thing quiet. There must be some mistake." That same day Killen came to the store and secured from me a written statement of the charge. About 9.30 in the night the chief telephoned me to come to his office, telling me that an investigation was to be held. A little after 10 I arrived there. Perry and Sullivan were there, the chief and Deputy Jenkins. The chief asked me to make a statement. I asked him if it was under oath. He replied, "There is no oath here." At length I made my statement, as I have made here. The deputy read over the evidence of other witnesses who gave evidence before I got there. One was Perry's, the other was Sullivan's, and I don't remember whose the third one was.

Q.—You did not hear any of the other witnesses at the investigation? A.—No. Continuing, Mr. Pyne said: As I left the office I asked the chief if the two men were going on duty again. He said: "Someone will have to pay for their time." I answered: "They shouldn't go out until the matter is settled." "Well, to get into the guard room," said the chief to the men, "someone will have to pay for this."

A few days later Fred Morrison was in my store and he told me that he had seen in George Martin's tailor store when Perry returned some thread which he had stolen. I told this to the chief and he got me to come to his office while he read me a signed statement from Martin that the affair was a joke, and Perry had not actually stolen the thread.

Q.—What was the result of the investigation? A.—The chief told me that he had gone over the evidence carefully and could see nothing else he could do, but exonerate Perry and Sullivan. He told the officers there and then that they could go on duty. The two of them walked down the street with me. Sullivan spoke to me, but Perry was mum. He never opened his mouth to me since the time I met him in the store.

Q.—Did you see the chief again about the matter? A.—One morning early I met him in the street. He beckoned to me and asked me: "Haven't you better make a statement with these men? They are going to bring action against you." The chief said he had given them permission to do so. They did not, however. "If the matter goes to court," said the chief, "you lose. If I was a betting man, I'd bet you 90 to 10. Aren't you satisfied now that you were mistaken?" he asked me. "No," I replied, "I am just as sure as I ever was, and besides, I've learned a lot during the last week."



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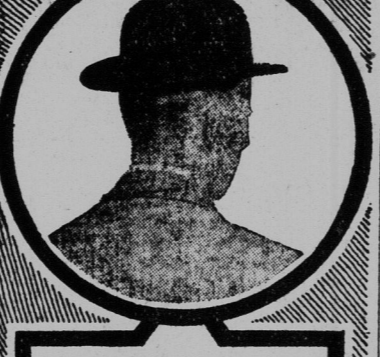
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Q.—Did you ever report Perry? A.—Yes. Once for being off his beat. Q.—Did you ever do any work for Chief Clark? A.—Not very much. Q.—Did he pay you? A.—I don't think so. Q.—Do you think that the men on the force consider the rule about talking on the streets? A.—Well, they have instructions to abide by when they get them and also a warning for talking with people in the street.

Q.—Did you ever see the chief after that? A.—Yes. I advised him to put a stouter lock on his door. Q.—Did you ever report Perry? A.—Yes. Once for being off his beat. Q.—Did you ever do any work for Chief Clark? A.—Not very much. Q.—Did he pay you? A.—I don't think so.

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