

Game Commissioner Charged With Holding Up Funds

CONNELL OF L. A. IS ACCUSED OF BREAKING LAW

No Action Yet on Charges Filed With Governor Last December

INVESTIGATION ASKED FOR

Large Sums Said to Have Been Illegally Kept in Banks

Charges that Fish and Game Commissioner M. J. Connell of Los Angeles has violated the laws of the State by leaving public money in banks longer than the time specified by the statutes were filed with Governor William D. Stephens last December by the State Board of Control, but so far the Governor has taken no official cognizance thereof, according to Carl Westerfeld, executive officer of the Commission. Westerfeld said yesterday that on March 26 he sent to the Governor a letter asking why no investigation has resulted.

REQUESTS IGNORED

The charges that were filed with the State Board of Control allege that for the last two years an average of \$25,000 a month has been kept as long as six months in Los Angeles banks, in which Connell is a director and heavy stockholder. The banks named are the Citizens National Bank, the Security National Bank, both of Los Angeles, and it is stated Westerfeld and E. L. Boquet, the other San Francisco member of the Commission, have repeatedly protested against this being done. The State, it is charged, has lost the use of large sums of money by this procedure and the circumstances were disclosed by an expert audit of the Commission's books.

Westerfeld says that repeatedly he has requested that the money be forwarded to the State Treasurer, but that these requests have been ignored and that the Governor has failed to direct any investigation. A further charge is made that under the law Connell, as a State official, is barred from participating in any way in a contract made by the State, but that despite this he is benefiting by the money remaining in banks in which he is interested.

COMPLAINTS PILED IN SAID
Some of the acts alleged wrongful on the part of Connell, it is charged, were complained of as long ago as March, 1918, but nothing ever came of the complaints, except to elicit an explanation from Connell that the placing the money in the banks was a "war measure," as to turn it over to the State would withdraw it from circulation.

In addition to the present charges against Connell, it is complained that he resents the fact that the headquarters of the commission in San Francisco prefers to conduct the commission's business throughout the entire State, and the Commission appears to have split on this phase of the situation. Boquet and Westerfeld are on one side and Commissioner A. J. Newbert of Sacramento, president of the body, appears to side with Connell, who desires a free hand in conducting the Commission's affairs in the southern end of the State.

Recently there arose in the southern end of the State a situation concerning the fishing industry, and Boquet took a hand in adjusting the

Maj. Page Brands ex-Friend Traitor; Wins Divorce Argonne Hero Testifies "Slacker" Stole Wife's Love Rival Accused of Cowardice While Spouse Fought

Fellow-Officer Turns Over Letter Man Wrote to Mrs. Page

Major John Henry Page Jr., in charge of Army recruiting in San Francisco, was granted a divorce yesterday from Mrs. Edna Berenice Wright Page, upon evidence that while Page, then a Lieutenant-Colonel, leading the 51st Infantry, 5th Division in battle William Provost, salesman, living at the Los Angeles Athletic Club stole the love of Mrs. Page.

The wife has been living in Los Angeles since the separation in San Francisco in January.

Major Page testified that after he returned from the war his wife confessed her infatuation for Provost. Mrs. Page had asked Mrs. Argonne his story were the aunt and the cousin of Mrs. Page. Attorney Bertram L. Cadwalader, Lieutenant-Colonel and comrade-in-arms of Page in France, introduced in evidence letters written by Provost and Mrs. Page that fell into the hands of Page.

LETTER GIVEN HUSBAND
The final separation in the Page home came, it was testified, when Captain Howard Angus delivered to Page a letter written by Provost to Mrs. Page. Mrs. Page had asked Mrs. Angus to hide the letter in the Angus apartment. Angus served with Page in the Argonne. Angus was wounded three times and all but thirty of 250 men in his command were killed in action. He wears the D. S. C.

Mrs. Angus testified that Mrs. Page wrote daily to Provost and told her that she was madly in love with him and desired to divorce Page and marry Provost.

Page testified that when he tried to reason with his wife and told her she could never be happy with Provost, a man she certainly couldn't respect, because he was a weak, sniveling coward, a draft dodger and a slacker, and had betrayed his friend, she replied that Provost had claimed exemption from the draft at her urging and that she "would die if he should lose his affection for her." Provost and Page were close personal friends for many years.

BLAMES PROVOST, NOT WIFE
Page said he did not blame his wife, because he believed all her trouble was brought about by Provost. It was testified that Provost obtained exemption as an employee of an essential industry in San Diego and soon afterward left his job and followed Mrs. Page to Los Angeles, where her husband had established a home for her and given her an automobile when he went to war. Page sent her from his pay of \$412 a month a regular allowance of \$250 a month, then increased it to \$300, and in addition sent her a gift of \$800 he had saved because he had no opportunity to spend in the trenches. When he returned from war he found conditions that arose therefrom. According to Boquet, Connell took umbrage at this, but Boquet says that he is determined to have the affairs of the commission handled as an entirely and not split into sectional supervisory arrangements. This situation also is expected to go officially before the governor, and efforts are to be made to get the chief executive of the State to take immediate cognizance of the troubles that threaten to disrupt entirely the personnel of one of the many commissions that have been disarranged since he took office.



Mrs. John Henry Page and Major John Henry Page Jr., who divorced her because of her infatuation for a former friend of both, who wooed while the Major was fighting in France.

said, she had spent all she sent her and money he had in bank when he left, \$3250, in less than a year, and then she accused him of "loving money more than he loved his wife." He said she was cold, indifferent, irritable and found fault with everything he did. When they arrived in Los Angeles, he said, Provost drove up to meet them in the Page automobile, which had been left in his keeping by Mrs. Page.

WIFE TELLS OF INFATUATION
Page said he supposed Provost a local friend and suspected nothing until his wife told him, in December, 1919, of her infatuation for Provost. He said she left him in San Francisco several times on pretexts to be with Provost in Los Angeles. To one of her husband's letters urging her to give up Provost and return, she replied, according to the testimony: "I wish you wouldn't write this stuff. It spoils my vacation and only makes me want to go to sleep and never wake up. Don't fool your-

self, Jack, by thinking you can get my love back again."

Page said his wife told him: "I never had liberty before. I know now I never loved you, not even when I married you. I was living on my mother and intending to go on the stage, and I married you to get some one to support me."

Other witnesses testified Mrs. Page confided to them a plan to go to Reno, establish residence, trick Page into entering Nevada on the pretext of a possibility of reconciliation, then serve him with papers so the divorce could be hastened and she could marry Provost. Page testified she sold their automobile for \$1200 and obtained money from him on various false representations. This she was hoarding, he asserted, in order to finance divorce proceedings against him.

In granting the decree Judge Flood commented Page for his patience in trying to bring about a reconciliation, told him he was convinced he had been a generous and honorable husband, and urged him to "buck up and live his own life" without further regard for persons who had proved unworthy of his friendship.

PROPERTY SETTLEMENT MADE
Page gave his wife a large part of the community property and \$87.50 a month alimony for one year.

The letter from Provost read in part: Sweetheart: As I read your Monday letter and then pass on to your Tuesday letter, how different it affects me! I was sure you would be here tomorrow A. M., and I was so happy because you were coming and I was feeling so wonderful about it.

"I am a fat man, but some like 'em fat." "It seems as though I am working things out of his way and my BB seems sorry for him, too. It seems as though he is the only one suffering and every one should forget themselves for him." "darling, I have only seen J. a few times, and each time I did I wondered why you ever married him. He never treated you as he should; always sort of bragged about his wonderful control over you. I have no sympathy for him at all, outside of the fact that I am sorry at this late date he realizes his control was egotism."

CAUTION IS URGED
Trouble is you have told too much for your own self-good. You admit everything, even to your trip to Calexico, and give him every chance to get things on you. Now he criticizes you for deceiving him, and you admit it, and are about to give in and admit you are wrong all the way through. I have often cautioned you about these things, but you will admit them and make your condition all the worse. Sweetheart, do not feel I am criticizing you or mean to you, but you must refrain from telling so much, you numbskull baby.

My sweet BB, if things have not happened, I wish you would come back as soon as you can, and we can talk it all over and decide what we can do.

Darling, you know I love you more than anything in the world, and for this I can do anything I should do for you.

Good-night, BB. Yours, WILLY.

SAFETY FIRST DRIVE OPENS IN SAN FRANCISCO

42 Organizations Join Campaign to Reduce Traffic Accident Risks

ISSUE AUTO DECALOGUE

Two-Weeks' Agitation Against Recklessness Part of Nation-Wide Move

The San Francisco part of the National Safety First drive was launched yesterday and will continue till April 14.

Posters urging upon citizens the duty they owe to themselves and the community at large of being careful to avoid accidents and obey the traffic regulations when driving or walking in the streets were displayed throughout the city, and more of these are obtainable from the Advertising Club at the Palace Hotel.

During the week ended last night forty-two clubs and other organizations of San Francisco carried a motion picture showing the national drive, of which the California Traffic Officers' Association is the State representative.

TRAFFIC GROWING FACTOR
The preamble of the resolution points out that traffic is a rapidly growing factor in industrial development, and the rules, regulations and legislation governing traffic for the safety of the public should be of national rather than local character.

Among those adopting the resolution were the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Credit Men's Association, and clubs for auto men, advertising men, the Bar, builders, retailers and printers.

"Ten Commandments" for motorists were issued yesterday by D. E. Watkins, secretary-manager of the California State Automobile Association. This association is urging its members and motorists generally to observe these rules: "If the motorists will observe these rules," said Watkins, "accidents will be reduced to a minimum."

AUTO TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1-Don't cut corners.
- 2-Don't "cut in" short after passing a vehicle.
- 3-Use the proper signal whenever you are starting from the curb, in turning, in changing your course or in stopping.
- 4-Don't consider driving at maximum speed within the law the legal speed is a safe speed at all times.
- 5-Don't turn except at corners in business districts and closely built-up sections.
- 6-Don't pass street cars; discharge: passers give closer than six feet or at a greater speed than ten miles an hour.
- 7-Don't attempt to pass a vehicle if there is another vehicle approaching from the opposite direction.
- 8-Don't turn your car out of the garage without knowing your brakes and steering gear are right and your headlights comply with the law.
- 9-Slow down when you observe children playing near the curb or in the street. Remember they don't see the wisdom of an adult.
- 10-Don't drive with the belief that the pedestrian is familiar with rules of the road.

Stickers bearing the words "I will obey the law—Safety First, April 1 to April 14," have been printed by the Automobile Association and will be pasted on the windshield of all machines in the city today by Boy Scouts.

"SOCIALISM AND ANARCHISM"
The Hunz Tao Society will meet tonight in Kohler & Chase Hall, 844 King street, to discuss "Socialism and Anarchism."

INVESTORS WANT FAKE PROMOTER SUSPECT FREED

Holders of \$30,000 Stock in Buckner Shows Seek to Recover "Losses"

HELD FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

'Fleeced Victims' Say Chance to Save Life Earnings Hangs on Accused's Ability

Deciding that in the ability of Arthur Buckner, promoter of theatrical enterprises, now in the City Prison facing two charges of embezzlement, lies their only hope of recovering their life savings, seven persons who have invested a total of \$30,000 on Buckner's say-so, are to ask probation for Buckner. This decision was reached after a long conference yesterday of the seven stockholders in the Buckner theatrical interests.

Buckner is held on \$10,000 bail. Pitiful tales were told at the conference of the straits to which some of the investors have been reduced. Machine rides and expensive dinners by which the victims were led to part with their life's savings were described, and it was then, they said, that they began to suspect they had been fleeced.

According to Ralph G. Nagle, an employee of R. C. P. & Co., who swore to a warrant against Buckner charging violation of the corporate securities act, he was led to part with \$2700 on the promise of a fourth interest in the Buckner venture, which was to promote theatrical and motion picture enterprises. In addition he was to be made a director and was to receive a salary of \$50 a week.

SAID INTEREST PROMISED
It was said by each of the other six investors that they also had part with their money on the promise of a fourth interest.

The suspected bubble was exploded, it was said, last Saturday when G. J. Zehender of San Mateo, one of the heavy investors, learned Buckner's arrest on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses. Immediately after being released on bail Buckner, according to Nagle, offered to refund his money with a \$1000 premium. As soon as the contract papers were returned, Buckner tore them up in his night, Nagle stated.

The conference was called to discuss means of liquidating the affairs of the Buckner enterprise. It was attended by Jacques Bustanoby, restaurateur of New York, who pleaded in Buckner's behalf that the only chance to salvage the scheme was by freeing the promoter so his talent could be devoted to bringing the venture to a sound footing.

Nagle and Zehender objected to

Chronicle Aid For Palestine Fund Attested

PUBLICITY in The Chronicle as a contributing factor toward success is appreciated by the local committee of the Palestine Restoration Fund, as attested in the following letter to the editor, bearing the signatures of Morgan A. Gunst, chairman; I. Irving Lipsitch, director, and John I. Walter, treasurer of the committee:

"On behalf of the campaign committee, we wish to express to you our sincere and deep appreciation of the assistance and co-operation which you have afforded us in the columns of your daily. Publicity has been a vital factor in our success, and, knowing the pressure to which your columns have been subjected, we have been very grateful for the space you have devoted to our campaign."

Dismissing the charges to which they had sworn, the majority, however, were in favor of the plan. One of their number told how he had mortgaged his home and sold his automobile on Buckner's representations but voted in favor of asking probation for the promoter.

LICENSE CHARTER REVOKED

Investigation by the office of the State Corporation Commissioner showed the Buckner Theatrical interests had no material assets. The various properties including a motion picture theater in Napa, supposed by the investors to have been owned outright, were merely leased. On this disclosure the license charter of the Buckner corporation was revoked by the Corporation Commissioner.

Commonwealth Club

To Hear S. O. Dunn

Samuel O. Dunn, editor of the Railway Age of Chicago, will speak on "American Industry" before the San Francisco Commonwealth Club at the Palace Hotel today. Dunn is one of the leading authorities on matters concerning railroad transportation. He was a close friend and adviser of the late E. P. Ripley, who, until his death, was chairman of the executive committee of the Santa Fe Railroad system. The luncheon will begin promptly at 12:30 o'clock and adjourn at 1:30.

LIGHTS AID ON MOTOR TRIP

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Derby, aide-camp to Lieutenant-General Hunter Liggett, left yesterday on a ten-days' leave of absence, which will be spent on a motor trip south.

Statement of the
Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc.
Required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912

San Francisco Chronicle

Published Daily and Sunday, at San Francisco, California, for April 1, 1920.

State of California
County of San Francisco

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared W. H. B. FOWLER, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse side of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:

Publisher..... Chronicle Publishing Co., Chronicle Building
Editor and Managing Editor.... John P. Young, Chronicle Building
Business Manager..... W. H. B. Fowler, Chronicle Building

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.)

M. H. de Young, Chronicle Building

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company, but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers 94,366 during the six months preceding the date shown above is:.....
(This information is required from daily publications only.)
W. H. B. FOWLER, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of April, 1920.
(Seal) PERCY TOWNE,
Notary Public in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California. (My commission expires February 9, 1924.)

Wiley Ballen & Co.

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For the first time in many months are we able to offer a really attractive list of fine USED PIANOS. Just now we have a real assortment of beautiful instruments that have come to us in exchange for new Player Pianos and for Grands. They have been completely renovated, and are offered at especially attractive prices.

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KNOX HATS

HERE is a well defined tendency in soft hat styles for Spring that is splendidly interpreted by Knox. The rolled-up brim slightly narrower than before and the higher crown.

For over eighty years Knox has been setting the styles in men's hats.

The KNOX SHOP
51 Grant Ave.