THE DONOVAN CASE.

Chief Pratt's Charges Against the Captain of the Police.

UNBECOMING CONDUCT ALLEGED.

Hearing to Come Up on the 23rd—Another Bumble of Discontent From the Fire Department.

At the meeting of the fire and police board last night, the charges preferred against Captain Donovan were presented, and were as follows:

THE CHARGES.

To the Hon. E. N. Baskin, Mayor, and the Honorable Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, of Salt Lake City, Territory of Utah:

I hereby charge John J. Donovan, captain of the police department of Salt Lake City, Territory of Utah, with conduct unbecoming a good officer and an officer and gentleman of Salt Lake City, with a disregard and violation of the duties of his office, with disrespect towards the chief of the police department, his superior in office, a neglect of his duty as captain of the police force, making false statements and reports to the chief of the police department, and members of the board of police and fire commissioners, and willful suppression of a letter directed to the chief of said department, and a willful and unwarranted concealing of the said letter from said chief, and being said letter for his own sinister and unworthy personal purposes as will more fully appear in the specifying specifications, herein.

Specification 1.—That on or about the 23d day of July, 1895, at the city and county of Salt Lake, Territory of Utah, the said Captain John J. Donovan, in violation of his duty as a member and an officer of the police department of said city, received a letter which referred to and contained a complaint of misconduct against Sergeant W. H. Ford, also a member and officer of said police department, at police headquarters in the city hall in said city, which was directed to the chief of the police department, Arthur Pratt, and there was said a charge of the neglect, carelessness, and suppression of said letter by the said Donovan as aforesaid, being in Salt Lake City, and standing in the duties of such chief.

All of which is a disregard and violation of the duties of the position held and station of the police force and department of said city, and tends to destroy the harmony of the members of the said department, and in violation of and conflict with certain laws of an act of the Legislature of the Territory of Utah, approved March 9, 1894, and at rule 1, page 5, of rules governing the police department of Salt Lake City.

Specification 2.—That said Captain John J. Donovan on or about the 23d day of July, 1895, at the city and county of Salt Lake, then and there speaking to Arthur Pratt, the chief of the police department of said city, for issue of summons, and then and there "requested himself into trouble, the said Donovan, wished to visit Bingham, Mercur or the Tooele mining districts or either of said places, and did not go at the same time or at all, visit or go to either of said places; that all of said representations were wholly false and untrue, and were then and there well known to be false and untrue, and were then and there made by said Donovan for the purpose of deceiving Arthur Pratt, the chief of the said police department, who was then and now is his superior officer, and to enable Mr. Donovan to go to Mr. Pleasant, Sanpete county, Utah Territory, to obtain evidence against W. H. Ford, a sergeant in the police department of said city, and some supposed misconduct on the part of the said Ford, and the said Donovan failed, neglected and refused to report said misconduct, if any, on the part of said Ford, to his superior officer, the chief of said department, which is his duty to do.

That the said Captain Donovan then and there by reason of the said false and untrue representations so as aforesaid made to his superior officer, the chief of the police department of said city, did obtain from said chief leave of absence to visit Bingham, Mercur, and the Tooele mining districts, that he said Donovan did not visit or go to either of the said places, on the contrary did then and there by leave of absence obtained as aforesaid and not otherwise go to Mt. Pleasant in Sanpete county, this Territory, and did use said leave as aforesaid and concealed and suppressed by him in trying to blacken the character and bring disgrace upon the said Sergeant W. H. Ford and the police department of said city.

All of which is in violation of his duties as an officer, and disrespectful to his superior officer, the chief of the said department, and tends to destroy the discipline and harmony which should exist between the officers and members of said department.

Specification 3.—That on or about the 1st of August, 1895, the said Capt. John J. Donovan, then and there acting as secretary to and in violation of the instructions of the said police department, and without authority or knowledge of the chief of said department or of the board of the police and fire commissioners of said city, took from the "regular" pasteboard of said department, to wit: F. P. McDonald, from his duties as a policeman, and sent the said McDonald to Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete county, Utah Territory, beyond the corporate limits of Salt Lake, to assist in the investigation of the affairs of the said Department, in procuring testimony against the said Sergeant Ford, for the purpose of blacking his character, and bringing disgrace upon the said Ford, and not in the discharge of any public duty as a police officer, and then and there instructed the said McDonald to procure evidence against the said police officer, to wit: Sergeant W. H. Ford, and other members of the police force of said city, for the purpose of bringing said officers and members of said force into disgrace.

All of which was for the purpose of gratifying his personal spleen and spite of said Captain Donovan against said officers and members of said department; and was in violation of his duties as such officer, in that he took the said McDonald off, on or about said date, to go to Mt. Pleasant, and then and there, and at other times and places, by and through said McDonald, and other persons, was attempting to obtain evidence against said officers.

Specification 4.—That the said Captain J. J. Donovan represented to the said Arthur Pratt, chief of the department, on or about the 1st day of August, 1895, at Salt Lake City, that the said Sergeant W. H. Ford, a member of the said Department, F. P. McDonald had laid off, and was not on duty as a policeman on account of sickness, which was false and untrue, and said McDonald was not and had not been sick, but was absent from duty as a policeman by the express order of said Captain Donovan, to Mt. Pleasant, Sanpete county, Utah, and that he, said McDonald, was not a member of said police force of said Salt Lake City, on some supposed charge of misconduct on the part of the said Ford, as the said Donovan, well knew, and in the interest of said Donovan, and in his official capacity, and refusing to file report said charge, if any, there was against said Ford in the chief of said police department and the board of police and fire commissioners.

That the said representations so made by the said Donovan were false and untrue, and were then and there known by the said Donovan to be false and untrue, and were made for the purpose of deceiving the said chief and to serve his own private ends.

Specification 5.—That said Captain John J. Donovan on or about the 15th day of May, 1895, in Salt Lake City, and in violation of his duty as an officer of the police department of said city, was guilty of and did report and publish the secrets of said police department, which had been obtained in the officers thereof, in the search for such information as to charges against persons who were suspected of the commission of crime and a violation of the penal laws and ordinances of the said Salt Lake City, and the said Captain Donovan did then and there tell one McDonald he had an assessment of ceiling a nickel, and that he would get caught, as the police were after him, or words to that effect. That the said one of the information so given to said South the ends of justice were defeated.

Specification 6.—That charge John J. Donovan, captain in the police department of Salt Lake City, that after he, the said Donovan, had responded P. F. McDonald, a policeman in said department, on August 11, 1895, without pay, due to the presence of measy poisoned, and recently made on the time book of the police department of said city, that said McDonald had signed said form, and wrote thereon up to and including the 20 to 11 August, 1895.

Specification 7.—That on or about the 8th day of August, 1895, it was reported to the police department that F. P. McDonald, a police man of said department, and then at the Salmar lake resort, was intoxicated, boisterous, and publicly in the presence of many persons, women and children, was guilty of using the vulgar and indecent and profane language, and that said Captain Donovan was detailed to that place on said complaint as to the truth of said report, and failure to report said misconduct on the part of said McDonald, and the said Donovan, as I am informed and believe he feels to be true, did impose and extend certain remarks upon Deputy Marshal J. C. Davis and others who were present at Saltair, and who informed said Donovan of the fact that the conduct of the said McDonald was most scandalous, his language, the profanity and the disgusting noise, and that he was not fit to be on the police force of said city, and that they would send no more men to Saltair, and boldly in the above act did belittle and belittle the above facts and statements that said Donovan reported to members of the board of the police and fire commissioners and the chief of the police department, he could find no person or persons who would testify to such conduct as any misconduct or wrong committed by the said F. P. McDonald, all of which was said and done.

All of which matters and things set up in these charges and specifications are in violation of the duties of the said Captain Donovan as an officer of said police force and of the statutes and rules hereinbefore mentioned and referred to.

ARTHUR PRATT,
Chief of the Police Force and Department of Salt Lake City.

SALT LAKE CITY, Sept. 7, 1895.

CONSIDERATION OF TRIAL.

Prior to the reading of the charges, Chief Pratt claimed that it was the desire of the department that the case should be tried in a speedy manner, and the hearing was accordingly set for Monday evening, September 23.

This case being discussed of for the time being, the matter of other business was next taken up.

AS A WITNESS.

Detective Sheets was allowed to proceed to Evanston, where he was wanted as a witness in the case of Carter and Stewart, the United States mail robbers.

ORDINANCE OF CLARK AND GILBERT.

Fireman Clark, by petition, stated to the board that since his reinstatement, he had been assigned to a different position to the equipment he was on when he was suspended, that he was justly entitled to the same position as he formerly occupied, by reason of his reinstatement.

Chief Pratt said that his reason for so doing was because of the fact that Mr. Clark's place as engineer had been filled by another, and that at present only one engineer was required.

Mr. Clark stated that he was willing at all times to obey the orders of the chief, but thought the order of his reinstatement had not been complied with, in having been given an $60 when he was entitled to a $65 job.

The matter was taken under advisement.

Captain Gilbert then complained that he had been given an inferior job since his reinstatement, thus making his salary $10 less per month.

This case was also taken under advisement.

ASK FOR VACATIONS.

The members of the fire department filed a petition asking that the board adopt a resolution providing for a fifteen-day vacation each year for all permanent employees of the city. Referred to Chief Devine.

WRITS OF MANDATE.

The city attorney was directed to appear before the district court tomorrow and answer to writs of mandate showing cause why Firemen T. F. Chapman and Chas. A. Lyons should not be reinstated to the department.

On account of the city attorney going to the district court for some time, the board was notified that Hon. Farley A. Williams would appear for the prosecution during the illness of Captain Donovan.

The disbursements of the fire department for the month of August were filed and amounted to $2,800.26.

Upon request of Chief Pratt the board then went into executive session.

Members of the Y.L.M. I. A. Notice.

The members of the Y.L.M.I.A. of Salt Lake Stake are requested to meet together on next Tuesday, Sept. 12th, in their respective wards at the usual time and place of meeting for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of which we have been informed by the Y.M.M.I.A. of Zion. This date to be the regular relief night of the Tabernacle choir, members of the choir are not expected to be present.

MARY A. PARKER,
Stake Superintendent.

MEANDER CITIES.

EMMING, HOLLAND, Sept. 10.—The Meander Minstrels, Manti, Ephraim and Gunnison, Sanpete county, Annie, lessee of Auditorium, Sunday night, Sept. 8th, under the direction of Mr. Fox-man, Sanpete county, according to reports, very large audience, Sergeant W. H. Ford, a member of the police force of said Salt Lake City, and Mr. Clark, a member of the board of said city, and Mr. Donovan, a member of said police force, and