

come in and take them. This speech or argument on the case was to be among them when prepared."

President Donnellan here stated that the board had no safe, but at the suggestion of Secretary Sears the latter was permitted to place his own safe in the office just a few days ago.

"Did you show the papers to Edwards?"

"No," he told me he had been in here and seen them. He generally dropped in when my father would go to luncheon."

The witness was then shown the bundle of letters now in the possession of P. L. Williams, attorney of the Union Pacific.

"I recognize every one of them. They are in my handwriting and were written at the instigation of Edwards. While there are apparently several hands—back and running—I used both."

The documents were then shown to Heber M. Wells, W. H. Rowe, Mr. Shearman and others, who for many years had been familiar with the handwriting of S. W. Sears, Jr., and they all testified that none of these documents were his production.

"What of the Pocatello letter?"

"All the letters were written here. This one was gotten up at the suggestion of Edwards, in Denver. If Mr. Eccles asked me for authority, I was to write this kind of a letter giving it, and it would be followed by one confirming it. Edwards was not in Pocatello. He went east."

"Were you to get any money out of this deal?"

"Not a cent. Edwards held me down, and promised if I would do this he would forever keep quiet on that other matter. I was afraid of this man and for that reason only I consented to do the act. I saw him often about noon in this office and would meet him at the Walker, but never spoke to him in the presence of a third person."

"Is there any such man as E. E. Edwards?"

"Upon my honor there is. I knew him in San Francisco, also in St. Louis, in Denver and here. What I say now is the truth. What I say now is done at the suggestion of Mr. Donnellan and Mr. Shearman and my father, all of whom advised me to tell the whole truth."

"Who got the mail for the Chamber of Commerce, and what about these letters?"

"I did, and whenever there were letters for Edwards I gave them to him, up to the time we got a box. I never visited his room. One letter sent him had a postoffice order in it, but I knew it was not for him, so I re-enclosed it and put it back in the general delivery. No such letter as the one said to have been picked out of the waste-basket was ever received by me. These letters were simply 'built up' and were all made here."

"Did you ever pass as Edwards?"

"No, I never did, nor as any other assumed person."

"What were you to do with the money coming from Eccles?"

"I was to forward it to Edwards at Chicago to the general delivery."

"What did you tell Eccles about your father's chance to sell out in a similar case?"

"When I went to his office I said—

'of course you spoke to Edwards'—to which he replied—'I never saw Edwards.'"

"I was much astonished at this and in speaking of the amount may have said my father once had a chance to sell out in a similar case for \$75,000, but don't recall it. I never saw Edwards with anyone, except a strange woman, while he was here."

P. L. Williams—The railway people have all along supposed Edwards to be a person and upon this theory the detectives have been working. Young Sears was shadowed for the purpose of finding him, as we desired to get at the person who was the author of this base proposal. We did not think young Sears was the man.

Mr. Simon—We want to get at the truth, and I'll give \$100 to help find him.

S. W. Sears, Jr.—Edwards knew what he wanted and picked out the special sheets. Everything needed by the railway was to be placed where they could be reached. As to the so-called blind or decoy letter, I never saw it.

In reply to a question by Mr. Wells young Sears expressed his willingness to write or wire a letter to Edwards or use any means of identifying the mysterious personage.

When asked if he had anything to say, Sears, Jr., replied:

"All I can say is, I have no statement to make. I know no more about this than anyone of the directors—never saw any of these letters and had no intimation of the matter until it was in print, and never told any one about it."

On motion the board then went into executive session.

MR. SEARS EXONERATED.

When the doors of the executive session were opened the following resolutions had been adopted on motion of Fred Simon, seconded by S. W. Morrison:

Resolved, That we, the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce and members of the transportation bureau, in view of the evidence submitted to us and after having duly considered the same, extend to Septimus W. Sears, Sen., secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and commissioner of the transportation bureau, a vote of confidence for the work carried on by him as such secretary and commissioner and tender him our support and sympathy, and pledge ourselves to continue our assistance and support in the adjustment of the grievances of the people of this city and Territory against the railway companies to a final issue.

JOHN W. DONNELLAN, President.
FRED SIMON,
Chairman Transportation Bureau.
HEBER M. WELLS,
Vice-President Chamber of Commerce.
SETH W. MORRISON,
Second Vice-President Chamber of Commerce.

M. J. GRAY,
JOSEPH GEOGHEGAN.
W. H. ROWE,
JOHN H. WHITE,
H. P. MASON,
N. A. EMPREY,
E. B. WICKS,
GEORGE OSMOND,
GEORGE T. ONELL,
W. C. B. ALLEN,
GEORGE A. LOWE,
WILLIAM H. SHEARMAN.

The following statement can be fully relied upon and appears to throw some light on the mystery about the man Edwards:

THE MYSTERIOUS VISITOR.

"For nearly eighteen months I have been in the habit of calling daily at the office of the County Clerk for items for publication. Some time in May or June last, the Chief Editor of the DESERET NEWS suggested that I had better call at the Chamber of Commerce on my way from or to the County Court, and obtain any items Secretary Sears might have for publication. I did so. My time of visiting the Chamber was invariably between 1 and 2 p.m. I had been going for some weeks and had never met Mr. Sears, Sr., and as I did not get some items which other papers had I concluded Mr. Sears, Jr., was not fully conversant with the details of the office. One day I asked young Sears what his father's office hours were. He told me that his dinner hour was from 1 to 2 invariably; and that I would in future get what there was for publication."

"In the early part of July I noticed a young man in the office with S. W. Sears, Jr., who made himself so much at home that I concluded he was in some official way connected with the Chamber of Commerce. For a full week in succession I noticed this person in the office every day from 1 to 2 p.m. Then I called one day, and the person was absent. I asked young Sears who his friend was. He told me he was a young man recently from the Pacific coast; that he was a railroad man expecting employment of some kind in Salt Lake. I asked several questions in relation to his freedom in the office, but young Sears replied by saying this man was a particular friend."

"Next day on my visit I found the Pacific coast man again in the office. I entered into conversation with him without an introduction. He told me he worked on a railroad in California; that he had also worked in railroad offices in Chicago. He named the roads, with one of which I was very familiar. He knew all the officials, and all the prominent railroad men of Illinois."

"During the whole month of July he was in the office almost every day during my visit between one and two. One day it was near two p.m. when I called at the office, and on my departure he accompanied me, walking with me as far as the postoffice. I visited one day when he was absent, and I made him the subject of a conversation with young Sears. I told the young man that his friend seemed to be rather a queer character, but Sears championed him by saying that he was all right, except in the matter of drink, for which he had a particular predilection. Sears told me of several places which he had visited in company with the Pacific coast man. I remember distinctly telling Sears that if he kept on associating with this person he would find himself some morning in jail or in the pen."

"I remember meeting this person as late as the second week in August, but since I have not seen him. I asked young Sears what became of him, and he replied that he had not seen him for a week, and wanted to see him badly on business."

"As near as I can remember, this young man appeared 27 or 28 years of age, of slender build, and rather neatly