

REFORMERS MAKE STRONG DENIAL

Claim They Did Not Know a Supreme Court Writ Was Served

MORE RIOT TESTIMONY

Piling Up Evidence on Both Sides in the Council Contempt Proceedings in Camden

A large number of additional witnesses gave testimony before Supreme Court Commissioner Joline in Camden yesterday in the contempt proceedings instituted against the Reform Councilmen and others by Republicans. Counsel for the Republicans finished the presentation of their case, so far as the examination of witnesses went, and the Committee of One Hundred counsel began calling their witnesses. The respondents in the contempt proceedings will endeavor to show that they were not responsible for the interference with service of the writ of certiorari or the riot that broke out in the Council chamber, during which Clerk Varney was assaulted and the writ disappeared. A general denial that any official action was taken by the Reform Councilmen in disobedience of the writ will also be made.

Former Judge Pancoast and Lawyer Snyder looked after the interests of the Republicans, while Lawyers Bleakly and Pearce vigorously defended the cause of the Reformers.

The additional witnesses called by the Republican counsel during the morning session at the Court House repeated the story of the riotous proceedings in the Council chamber, which had been detailed at length by numerous witnesses the day before. They nearly all testified to hearing Councilman Sayre announce that he had a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court when he handed a legal document to Clerk Varney. The mystery of the whereabouts of the missing writ was not cleared up, although the witnesses said they saw Cooper B. Hatch and Harry C. Kramer apparently struggling to get it away from City Clerk Varney.

VARNEY WAS KICKED.

Charles J. Cornog, of 834 Spruce street, saw two men have Clerk Varney down on the floor. One man had him by the throat and the other was in the act of kicking him. He could identify the men if he saw them again. Excise Inspector Harry Price testified that he saw ex-Policeman Isaac Shreeve strike Clerk Varney on the head.

Assistant City Clerk W. T. G. Young, Jr., testified that he saw Councilman Sayre hand Mr. Varney a paper and announce it to the president of Council as a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court. Witness said Mr. Varney turned and announced that he had such a writ in his possession and started to read. The president rapped for order and called for the regular order of business at the prompting of Alpheus Vansant, who was on the platform. The crowd then rushed for the clerk's desk. Harry Kramer pushed Mr. Varney from the platform and he saw Cooper B. Hatch grab the writ.

Counsel for the Republicans compelled the Reform counsel to produce the original resolution which precipitated the contest over the Third ward seat. It provided for the seating of Dr. William Shafer as Reform Councilman from that ward in place of John E. Roberts, Republican. It was introduced in evidence.

One of the first witnesses on the Committee of One Hundred side was Lawyer Bleakly. He told of his experience in the riotous Council meeting and denied positively that he had seen anything of the writ of certiorari, or heard the announcement of its service. He was sure that neither Mr. Hatch nor Mr. Kramer tried to take the writ from Clerk Varney. Lawyer Bleakly said he had advised Mr. Hatch not to be sworn in as Mayor before the old Council, as the Republicans would try to elect a man to take his place as Councilman from the Second ward. He claimed that the new Council did not adopt the resolution unseating Councilman Roberts. Lawyer Bleakly declined to say whether the Shafer resolution was a cautious measure of the Committee of One Hundred Councilmen unless ordered to do so by the Court.

Edward Roberts, of Fourth and Penn streets, saw Sayrs hand Varney a paper.

He denied that he struck, seized or pushed City Clerk Varney, but said he did not regret that Clerk Varney was forced out of his position, because, in his opinion, Mr. Varney had no right there.

A MINISTER'S DENIAL

Rev. John Handley, D. D., heard no announcement of the writ of certiorari.

He denied that he had said that the writ should have been disobeyed because "the people are greater than the courts."

President Taylor, of the new City Council, said he had never presided over a public body before. He found it impossible to keep order at the organization of Council, and was positive that he did not hear any announcement of a writ of certiorari. He saw Councilman Sayrs hand a paper to Mr. Varney, but did not learn what it was. Mr. Taylor denied that J. Alpheus Vansant had advised him to pay no attention to the writ. President Taylor said he would have obeyed the writ had he known what it was. He denied that Council acted on the Shafer resolution after Mr. Varney was ejected.

Harry C. Kramer, the City Clerk elected by the new Council, said he saw Councilman Sayrs hand a paper to Mr. Varney and the crowd pushed witness into the position that had been occupied by Mr. Varney, as Clerk of Council, and pushed the latter off the platform. Before Mr. Varney was hustled out he tried to grab all the papers in sight. Mr. Varney did not finish reading the Shafer resolution and there was no action on it after Varney was ejected.

Mr. Kramer denied that he heard Councilman Sayrs announce that he had a writ of certiorari, and he was under the impression that Mr. Varney had placed the writ in his pocket. He denied that Mayor Hatch had taken the writ from Mr. Varney. The witness swore that he did not know what became of the writ.

The Committee of One Hundred members of Council were then called, but they all testified in substance that the noise was so great that they could not tell what was going on at the clerk's desk.

Mayor Hatch was called on to testify, but he was not present.

The hearing was adjourned until 8.30 A. M. to-morrow.