

LEWIS RETALIATES UPON BUILDING-LOAN OFFICERS

He Accuses the Men Who Deposed Him of Grand Larceny in Taking His Papers.

SEVEN APPEAR IN COURT.

Lewis Says His Desk Was Broken Open, but They Declare That He Gave Up the Keys.

The troubles in the Brooklyn City Co-operative Building and Loan Association are not by any means over. Thomas F. Lewis, the deposed president, has caused the arrest of seven of the officers of the organization on a charge of grand larceny.

The story of the trouble in the association was told at length in the Eagle at the time. The directors at a business meeting accidentally discovered that the financial secretary, John H. Kampf, had permitted one of the members to remain for six months in arrears of payment on a mortgage. This was considered a serious offense and the president and financial secretary were suspended on the spot.

Joseph V. Sculley, the vice president, and five of the members of the auditing committee demanded from the officers named the keys of the desks and the combinations of the safes in the office at 91 Court street. The keys and books were surrendered and a policeman stayed in the office all night while the vice president and his friends went over the books and cash accounts. Mr. Lewis and Mr. Kampf were permitted to remain in the office while the examination was in progress, but it is understood that they were not allowed again inside of the railing which separates the inner portion of the office from the outside.

Mr. Sculley reported next morning that the cash had balanced to a penny and that the books were all right, with the exception of the default which had occasioned all the trouble. At a subsequent meeting Mr. Sculley was empowered to act as president and John J. Dinnaker, the assistant financial secretary, was authorized to act in Mr. Kampf's place.

Lewis, it was understood, made no objection to the action of the directors in suspending him and readily, it was said, gave over his keys to his private desk and the other desks in the office. He could not be seen when a reporter tried to get an interview with him at the time, but yesterday afternoon he went with his counsel, Mr. Whitlock, to the Adams street court, with an affidavit charging seven of the officers of the association with grand larceny. They demanded a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Sculley and his associates and it was issued by Magistrate Brenner. The document was placed in the hands of Court Officer Kracker and late yesterday afternoon he had notified the men charged that they should appear in court to answer the complaint. The affidavit of Mr. Lewis is brief. It simply reads:

"Thomas F. Lewis of 612 Thirtieth street, real estate dealer, deposes and says: That on the 18th of February, 1901, divers goods and chattels, money and property of deposit, namely \$100 in United States currency, checks, papers, deeds, checks, bills, books, record of business, mortgages and bonds, papers and documents of various descriptions, and a typewriter, were taken, stolen and carried away by Joseph H. DeLaney, Joseph V. Sculley, Theodore F. Evemeyer, Joseph J. Hooser, J. Hoehn, George W. Dinnick and Joseph Cox, at 91 Court street."

The men named are all officials, as has been said, of the association. Lewis intimates that the accused practically took forcible possession of his desk, wherein were all of the papers and documents pertaining to his private business as a real estate agent, that they opened his desk by force, that they appropriated his money and that they practically broke up his business by taking charge of everything.

Mr. Lewis was engaged in the real estate business in the office at 91 Court street, where the association allowed him to have desk room. He was paid a nominal salary as president of the association, but it was not enough to permit him to give up his private business, and he declares that all of the papers in his private desk were part of his business and were not in any way connected with the affairs of the Brooklyn City Co-operative Building and Loan Association.

The seven men whose names are given were in the Adams street court early this morning. It was clear that they were annoyed by the action of Mr. Lewis, but they declined to discuss the case in any way. They united in a plea of not guilty and hearing was postponed until Tuesday next. Magistrate Brenner permitted them to go on parole until that date and they left the court room together.

When seen at the office at 91 Court street this forenoon Mr. Sculley declared that he had done no wrong. Mr. Lewis had voluntarily surrendered the keys of his desk on the night that he was suspended, and Mr. Sculley and he had made no demands since then for any of the property. The association had no desire to become possessed of money that did not belong to it. All that the officers wanted were the papers and assets of the association. With Mr. Lewis' private business the association had nothing to do. Mr. Lewis had not made any objection on the night that he was suspended from the office and the members of the association were willing at any time to surrender to Mr. Lewis anything that he could prove was his own property. But he had made no demand for anything.

Mr. Sculley denied that any desk had been broken open. The keys were all handed to the members of the board of officers.

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