

Municipal Prisons Are Overflowing As 'Clean-Up' Campaign Is Pushed

Despite the fact that prisoners at the city dairy farm are now forced to sleep in shifts because of the unprecedented influx of prisoners as a result of the drive against vice and crime in Atlanta, Acting Chief of Police M. A. Hornsby yesterday reiterated his promise to "clean up the city," asserting there will "be no let-up until it is clean."

In the interim, those gathered in by the police dragnets began paying off. City recorders worked overtime trying cases and more than \$1,370 was turned into the municipal treasury through fines.

Mayor Pro Tem. Ellis B. Barrett, acting mayor while Mayor Key is away on a ten-day mid-winter vacation in Florida, turned a dozen minor offenders out of the stockade, and Councilman George B. Lyle, chairman of the prison committee, notified

Hornsby that no prisoners can be received at the city dairy farm.

Barrett and Lyle last night visited the city dairy farm to investigate conditions, and found 180 prisoners living under facilities and equipment for only 90 persons.

Of this number, 15 men were found to be suffering from influenza and there were other ill men.

Barrett told Superintendent Ellis to make a list of those who are ill and others who could be released so that these may be scrutinized carefully with a view to releasing some of them.

He also said that he will communicate with city physicians immediately so that the prisoners who are ill will receive medical attention.

Praising Superintendent Ellis for his handling of a difficult situation

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with limited funds, equipment and facilities. Barrett said. "I am in favor of law enforcement, but I believe the city should furnish proper sleeping facilities and that men should not be exposed to diseases."

Hornsby yesterday told his men to bring lawbreakers in.

"We'll find some place for them," he said. "We are going to clean this town up while we are at it, and this is not a sporadic drive."

Nearly 700 persons, charged with liquor, vice, number racket and other violations, have fallen afoul of the law since Hornsby was placed at the head of the department early Friday morning, when Chief of Police T. O. Sturdivant and First Assistant Chief A. Lamar Poole, in charge of detectives, were relieved of their duties and charged with incompetency and inefficiency by the police committee.

A total of 66 persons were arrested yesterday and last night on various charges. The cases were divided as follows: intoxication, 27; loitering, 12; occupying a dive, nine; lottery, seven; driving while intoxicated, three; intoxication and disorderly conduct, four; operating a dive, one, and disorderly conduct, whisky, three.

Lyle also expressed concern yesterday that the \$30,000 appropriated by the city for food and clothing for prisoners for the entire year, will be exhausted within three months if the dairy farm population is kept up to its present number.

He officially warned Councilman Aubrey Milam, chairman of the finance committee, that the clean-up drive has caused unusual expenditures in that department and that additional large sums will be needed if the department is to continue to function along the present lines.

Councilman G. Dan Bridges, chairman of the police committee, yesterday said a check of about 40 impounded liquor cars is in progress to determine whether they had been released illegally.

A three-way checkup on the cars in question will be prosecuted before 7:30 o'clock Thursday night, the time set by Bridges for a resumption of the police committee probe of alleged illegal release of liquor cars.

Additional Charges Seen.

It is anticipated that additional charges will be made against departmental employes as a result of the liquor car releases which Bridges has branded "as rotten as hell and a racket."

Sturdivant and Poole are summoned to answer police committee complaints against them at a meeting slated for 7:30 o'clock Thursday night, February 27.

In addition to being charged with incompetency and inefficiency, Sturdivant also will answer accusations that he illegally released two impounded liquor cars to Ralph Owens, alleged bootlegger.

The drive of the police committee to oust the heads of the department, whom the committee has asserted are incompetent, will be fought out within the committee for some time to come as a result of city council's action Monday in refusing to abolish Poole's ordinance-created job.

To Await Trials.

No further council aid will be sought until after the conclusion of the trials of Poole and Sturdivant by the committee, it was indicated yesterday. If all charges are sustained, and Sturdivant and Poole discharged or demoted, it is expected that the demand for abolition of the post of first assistant chief of police in charge of detectives will be renewed by the police committee.

Poole Monday won his battle against the police committee by a vote of 29 to sustain him to only six votes to rescind the ordinance creating his job.