

# DROPPED BY CHIEFS, BURNS ASKS HEARING

**Detective Says Officials of Cities  
Where He Exposed Corruption  
Put Him Out of Police Order.**

## THE FRANK CASE INVOLVED

**Head of Atlanta Force Prominent in  
Movement to Oust Noted Sleuth  
at Chiefs' Convention.**

William J. Burns, head of the National Detective Agency of this city, on learning yesterday that he had been dropped from the honorary roll of the International Association of Police Chiefs, now in convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., because of the activities of his agents in the Frank case in Atlanta, Ga., sent this telegram to the head of that organization:

New York, June 19, 1914.

Major Sylvester, President Chiefs of Police

Association, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Have just learned of outrageous action of one of your committees in dropping my name from the honorary role through the influence of a few of my enemies. In the interests of fair play I demand a hearing, and will guarantee to show the association and the public generally that this action is based entirely upon my efforts to show up the corruption and insincerity of those directly responsible for bringing about this action. I defy any one to point his finger at any dishonorable act I have ever done.

WILLIAM J. BURNS.

After sending this telegram Mr. Burns issued a statement in which he charged that four chiefs of police of cities where he had uncovered corruption had engineered the plan to have him dropped from the chiefs' association. Mr. Burns received his first intimation that he was to be put out of the association in a telegram from one of his detectives who is in Grand Rapids. This message said that a committee had recommended that Mr. Burns should be dropped, but that the convention had adjourned for the day without taking final action.

Later dispatches showed that this was an error and that the association had voted to drop Mr. Burns. The private message to Mr. Burns, which he said "gave the whole plot away," asserted that Police Chief Hill of Chattanooga, Tenn., made the motion that Burns's name should be stricken from the roll, while Police Chief Beavers of Atlanta, Ga., where the Frank case is being investigated, made the principal speech in favor of the motion. Major Sylvester, it was said, stopped Chief Beavers before he could conclude an attack upon the Burns methods in the Frank case.

One line in the message read: "The eye sat back of Chief Hill, prompting him." When asked what this line meant Mr. Burns said that "the eye" was the expression Burns men used for the name of W. A. Pinkerton, head of the Pinkerton Detective Agency.

"This action in Grand Rapids," said Detective Burns, "brings the issue of the Frank case to the fore again. And again I am under the necessity of making a statement I have made many times. It is that Frank is absolutely innocent. I know this fact to be true, and I shall have to go on repeating it because I cannot stultify myself just for the sake of saying something popular. Not only is Frank innocent, but he is the victim of a police frame-up. I have said that thing many times before, too, and I have to say it again at the time this action is taken against me.

"I was well warned what would happen if I went into the Frank case. I was not at all surprised at the bitter assaults upon me which followed my uncovering the manner of the police frame-up. You know the papers were full of stories for days that I was to be indicted. They searched my record with a fine tooth comb to find some shred of evidence on which to indict me.

"Of course, they failed in their purpose. I was not indicted, but the insinuation that I was going to be had a certain effect.

"Now I have been making investigations for many years and I have never yet stopped to consider my personal welfare after once going into a case. I have uncovered whatever corruption was to be found, regardless of who was turned up into the light.

"Of course enemies have grown up along the way. In one city, for instance, an evangelist and a young woman were making a crusade to clean up the city. City detectives brought a foul charge against the evangelist, with police testimony to back it up. I proved the charge to be utterly ridiculous and a police frame-up, and the chief of police involved was ousted from office. He is no longer a chief of police, but he is at the chiefs' convention working to have my name thrown from the honor roll without a hearing.

"Ask anybody in Buffalo why the Buffalo Chief of Police should think badly of the Burns Agency. A man in a prominent official position once proposed to me that I join him in doing an unlawful thing that would destroy the legal rights of a prisoner.

"The prisoner happened to be J. J. McNamara. It was proposed that I kidnap him, and swear that he had gone with me voluntarily. Other officials were to be provided as witnesses, who would swear that they heard his promise he would go voluntarily. I finished my relations with the man who made this proposal rather quickly. He is now exerting a large influence at the Grand Rapids convention, and if I am given a hearing I will tell his name and all the incidents connected with his present activity.

"It was entirely in keeping with the records of some of my enemies that they should have acted against me without giving me a hearing. They never would have dared to invite me to a hearing first.

"Chief J. L. Beavers of Atlanta has what, may be, he thinks are good grounds for speaking against me, but I am absolutely confident that the truth about the Frank case will yet come out, in spite of all the influences that keep the police theory of the crime from being discredited publicly."