

## TO OUST MAYOR WILLARD.

### A Charge That May Affect Many Kansas Officials.

Argentine's mayor, Frank A. Williard, was arrested yesterday on complaint filed in the court of common pleas in Kansas City, Kas., by County Attorney Cobb, of Kansas City, Kas.

This proceeding caused a sensation not only in Argentine but in Kansas City, Kas., and its outcome will be watched with great interest throughout Kansas. The prosecution is based on a clause in the Kansas prohibitory law of 1881, which provides that any mayor, sheriff, police officer or constable knowing of any place where liquors are sold in violation of law and fail to report the same to the county attorney is liable to prosecution and, if convicted, shall be fined from \$100 to \$500 and the fine being imposed shall work a forfeiture of office.

The interest in the move hinges on the fact that the police of Kansas City, Kas., are known to have a book at the police headquarters which contains the names and places of business of no less than seventy jointists who not only sell liquor but who regularly, at least once a month, enter a plea of guilty to a charge of keeping tippling shops before the police judge. These have in few cases been reported to the county attorney and then only on his demand. Each policeman is supposed to know the location of the joints on his beat and all newly opened places for dispensing liquor are promptly reported to headquarters by the policemen. The police have never been prosecuted and the complaint against Mayor Williard of Argentine will establish a precedent which will perhaps lead to the arrest of some of the members of the department.

Kansas City, Kas., is not alone in this practice of regularly fining jointkeepers, but almost every city of the first class in the state is said to use the same method of raising revenue for sustaining the police department and helping out the city's general fund, as the surplus after the department expenses are paid goes to the general use of the city. In Mayor Williard's case the prosecution was brought about by his own act, when he appeared before County Attorney Cobb and furnished a long list of witnesses who could tell about joints. The mayor showed so much knowledge that he was also subpoenaed to appear before the county attorney. He testified, however, that his knowledge of joints was purely hearsay, whereupon an Argentine bartender swore that Mayor Williard came into his place frequently and invariably took sherry and egg.