

FROM KANSAS CITY, KANSAS.

THE CASE AGAINST MAYOR WILLARD OF ARGENTINE MAY BE DROPPED.

The Silver City's Chief Executive Says That County Attorney Cobb Does Not Dare to Push the Case—He Threatens to Expose a Few Officials—Auditor Berger and Court Stenographer Miller Have a Quarrel—Death of Dr. Speck—Other Events of Interest and Suburban Gossip.

Although the case of the State against Mayor Frank Willard of Argentine, charged with malfeasance in office, is the next one on the docket in the Common Pleas court, it will not likely come to trial this term, or any subsequent term for that matter. At least Willard says he does not think it will.

He was arrested because he failed to notify the county attorney of the existence of joints in the Silver city, and if convicted is subject to a fine and imprisonment besides losing his office as Mayor. He entertains no fear, however, of being locked up or being ousted from office, for he claims that County Attorney Cobb dare not push the case. "Cobb has got hold of a hot potato," said he, "and all I want is for him to call up the case and try it. I am ready for trial right now, but mind what I tell you, the case will be dismissed and the costs will be taxed up to the county."

Willard says he knows too much about how things are manipulated in county affairs to feel alarmed, and that if Cobb prosecutes the case against him, there is liable to be a vacancy in the county attorney's office. "We used to have some gambling houses in our city," said he, "and if the case against me is pushed I may be compelled to make public a little understanding Cobb and I had in reference to them just after he was elected, but previous to my election as Mayor. I may also tell about a mining company of which I declined the presidency, which office is now held by Cobb." Mayor Willard refused to give out any information concerning the company, but from another source it is alleged that the stock is sold to "jointists," and that with each share of stock goes a guarantee that "we will take care of our friends." The chief executive of the Silver city is quietly at work securing affidavits concerning certain "deals," and says that after the case against him is disposed of he will take great pleasure in seeing to it that a county attorney and some deputy sheriffs are ousted from office.

If what Willard says is true Cobb is indeed in a bad box. Failure to prosecute the case against Argentine's Mayor will be an admission from the county attorney that he is afraid to do so, and if he pushes the case then Willard threatens to have him ousted. Some think he will prosecute the case anyhow, while Willard's friends say Cobb will take his medicine and drop the case. A continuance will be asked for, and all parties interested will endeavor to hush the matter up.