

SPEERS' STORIES.

THE CHIEF OF POLICE TALKS OF OLD TIMES.

The Recent Policy Decision in the Police
Court Keeps the City Hall Gos-
sips Busy for Sev-
eral Days.

Chief Speers and Tom King met this morning in the Central station and each grew reminiscent. Speers told King about the time they had McCarty the three card monte man out at Olathe for a confidence game. King was the lawyer for the gang and Speers told the county attorney he would have to watch out for him as he was a ba-a-d man. King was not accorded the freedom of the city after that, but he never knew until today how the chief had played it on him.

Some years ago a great many confidence men were hereabouts, but the vigilance of Captain Speers has given them all the run. "At the time of the Olathe trial there were twenty-eight bad men out there, confidence men and killers from all over the United States," said the chief in talking of the case. "There was Bat Masterson and Luke Short and Johnny Rooney and McSweeney and a whole lot more of them. One of Annie Lee's girls got an eastern sweet on her and he gave up several thousand dollars to buy Annie Lee out and furnish a house. Instead of buying property she put the money in her stocking and started for Denver.

McSweeney got wind of it and with others of the gang got on the same train and pretending to be United States marshals searched the girl and got the money. Then she was put off the train out at Choteau and an old farmer brought her into town. The confidence man had to lie in the Olathe jail six months, but they kept the girl out of sight and he got off." The chief concluded by asking King how much there was in it for him and he got the answer "\$450."

Then the chief told another story on John Jones who used to be down in the west bottoms. He had had two boys arrested for robbery. They got \$250 from him. They had good relatives though who put up the money so Jones came to the station and wanted the charge changed to drunkenness. When he found he couldn't make it he skipped out but got drunk and came back after he had spent all his money in time to testify against the boys as well as against the parties who had suborned him to run away.

Captain Speers stopped talking long enough to spit and King improved the opportunity to tell a story about old Justice Goforth of Westport, who only needed to know that any point had been decided in a certain way by a judge in Kansas to make sure that he would decide the opposite way. This reminded Speers of a case being compromised in this same justice's court by Major Jones judiciously applying some salve to the plaintiff's wounded feelings. The

<p>Major had complained of his orchard being robbed and the chief of police told the patrolman in that part of town to shoot in the air to scare the apple thieves. He found some young men in the orchard carrying a sack of apples and fired. He said he guessed the ball hit a limb and bounced back and hit one of the boys in the arm. His parents brought suit but Major Jones "saw" them and the good justice winked at the proceeding.</p> <p>Someone asked Speers this morning if the policy men had been to "see" him yet and he was very indignant until someone thought of Tough Dan Donovan who struck Will Wallace when he was running for a congressional nomination and said "if you want to go to congress you must 'see' Dan Donovan." Wallace knew what was meant but pretended not to and said "all right. I see you. How are you? shake." Dan was disgusted. He spit back over his left shoulder and tried again with the same result. Then he spit over the other shoulder, took Wallace into his dive at the foot of Grand avenue and translated "see" into plain English.</p> <p>A good story can always be gotten out of Chief Speers. He likes to tell a story and his auditors always like to hear him, for he tells it well.</p>	
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