

**STARTLING TESTIMONY BY DETECTIVES IN THE EMPLOY OF THOS. B. FELDER.**

(Continued From Page Three.)

in front of the dictagraph transmitter, at a distance of about six feet. I took a chair opposite him and his friend, whom he introduced as the county recorder, a Mr. Pagsy, sat on the bed. I did not care to discuss our deal—that between Mr. Nichols and myself—in the presence of Mr. Pagsy, and accordingly the conversation that took place for about five minutes was only general.

"As near as I can recall, the conversation was in reference to Mr. Nichols leaving Spartanburg on Saturday night. He stated that he left Spartanburg Saturday night and came direct to Washington, and that he was pretty well intoxicated when he arrived here at Washington, and did not want to meet any of his friends. He said he registered at the Continental Hotel near the depot. He stayed around Washington for a couple of days, and then went to the Altamount Hotel in Baltimore, and had just arrived there and registered and was assigned to his room when I called for him. He said he was in the bar room at the time I left my card at the desk of the hotel, and that he called them down for not looking him up. I then remarked that I was wondering if he caught that train on Saturday evening at Spartanburg, as he had only fourteen minutes after I left him. I explained that he ran his machine at great speed from the Merchants' Club to the depot, and that while we were en route we hit a buggy; that I stopped him and after being questioned as to who I was I left the vicinity very shortly after, leaving him and his negro chauffeur, to proceed alone to the train, and that I walked back up town with his father. Mr. Nichols remarked that Mr. Pagsy was also a justice of the peace, or a court justice, and that he himself was city attorney, consequently we could not have gotten in trouble for a violation of the speed laws. I told him that all I was afraid of was that we would kill somebody.

"I then began to discuss our matter in a general way, saying to Mr. Nichols 'in regard to that deal of ours, I have been thinking the matter over, and my opinion is that we should perhaps reduce the amount agreed on, \$30,000, to a smaller amount.' Mr. Nichols replied that he had been thinking the matter over, too, and thought that he ought to make possibly some deduction, or at least agree on a different amount. Mr. Pagsy had very little to say, and, at this juncture, Mr. Nichols suggested that perhaps as long as he and myself had a personal matter to discuss that we would meet Mr. Pagsy a little later. Mr. Pagsy excused himself and left the room, saying that he would see us down in the lobby. I remarked as he went out the door that we would not be long, and that we would soon be down for lunch. I closed the door, and Mr. Nichols and I took the same seats as we had occupied before and started in on our conversation, which, no doubt, was recorded by the dictagraph. The confusion of the three of us talking for about five minutes would no doubt prevent the stenographer from being able to distinguish the voices and record accurately the conversation. No one was present in my room until the conclusion of our interview, except Samuel J. Nichols and myself.

"When we left the room, the stenographer, Mr. Reik, according to my instructions, was in the hall and saw Mr. Nichols and myself leave Room 411; saw me lock my door, and also saw Mr. Nichols and myself proceed to the elevator and we proceeded down together. Mr. Nichols and his friend and myself proceeded to the bar, where were served drinks, and later went into the dining room, where we were served dinner. After dinner was served Mr. Nichols insisted that I accompany him to Baltimore; that he wanted me to meet Senator Tillman, of South Carolina, and also Senator Smith and a few of his friends. I consented to do so, and securing a taxicab, we were driven to the railroad station and boarded a train for Baltimore at 3 o'clock."

**The Alleged Dictagraph Record.**  
It was stated in the testimony that the conversation below, between Mr. Nichols and Mr. Porter, was made in the presence of a friend of Mr. Nichols, named Pagsy, county recorder from Spartanburg, S. C.:

Mr. Porter: I will never forget that automobile trip as long as I live.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't even remember leaving you. When did I leave you, anyhow? I took that automobile ride with you.  
Mr. Porter: When we hit that buggy, do you remember that?  
Mr. Nichols: No, I don't remember that.  
Mr. Porter: These people wanted to know what my name was, I told them I was only a spectator. There was no damage done anything. So I didn't go down to the train with you.

Mr. Nichols: Where did we hit the buggy?  
Mr. Porter: After we turned on the main square and passed the monument, we met a street car as we turned down a side street. There were buggies on each side and how we managed to get through without striking anyone I don't know. We made it all right, however, and passed between one of the buggies and the street car.  
Mr. Nichols: That was the wildest ride. Where did we hit the buggy?  
Mr. Porter: Right down on the little street as you turn from the square to go to the station, about the second block down; anyway, that was the place. After we struck the buggy, I shut off your power and you slowed down. I left the machine, as a crowd was gathering and one of the citizens asked me my name. About this time, your father appeared and spoke to you. He asked you what you were doing there; that you had told him that you were going to Greer. I stepped to one side and allowed your father to talk to you, and a few moments later I heard you tell him that you were going to Baltimore on the 9 o'clock train. When I got out of the machine your father was standing on the curb, and your driver, Toney, persuaded you to let him drive the car. You had but a few minutes left, and I wasn't certain whether or not you would be able to make your train. Do you know how much money you gave to me that night?  
Mr. Nichols: How much?  
Mr. Porter: Fifteen dollars. (Laughter.)  
Mr. Nichols: Where did you go to?  
Mr. Porter: I went to New York the next day. I wrote a letter to Mr. Sims, and gave him the information he wanted, and told him I would either go on East or go through Chicago; so I got busy and went to Chicago. I called up Baltimore several times yesterday and hadn't been gone five minutes before I got your call. You just had gotten away and gone when I got the call.  
Mr. Porter: I took that next train back to Washington.  
Mr. Nichols: Some of the boys brought the card then; I was down in the hall when you came in there. Then I went out and didn't get your telegram—well, I didn't know until this morning when I rang you up.  
Mr. Porter: Did you have a good time last night?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, the whole bunch of us; quite a crowd.  
Mr. Porter: I called you up last night several times.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, the clerk told me you did.  
Mr. Porter: I was a little anxious to get back, but I wanted to have a word with you and to see you first. I had some business in New York city, and was also anxious to return to Chicago as soon as possible, and decided to stop off at Baltimore and hunt you up.  
Mr. Nichols: Do you think it would be necessary for me to go there?  
Mr. Porter: I hardly think so.  
Mr. Nichols: Well, we will have to see.  
Mr. Porter: I suppose we can talk matters over here, can't we, all right? You know we have made some sort of an agreement?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, I remember that.  
Mr. Porter: I had a talk with this party, my client. I tried to detain him here to see you, but he decided that he could not wait any longer and left last night for Chicago. Now, you ask me, if you remember, about what I thought their limit would be. Do you remember, Mr. Nichols?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes.  
Mr. Porter: And I told you \$10,000.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes.  
Mr. Porter: Now, Mr. Sims is a man I didn't figure on. I didn't want to have anyone associated with us in the matter, and I wanted you to benefit entirely by any dealings we might have, though I believe it would be only fair to treat Mr. Sims as you think best and deal with him yourself as to any favors he could do in the matter, but I think you and I ought to agree, perhaps, on a little different basis.  
Mr. Nichols: I rather thought so myself.  
Mr. Porter: Now, here is what the prisoner told me in regard to his being defended. He insisted that he had had no lawyer, nor had he paid any money during his trial, for attorney's fees. He told me that he didn't remember of Attorney Sims, or anybody else, defending him. He said, "I think, from the fact that I got ten years, is sufficient to say that nobody defended me." (Laughter.) "They might as well have given me life, as I cannot live for ten years here. I have had one or two major operations, and am still in very bad shape physically."  
Mr. Nichols: Sims represents that class of criminals. I know he did represent a bunch of those yegmen there, and it occurred to me that he was the man.

Mr. Porter: I know what Sims was, for instance, and for that reason did not want to take the matter up with him. I know there wouldn't be enough for all of us. I can't explain to my client some of the reasons why this

much money will be needed, and I will have to deal with my people in my own day. They have a general idea of what fees would be expected in this case. I think I can do fairly well with them. I didn't make the proposition to the representative who was here. He wasn't the main man; but I thought we had better have a little talk first, and if we can agree, then all right.  
Mr. Nichols: Mr. Pagsy, if you don't mind, Mr. Porter and I have a little private matter to discuss, and couldn't you wait for us down in the lobby?  
(Mr. Pagsy replied that he would be glad to wait a little while for us, and left the room. Mr. Porter remarked that we would soon be down for lunch. Mr. Pagsy remarked, as he stepped out of the door, "I will be in the lobby, down-stairs, waiting for you." All subsequent conversation was between Mr. Porter and Mr. Nichols.)  
Mr. Nichols: You said you had a wild and woolly ride?  
Mr. Porter: Mr. Nichols, I have had a good many rides, but I never took as wild a trip as that in my life. The reason I got in with you, I didn't want you to get hurt. You opened her up wide; I had one leg out; this chauffeur was hanging on behind.  
Mr. Nichols: Was he with us?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, I wanted him to drive when we left the club, but you insisted on running the car, and he jumped on behind. You handled the car so nicely last night that I thought possibly we would get along all right.  
Mr. Nichols: We didn't break up anything, did we?  
Mr. Porter: No, we didn't. Do you know what we did? Drunk nearly a quart of Scotch whiskey.  
Mr. Nichols: I know we did.  
Mr. Porter: You were all right when we left my room in the Hotel Finch, but after we had been at the club for a while and you got to drinking beer, you seemed to go all to pieces. You were quite entertaining to the crowd who were there, and I rather think the boys rather blamed your condition on me. I was sorry that the old gent, your father, showed up when he did. I don't know how he happened to be there. You said, "Never mind those people, we just grazed them."  
Mr. Nichols: Now, I will tell you about this man, Sims. Sims of course, talked to me about it, and he evidently thinks he ought to be associated with me in this matter, and, of course, we could use him all right; there is no doubt about that, but, whatever we do, I think you and myself ought to get together on it by ourselves. You let me take care of Sims.  
Mr. Porter: I prefer not to have any dealings with him and not to know what you do with him. What you and I do personally will be all right, and your influence, of course, with the governor will pave the way for us, although I do not think there will be much trouble.  
Mr. Nichols: There will not be much trouble, I tell you now, as I told you before; but still I want to get my petitions over. We have to justify the governor's actions; we have to justify ourselves. I can get up a petition of two thousand names among the voters here who are friends of Governor Blease, and this will help to justify any action the governor might take. The governor will also want some influential people to request him to grant this pardon, and I will take down with me, Mr. Landrum, who is on the governor's staff, the mayor of the town, Johnson, and Mr. Lloyd. Of course, I will see the governor first, and when they see him he will agree with them to something that he has already agreed with me before.  
Mr. Porter: It is something, of course, that is done every day, and by using these methods we would probably not be suspected.  
Mr. Nichols: It is a question of our being paid, and not the governor, or course. That is all there is to it.  
Mr. Porter: I should want to see him get something; I do not care how he gets it.  
Mr. Nichols: Of course, whatever I get he will get his part of it; but that he won't insist. The only thing I can see, of course, is that some of the money I get out of this will be for running his campaign up there.  
Mr. Porter: Of course, he will understand it. I didn't expect you to hand it to him. But when I am making an agreement with you, Mr. Nichols, I wanted to put in the amount sufficient for two instead of one. You do whatever you think best. It is not my first experience, nor yours, and I wanted to see everybody treated nicely, except we want to do it in a nice, clean way. When I spoke of \$10,000 I didn't hesitate to say that because I feel that amount can be paid, and I think you could figure on at least \$5,000 yourself, and if you wanted to use the balance for campaign purposes for the governor it would be all right, but that is a pretty fair fee for a proposition like that, is it not?  
Mr. Nichols: That is a pretty fair fee unless the amount involved would warrant more. The question is, is it enough compared to the amount involved?  
Mr. Porter: It doesn't entirely depend upon the freedom of this convict, as to the basis of settlement of this estate, but it is desirable, nevertheless.  
Mr. Nichols: If your statement is correct, that this fellow can't get this money unless he is liberated, your clients would afford to pay a great deal more. Of course, I don't want you to charge them any fee that you can't

justify.  
Mr. Porter: I simply wanted to state a minimum figure with you, and if I can go over that, so much the better, but I don't want to put up a proposition to my people that would make it look bad for me. My own reputation is at stake. I can handle these things pretty nicely, but it will make some difference as to how matters are handled. I don't care to impose upon my client, so we had better fix the amount at, say \$10,000, anyway, and then, if we can get prompt action, I will offer a bonus, that is the governor. You say that you will have to split your fee with Mr. Sims; and if so he would have to also have \$5,000, if you were to receive that amount.  
Mr. Nichols: Here is the only trouble about that; I am in such a position that I would have to give him something. He thinks he is as much in it as I am.  
Mr. Porter: The governor?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes. Now, it is unfortunate that the situation is this way with Sims. I have handled a good many cases, and I go ahead and he always took me in a case with him, as a rule, because he has no influence there; that is the whole upshot of it. He is smart, but he doesn't stand with them as he ought to stand; but he is an awfully energetic fellow and a hard worker, and always whatever I get I split with him.  
Mr. Porter: That is no more than right.  
Mr. Nichols: That is just the way I feel about it. I feel if I take hold of the matter at all it should be that way.  
Mr. Porter: That is what governed my particular actions; I wanted to treat you right.  
Mr. Nichols: You never could have gotten him out, that is all there is to it, without me.  
Mr. Porter: I presume if I had gone to Sims with this kind of a proposition it would have been all right. Well, you will have no trouble, I presume, in explaining to Mr. Sims that we have made a compromise, that we have divided on the amount, that is the minimum. Of course, you can take care of him yourself.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes; I can take care of him; in other words, if I say \$10,000, suppose we use \$9,000 of it and I tell him we would agree to do that and split the balance of it; he will accept without a word, because he knows it is true. He wouldn't question anything I do in the matter, because he knows I will give him a square deal about it. But I will tell you; I think this about it: I think if we can get your man out, I think we ought to agree on a minimum fee of say \$15,000; \$5,000 to go to the \$5,000 to Mr. Sims and 5,000 to the governor.  
Mr. Porter: To the governor?  
Mr. Nichols: To other places that we might use it for.  
Mr. Porter: I think we had better figure it that way. I don't want you to receive less than \$5,000, because you have been worth it.  
Mr. Nichols: I wouldn't take it for less.  
Mr. Porter: I wouldn't ask you to, Mr. Nichols.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't think you would either; I realize that those people you represent would not realize what will have to be done; that is the reason I want to see this other man of yours, because I can possibly explain it to him better than you could.  
Mr. Porter: Yes, and I want you to, Mr. Nichols; I possibly could do so.  
Mr. Porter: If you could possibly arrange to come to Chicago, I think that he would understand fully the situation. You know how they feel towards an attorney. For instance, I might represent certain things and they will say this fellow over there is looking for a good fee and you could explain to them though, as you did to me, that it is the only way.  
Mr. Nichols: In other words, I figure it this way; when I explain to them if I had as much at stake as that fellow has got, I wouldn't kick on their feet; that is the way I feel about it, and I think I would convince them of that fact. Of course, we want to know this; we want to know if this thing went through there wouldn't be any question about getting this fee.  
Mr. Porter: No, indeed; you leave that to me. There will not be a move made until the money is ready.  
Mr. Nichols: Until the money is put up where we can get it.  
Mr. Porter: Yes. Do you remember my giving you a check for \$500?  
Mr. Nichols: No; did you give me a check for that amount?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, I gave you a check for \$500.  
Mr. Nichols: What did I do with it?  
Mr. Porter: It was on account of expenses. It is on deposit to your account in the Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Nichols: Did I get that check?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, and endorsed it; called up the cashier, Hendricks, he came up and said it was all right.  
Mr. Nichols: It was the Bank of Commerce?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: It is on deposit there now?  
Mr. Porter: Les. (Laughter.) I was not sure if you remembered it or not.  
Mr. Nichols: That is the first time I ever thought of it.  
Mr. Porter: You don't remember being very much intoxicated?  
Mr. Nichols: I am this way; I get drunk and I know pretty much what I am doing the whole time I am under the influence of that liquor, but after I get sober I do not know a thing about it. I don't remember getting on the train at all.  
Mr. Porter: You could call on me in Chicago and then go down and present the situation?  
Mr. Nichols: It is just as I say; the only hook-up in the thing I am afraid of is that Blease might not want to take any action before the election.  
Mr. Porter: Before the election?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, I know just how he feels towards me and I know just what I can do—at least I think I do—the only thing that is that he might think he doesn't want to take any action before the election; but I know he will take action after the election, because he needs the money for the election.  
Mr. Porter: Surely \$5,000 might elect him.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes; Blease hasn't got it. He has to get it somewhere else.  
Mr. Porter: That is what I thought, Mr. Nichols. I don't want to take ad-

vantage of the governor. I want to treat him right.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't, either, but I know the situation. The other crowd that is running against him have all the money they want. He hasn't got anything. As I told you, in running that last campaign the expenses in my county I met myself, and I would do it again if necessary, but still if he could get this money it would help him wonderfully in his campaign. I will tell him this, "If this thing is done and done now, you needn't worry and I needn't worry." I will say, "I am not going to give you a cent of this, but will make you a promise that so much will be used. So much will be mine and so much will be yours."  
Mr. Porter: Ordinarily, a man might hesitate, but at this same time we are looking after our own case. I want prompt action, because I have to leave tonight. And I might possibly be able to stick on a little more if he felt inclined to do business quickly; and I don't care whether it is Governor Blease or anybody else, the more money they have to spend, the better their chances are. He has a fight on his hands.  
Mr. Nichols: He has a hell of a fight on his hands.  
Mr. Porter: And \$5,000 or \$10,000 will go a long way down there in that country.  
Mr. Nichols: No doubt of it.  
Mr. Porter: Or anywhere else. Now, up in my country, in Montana, they have to spend money like water, and I find that in most cases of this kind it is customary to use money. I will tell you, in a transaction of this kind I prefer to have it right between you and I.  
Mr. Nichols: I do too.  
Mr. Porter: Now, this is a delicate matter, and my suggestion would be, in presenting the situation to the governor, that you should say that this convict has no money to spend; that his health is very bad; that he is serving a sentence now for which he has already served a portion of it; that public sentiment is with the prisoner, and always has been. I do not believe that under these circumstances the governor would hesitate at all in taking prompt action. The prisoner told me that he has had two major operations there, for appendicitis; that his five-year sentence in a Federal prison started him off wrong, as far as his health is concerned. The prisoner need not know that any money is being used in his behalf.  
Mr. Nichols: No, I wouldn't let him know that at all.  
Mr. Porter: It means a whole lot to you if the governor is elected with the standing that you have with him.  
Mr. Nichols: Of course it does.  
Mr. Porter: It is very fortunate that we should have met. What do you find law practice down there, is it lucrative?  
Mr. Nichols: Well, it is pretty lucrative. Mr. Porter. They have employes there in the court. I don't doubt they go over \$10,000 a year. Last year, and just between us, we collected \$21,000; of course, we have two other fellows working for us there; that includes them.  
Mr. Porter: Now, I think we can leave it that way and we will make the minimum price of \$15,000, and out of that you can get \$5,000, and Sims can get \$5,000 and the rest of it can go to the governor.  
Mr. Nichols: That is right.  
Mr. Porter: And then on top of that I will try and fix a bonus; so it means \$2,500 more, and possibly \$5,000, if you will take action right away.  
Mr. Nichols: I tell you what you do. You go straight to Chicago and talk it over with the people there that you represent, and if they think it is necessary for me to come and if you wire me to come, I will come! If you don't think it is necessary—I don't want to come unless I have to. If you could get them to go on that sort of a proposition, that they put up \$15,000, and in case the trick can be turned right away \$20,000—a bonus of \$5,000 for prompt action—there is no question we can get it through after election. The only hitch I feel at all is getting him to act before election. If he knows what it means to him, we can talk him out of it. I will put it square up to him when I get back.  
Mr. Porter: You tell him it makes a difference of \$5,000 to him; you tell him that.  
Mr. Nichols: I will put that straight up to him.  
Mr. Porter: \$5,000 would do him more good now than at any other time. My word is good; I will take care of that end of it, but it I get away from here I would not want anybody else to handle this bit myself.  
Mr. Nichols: There is one thing I want to know absolutely. I want to know that this fee will be paid the minute that the goods are delivered.  
Mr. Porter: The money will be put in the bank, there, in any shape or form you want it.  
Mr. Nichols: In the bank where?  
Mr. Porter: Anywhere you say; in Chicago, if necessary; any bank you say.  
Mr. Nichols: In other words, I want to have everything arranged so that the minute we get him out the money is paid.  
Mr. Porter: The very minute the man is out the cash is right there. If you want an agreement we could have an agreement. I would be willing to do that. If you could draw up something that would sort of fit to fix the circumstances, not too broad, it would be all right.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't care anything in the world about that. The only thing, I don't want anything in writing.  
Mr. Porter: I don't either. Our word is good.  
Mr. Nichols: All I want to know is that that money will be deposited in bank subject to my check, provided the money is there.  
Mr. Porter: You can have it just that way, Mr. Nichols.  
Mr. Nichols: I will wire you in Chicago that everything is O. K., or I will wire you that we cannot do it; in other words, if we do fail, but we will not fail, however. If you get a wire that everything is O. K. come to Spartanburg, you get on the train and come.  
Mr. Porter: Everything is O. K. come to Spartanburg at once.  
Mr. Nichols: That means that when you get there the pardon will be there,

Mr. Porter: That will also mean that I will have the cash with me.  
Mr. Nichols: Cash or check, either one. I don't care. Do you know I don't remember ever getting a check from you?  
Mr. Porter: You can find that on account. I didn't want to offend you and I was afraid you thought perhaps I didn't have the change or something like that.  
Mr. Nichols: No, it was not that at all. I don't know what occurred.  
Mr. Porter: You said "Here, if you want me to come to Chicago, you have to show me; that is all, I want my expenses; my time is valuable." We discussed the proposition whether you would come to Chicago or I should come to New York. I said "I will give you a check." I said, "What do you want?"—and you said "\$500." You called the cashier, a Mr. Hendricks, and handed him the check.  
Mr. Nichols: Do you mean the cashier of the club?  
Mr. Porter: No, the cashier of the bank.  
Mr. Nichols: No; what bank did you give it on?  
Mr. Porter: The Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Nichols: In Spartanburg?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: You didn't give a check on the Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Porter: I did and he called me up afterwards and I said, "I will give you a draft in the morning." He didn't know me from Adam, so I went down and gave him a draft.  
Mr. Nichols: On the Chicago Bank?  
Mr. Porter: Yes; but that is all right; we will say nothing about that.  
Mr. Nichols: I just wanted to get the thing straightened out.  
Mr. Porter: I can withdraw that check of yours of the Bank of Commerce, at Spartanburg, if you want me to. It wouldn't be well for them to know that any money passed between you and I. I didn't want them to know anything about this deal.  
Mr. Nichols: That doesn't make any difference. You can just leave that there on deposit to be applied on this proposition. It doesn't make any difference.  
Mr. Porter: I don't want them to know that any money passed between you and I.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't either.  
Mr. Porter: You might say this \$500 on deposit. You can withdraw it and say nothing, or you can just leave that and I will attend to it. You see they might get next to something.  
Mr. Nichols: Are you positive it was the Bank of Commerce?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: And I called the cashier up from the club?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, just let that rest.  
Mr. Nichols: We will leave that like it is.  
Mr. Porter: When I come down there we will fix that. Don't go near them.  
Mr. Nichols: We will leave that like it is until you come down there. That is the best way to do.  
Mr. Porter: Is the convention in session this afternoon?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, I lent one of the boys my ticket over there.  
Mr. Porter: Are you not in a great rush to get back then?  
Mr. Nichols: No, I don't care particularly.  
Mr. Porter: You haven't had lunch, have you?  
Mr. Nichols: No, I had a late breakfast before I came over. Let's go down to the bar and get a drink.  
Mr. Porter: All right.  
(Thereupon, at 1:35 P. M., Mr. Porter and Mr. Nichols left the room and proceeded down the elevator.)  
W. E. Caldwell.

**BLEASE DENIES CHARGES.**  
Says He can Show the People that the Charges of the Detective are not True.

Columbia, S. C., July 15.—The Blease leaders met in the governor's office today for a conference and is said to have recent exposure was discussed. A way following the conference the governor issued a statement in which he bitterly attacked the members of the legislative committee and W. J. Burns, the famous detective. Fred H. Donnick, the campaign manager of governor Blease was present at the conference.  
Blease said today that he had not granted the pardon to Gus DeFord, the man for whose pardon the Burns detective schemed in order to catch Blease in the act of receiving money for it, and he further stated that Sam J. Nichols, the Spartanburg attorney, whom the dictagraph says acted for DeFord in getting near Blease, had never mentioned to him the granting of the DeFord pardon. Nichols spent Sunday with Blease but left in the afternoon for his home.  
The following was issued from the governor's office by Governor Blease this afternoon following the conference:  
"I will show the people of the state at the proper time with the proofs. I have received numbers of telegrams, letters and telephone messages from my friends throughout the state and from parties who have heretofore never been my friends in which they denounce the committee for the action it has taken and assuring me of their undivided support. I am satisfied they have done me no injury but have materially strengthened me with my friends and all other South Carolinians who love their state and who will resent the manner in which this cowardly character thief has attempted to injure the chief magistrate of his state with the assistance of this committee."  
Referring to W. J. Burns, the detective, the governor said:  
"In my opinion Burns proved himself unworthy of belief and a cheap hireling as he has in other transactions."

**A HEARING THURSDAY.**  
The South Carolina Legislative Investigating Committee is going to meet again, in Columbia, this time, for a meeting to be held Thursday, for the purpose of hearing the testimony of Sam J. Nichols of Spartanburg, the lawyer who was employed to engineer the Gus DeFord pardon for Detective Reed.

Mr. Porter: I simply wanted to state a minimum figure with you, and if I can go over that, so much the better, but I don't want to put up a proposition to my people that would make it look bad for me. My own reputation is at stake. I can handle these things pretty nicely, but it will make some difference as to how matters are handled. I don't care to impose upon my client, so we had better fix the amount at, say \$10,000, anyway, and then, if we can get prompt action, I will offer a bonus, that is the governor. You say that you will have to split your fee with Mr. Sims; and if so he would have to also have \$5,000, if you were to receive that amount.  
Mr. Nichols: Here is the only trouble about that; I am in such a position that I would have to give him something. He thinks he is as much in it as I am.  
Mr. Porter: The governor?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes. Now, it is unfortunate that the situation is this way with Sims. I have handled a good many cases, and I go ahead and he always took me in a case with him, as a rule, because he has no influence there; that is the whole upshot of it. He is smart, but he doesn't stand with them as he ought to stand; but he is an awfully energetic fellow and a hard worker, and always whatever I get I split with him.  
Mr. Porter: That is no more than right.  
Mr. Nichols: That is just the way I feel about it. I feel if I take hold of the matter at all it should be that way.  
Mr. Porter: That is what governed my particular actions; I wanted to treat you right.  
Mr. Nichols: You never could have gotten him out, that is all there is to it, without me.  
Mr. Porter: I presume if I had gone to Sims with this kind of a proposition it would have been all right. Well, you will have no trouble, I presume, in explaining to Mr. Sims that we have made a compromise, that we have divided on the amount, that is the minimum. Of course, you can take care of him yourself.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes; I can take care of him; in other words, if I say \$10,000, suppose we use \$9,000 of it and I tell him we would agree to do that and split the balance of it; he will accept without a word, because he knows it is true. He wouldn't question anything I do in the matter, because he knows I will give him a square deal about it. But I will tell you; I think this about it: I think if we can get your man out, I think we ought to agree on a minimum fee of say \$15,000; \$5,000 to go to the \$5,000 to Mr. Sims and 5,000 to the governor.  
Mr. Porter: To the governor?  
Mr. Nichols: To other places that we might use it for.  
Mr. Porter: I think we had better figure it that way. I don't want you to receive less than \$5,000, because you have been worth it.  
Mr. Nichols: I wouldn't take it for less.  
Mr. Porter: I wouldn't ask you to, Mr. Nichols.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't think you would either; I realize that those people you represent would not realize what will have to be done; that is the reason I want to see this other man of yours, because I can possibly explain it to him better than you could.  
Mr. Porter: Yes, and I want you to, Mr. Nichols; I possibly could do so.  
Mr. Porter: If you could possibly arrange to come to Chicago, I think that he would understand fully the situation. You know how they feel towards an attorney. For instance, I might represent certain things and they will say this fellow over there is looking for a good fee and you could explain to them though, as you did to me, that it is the only way.  
Mr. Nichols: In other words, I figure it this way; when I explain to them if I had as much at stake as that fellow has got, I wouldn't kick on their feet; that is the way I feel about it, and I think I would convince them of that fact. Of course, we want to know this; we want to know if this thing went through there wouldn't be any question about getting this fee.  
Mr. Porter: No, indeed; you leave that to me. There will not be a move made until the money is ready.  
Mr. Nichols: Until the money is put up where we can get it.  
Mr. Porter: Yes. Do you remember my giving you a check for \$500?  
Mr. Nichols: No; did you give me a check for that amount?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, I gave you a check for \$500.  
Mr. Nichols: What did I do with it?  
Mr. Porter: It was on account of expenses. It is on deposit to your account in the Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Nichols: Did I get that check?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, and endorsed it; called up the cashier, Hendricks, he came up and said it was all right.  
Mr. Nichols: It was the Bank of Commerce?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: It is on deposit there now?  
Mr. Porter: Les. (Laughter.) I was not sure if you remembered it or not.  
Mr. Nichols: That is the first time I ever thought of it.  
Mr. Porter: You don't remember being very much intoxicated?  
Mr. Nichols: I am this way; I get drunk and I know pretty much what I am doing the whole time I am under the influence of that liquor, but after I get sober I do not know a thing about it. I don't remember getting on the train at all.  
Mr. Porter: You could call on me in Chicago and then go down and present the situation?  
Mr. Nichols: It is just as I say; the only hook-up in the thing I am afraid of is that Blease might not want to take any action before the election.  
Mr. Porter: Before the election?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, I know just how he feels towards me and I know just what I can do—at least I think I do—the only thing that is that he might think he doesn't want to take any action before the election; but I know he will take action after the election, because he needs the money for the election.  
Mr. Porter: Surely \$5,000 might elect him.  
Mr. Nichols: Yes; Blease hasn't got it. He has to get it somewhere else.  
Mr. Porter: That is what I thought, Mr. Nichols. I don't want to take ad-

vantage of the governor. I want to treat him right.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't, either, but I know the situation. The other crowd that is running against him have all the money they want. He hasn't got anything. As I told you, in running that last campaign the expenses in my county I met myself, and I would do it again if necessary, but still if he could get this money it would help him wonderfully in his campaign. I will tell him this, "If this thing is done and done now, you needn't worry and I needn't worry." I will say, "I am not going to give you a cent of this, but will make you a promise that so much will be used. So much will be mine and so much will be yours."  
Mr. Porter: Ordinarily, a man might hesitate, but at this same time we are looking after our own case. I want prompt action, because I have to leave tonight. And I might possibly be able to stick on a little more if he felt inclined to do business quickly; and I don't care whether it is Governor Blease or anybody else, the more money they have to spend, the better their chances are. He has a fight on his hands.  
Mr. Nichols: He has a hell of a fight on his hands.  
Mr. Porter: And \$5,000 or \$10,000 will go a long way down there in that country.  
Mr. Nichols: No doubt of it.  
Mr. Porter: Or anywhere else. Now, up in my country, in Montana, they have to spend money like water, and I find that in most cases of this kind it is customary to use money. I will tell you, in a transaction of this kind I prefer to have it right between you and I.  
Mr. Nichols: I do too.  
Mr. Porter: Now, this is a delicate matter, and my suggestion would be, in presenting the situation to the governor, that you should say that this convict has no money to spend; that his health is very bad; that he is serving a sentence now for which he has already served a portion of it; that public sentiment is with the prisoner, and always has been. I do not believe that under these circumstances the governor would hesitate at all in taking prompt action. The prisoner told me that he has had two major operations there, for appendicitis; that his five-year sentence in a Federal prison started him off wrong, as far as his health is concerned. The prisoner need not know that any money is being used in his behalf.  
Mr. Nichols: No, I wouldn't let him know that at all.  
Mr. Porter: It means a whole lot to you if the governor is elected with the standing that you have with him.  
Mr. Nichols: Of course it does.  
Mr. Porter: It is very fortunate that we should have met. What do you find law practice down there, is it lucrative?  
Mr. Nichols: Well, it is pretty lucrative. Mr. Porter. They have employes there in the court. I don't doubt they go over \$10,000 a year. Last year, and just between us, we collected \$21,000; of course, we have two other fellows working for us there; that includes them.  
Mr. Porter: Now, I think we can leave it that way and we will make the minimum price of \$15,000, and out of that you can get \$5,000, and Sims can get \$5,000 and the rest of it can go to the governor.  
Mr. Nichols: That is right.  
Mr. Porter: And then on top of that I will try and fix a bonus; so it means \$2,500 more, and possibly \$5,000, if you will take action right away.  
Mr. Nichols: I tell you what you do. You go straight to Chicago and talk it over with the people there that you represent, and if they think it is necessary for me to come and if you wire me to come, I will come! If you don't think it is necessary—I don't want to come unless I have to. If you could get them to go on that sort of a proposition, that they put up \$15,000, and in case the trick can be turned right away \$20,000—a bonus of \$5,000 for prompt action—there is no question we can get it through after election. The only hitch I feel at all is getting him to act before election. If he knows what it means to him, we can talk him out of it. I will put it square up to him when I get back.  
Mr. Porter: You tell him it makes a difference of \$5,000 to him; you tell him that.  
Mr. Nichols: I will put that straight up to him.  
Mr. Porter: \$5,000 would do him more good now than at any other time. My word is good; I will take care of that end of it, but it I get away from here I would not want anybody else to handle this bit myself.  
Mr. Nichols: There is one thing I want to know absolutely. I want to know that this fee will be paid the minute that the goods are delivered.  
Mr. Porter: The money will be put in the bank, there, in any shape or form you want it.  
Mr. Nichols: In the bank where?  
Mr. Porter: Anywhere you say; in Chicago, if necessary; any bank you say.  
Mr. Nichols: In other words, I want to have everything arranged so that the minute we get him out the money is paid.  
Mr. Porter: The very minute the man is out the cash is right there. If you want an agreement we could have an agreement. I would be willing to do that. If you could draw up something that would sort of fit to fix the circumstances, not too broad, it would be all right.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't care anything in the world about that. The only thing, I don't want anything in writing.  
Mr. Porter: I don't either. Our word is good.  
Mr. Nichols: All I want to know is that that money will be deposited in bank subject to my check, provided the money is there.  
Mr. Porter: You can have it just that way, Mr. Nichols.  
Mr. Nichols: I will wire you in Chicago that everything is O. K., or I will wire you that we cannot do it; in other words, if we do fail, but we will not fail, however. If you get a wire that everything is O. K. come to Spartanburg, you get on the train and come.  
Mr. Porter: Everything is O. K. come to Spartanburg at once.  
Mr. Nichols: That means that when you get there the pardon will be there,

Mr. Porter: That will also mean that I will have the cash with me.  
Mr. Nichols: Cash or check, either one. I don't care. Do you know I don't remember ever getting a check from you?  
Mr. Porter: You can find that on account. I didn't want to offend you and I was afraid you thought perhaps I didn't have the change or something like that.  
Mr. Nichols: No, it was not that at all. I don't know what occurred.  
Mr. Porter: You said "Here, if you want me to come to Chicago, you have to show me; that is all, I want my expenses; my time is valuable." We discussed the proposition whether you would come to Chicago or I should come to New York. I said "I will give you a check." I said, "What do you want?"—and you said "\$500." You called the cashier, a Mr. Hendricks, and handed him the check.  
Mr. Nichols: Do you mean the cashier of the club?  
Mr. Porter: No, the cashier of the bank.  
Mr. Nichols: No; what bank did you give it on?  
Mr. Porter: The Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Nichols: In Spartanburg?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: You didn't give a check on the Bank of Commerce.  
Mr. Porter: I did and he called me up afterwards and I said, "I will give you a draft in the morning." He didn't know me from Adam, so I went down and gave him a draft.  
Mr. Nichols: On the Chicago Bank?  
Mr. Porter: Yes; but that is all right; we will say nothing about that.  
Mr. Nichols: I just wanted to get the thing straightened out.  
Mr. Porter: I can withdraw that check of yours of the Bank of Commerce, at Spartanburg, if you want me to. It wouldn't be well for them to know that any money passed between you and I. I didn't want them to know anything about this deal.  
Mr. Nichols: That doesn't make any difference. You can just leave that there on deposit to be applied on this proposition. It doesn't make any difference.  
Mr. Porter: I don't want them to know that any money passed between you and I.  
Mr. Nichols: I don't either.  
Mr. Porter: You might say this \$500 on deposit. You can withdraw it and say nothing, or you can just leave that and I will attend to it. You see they might get next to something.  
Mr. Nichols: Are you positive it was the Bank of Commerce?  
Mr. Porter: Yes.  
Mr. Nichols: And I called the cashier up from the club?  
Mr. Porter: Yes, just let that rest.  
Mr. Nichols: We will leave that like it is.  
Mr. Porter: When I come down there we will fix that. Don't go near them.  
Mr. Nichols: We will leave that like it is until you come down there. That is the best way to do.  
Mr. Porter: Is the convention in session this afternoon?  
Mr. Nichols: Yes, I lent one of the boys my ticket over there.  
Mr. Porter: Are you not in a great rush to get back then?  
Mr. Nichols: No, I don't