

# POLICE TO FIND REFORM AT HAND

## Chief Proceeds Quietly with Plan to Force Changes in His Department.

### "PARTNERSHIPS" TO END.

#### Detective "Combinations" to Be Broken Up; Inspectors Affected by Scheme.

One of these days the whole Chicago police department is going to awake and discover that it has been reformed. It will be one of the greatest surprises that the department has had in years—even decades—and the strangest part will be that even after the realization that the reform has been accomplished comes, no one outside of Chief Steward will actually know how it has been done.

What is going to happen is being accomplished quietly at this moment, the reform is in progress, but it has barely been started, so none of the members of the force know where it is tending. THE TRIBUNE is not permitted at this time to make public the means by which the regeneration of the police force is to be brought about, for that might and probably would destroy the efficacy of the plans and system that has been worked out, but it can divulge what will be accomplished in due course, unless something goes amiss with well laid plans.

Chief Steward is proceeding cautiously. He tests his ground before he steps. As he remarked concerning himself and his plan, "I was not elected to be the head of the police department by the police force, and I have to move carefully. If I should make a mistake and something should happen to set me down by the ears the policeman would say, 'Well, we couldn't help it; the amateur chief is to blame for spoiling our system.'"

#### Chief Studies Each Man.

By one means and another Chief Steward is getting a "line" on every policeman on the force. He is gathering his data from various sources, and no one person knows just how the data and reports he furnishes fit into the general scheme of the whole. But at the end of the month there is a fairly comprehensive history of each man on the force for the preceding thirty days, his habits, his friends, his close associates, what he has done for Chicago, and what he has done for himself, and with this data at hand, all carefully tabulated, it is comparatively easy for the chief to shift his men to break up certain alliances, to point out to others that prompt reformation is their only salvation if they wish to remain on the force, and more particularly to break up certain partnerships on the part of the men, which are apparently detrimental to the efficiency of the force.

In the main those things which Chief Steward seeks to accomplish by his well laid plans are as follows: He proposes to break up the rings and cliques which have been formed in almost every precinct in the city, sort of close corporations that run things at each station to suit themselves, and construe orders from above so as to safeguard the interest of their friends.

#### Partnerships Must End.

He has determined that this system of policemen, and particularly plain clothes men forming partnerships, which last year after year, must be changed, and hereafter no two men will be permitted to work together for more than a limited period, not long enough for them to form a mutual admiration society.

Detectives who don't detect soon will cease to be detectives. In the first place the chief has discovered that there are too many travelling around in plain clothes on gumshoe missions, looking for crooks whom they never find.

There is to be a rearrangement of the entire plain clothes force, and when Chief Steward gets through about 200 men will get out their uniforms and start to traveling beat. Some of the men who will be taken off the "inactive" list and put on the "active" roll probably will have to get new uniforms owing to the fact that they have acquired considerable avoirdupois since they last wore their old ones.

Chief Steward does not contend that the body of plain clothes men constitutes an "inactive" list, but he does believe, from evidence that has been presented to him, that many of the men now serving in that capacity could be classed as inactive, judging from the results they obtain. There is also to be a redistribution of the entire force throughout the city, so that there will be an approximation between the density of population in each district to the number of policemen placed there.

#### Chicagoans Number 2,600,000.

In this connection it might be interesting to state that Chief Steward has obtained a census of Chicago, and the result of this census shows that the population of this city is practically 2,600,000. With the restoration of 200 plain clothes men to the uniformed ranks and the elimination of many soft snaps Chief Steward will have enough men at his command to increase the number of men in certain densely populated districts, having in mind, too, the general character of the inhabitants and their disposition to disobey the law without constant surveillance. He can do this, he believes, without hampering the efficiency of the force in the more sparsely populated districts.

Having decided upon the distribution according to numbers in the various districts Chief Steward is now mostly concerned in placing the men so that old time alliances will be broken up and where the men can be watched as individuals and their records kept strictly in accordance with their merits. As a part of this program he has recently transferred nearly 100 sergeants, and the work of redistribution is not yet complete, in fact, it may be said to have only just begun.

#### Inspectors Not Exempt.

The plans laid by Chief Steward do not exempt the commanding officers from the general scheme of reform, for it is his purpose to deal with the force as a whole, from the oldest inspector to the youngest probationer. Not that the commanding officers are to be disturbed if their records prove them to be most efficient in their present stations.

This in general is the chief's plan, without going into detail as to certain economies he proposes to inaugurate, and without telling what his sources of information are, and how his records are kept. The system adopted is the result of careful study, and while it may have to be modified or amplified the chief believes that he has a general plan which is bound to work out beneficially for the department.