

# Missing Agent Foresaw His "End", Confidant Tells Investigators

## Steamship Company Files Suit for Priority in Claims.

A suit of intervention for priority in claims against George C. Marsley, missing steamship agent; discovery of plans laid by the agent for a "foreign relief fund"; further charges of alleged mishandling of money paid for tickets, coupled with the statement of a close friend of the agent that Marsley had sensed impending disaster and had asserted he was leaving Duluth for good, were yesterday's developments in the probe into Marsley's financial affairs conducted by investigators representing steamship lines.

### Royal Mail Line Sues.

The suit of intervention was filed Wednesday by McCoy & Hanson, Duluth attorneys, for the Royal Mail Steam Packet company. The packet line claims Marsley is \$300 in arrears which he had attempted to pay with a post-dated check.

It was this check, according to T. G. Newgord, representative of the company that led to an investigation of Marsley's affairs.

Allegations tending to show irregularities in Marsley's methods in conducting his business were made last night by M. Greenberg, 1102 Hammond avenue, Superior.

### Superior "Customer" Talks.

Greenberg alleged that in October, 1920, he purchased tickets from Marsley to transport 13 relatives to the United States from Lithuania. In August 10 of the relatives arrived, he said, but the other two, David and C. Greenberg still remain in Lithuania, and according to messages received from them during the last month their tickets have failed to arrive. Greenberg said he paid \$334 for the tickets.

Marsley, saw disaster when his account at the American Exchange National bank was garnished by the Park State bank, Morgan Park, a close friend of the agent, told Mr. Newgord last night.

### "Would Be My End."

"A few days after garnishment proceedings had been started," Mr. Newgord's informant said, "Marsley told me that if the steamship companies he represented learned of the action it would be his end. He seemed greatly agitated and said he was leaving Duluth for good. A few days later he was missing."

How one of Marsley's alleged plans to enmesh a Duluth business man in the ramifications of his steamship agency business was frustrated through the latter's far-sightedness was revealed to investigators yesterday.

### Springa Relief Scheme.

According to the alleged plan, the business man, whose name was withheld, was approached by Marsley with the proposal that a relief fund be collected for suffering relatives in Europe. Marsley explained he was planning to go abroad and that he would convey these funds to the persons indicated.

When the business man refused to assume responsibility for the venture Marsley, it was said, suggested that a meeting be held at which two or three men would direct the collection of the funds, which later would be turned over to Marsley as their agent.

The business man agreed to this proposal on condition that Marsley furnish a bond. This Marsley agreed to do but several days later, informed his clients that his bonding company would not assume the obligation inasmuch as more than one person would be involved in handling the cash.

As a result, it was decided not to engage Marsley and \$500 previously collected for transmitting to Europe through him were returned to the subscribers.

### "Methods Irregular."

Julius Garon, Duluth jeweler, who had dealings with Marsley in transporting a number of relatives from Antwerp, told an investigator that he compelled Marsley to make a refund of an overcharge on tickets several months ago.

"I do not know much about Mr. Marsley," Mr. Garon said. "I did not lose any money through him, although at the time I believed his business methods were somewhat irregular. However, I do not accuse him of any wrong-doing as far as my experience with him is concerned."

George Marsley's business connections extended to all parts of northern Minnesota, according to tenants in the Manhattan building who had come in contact with him and his clients.

He held meetings in his offices which were attended by men and women from the ranges, Superior and Duluth, all of whom wished to send money to their old folks in Europe.

"One evening I noticed a group of 25 or 30 people leaving his office and inquired from one of the party the nature of the meeting," a Manhattan building tenant said. "They told me that Marsley was going to take money from them to relatives in Europe. He was supposedly making a trip to Poland and Lithuania. The people at the meeting were mainly from Superior, I was informed."