

5, North River, Manhattan, seventy bags of
rye flour. I. BERNSTEIN, Auctioneer.

POLICE DRUG SQUADS AT ODDS.

Friction Comes to Light at Trial of
"Stool Pigeon."

Friction in the Police Department between two squads engaged in running down the illicit traffickers in drugs came to light in Special Sessions yesterday at the trial of Joseph Simons, a "stool pigeon" who has aided Lieut. Scherb's special "dope" squad in obtaining convictions. Detective Johnson of Lieut. Scherb's squad testified on behalf of Simons, who was arrested by members of acting Inspector Bolan's squad on a charge of possessing heroin.

Detective King of the Fifth inspection district told Justices Kernochan, Moss and Collins that when Simons was arrested on December 21 at his home, 123 East 110th street, twenty-three "decks" of heroin were found. On the stand Simons swore that Detective Johnson had given him authority to buy the heroin as evidence against a man Johnson suspected of being a drug seller.

Johnson told the court that he had previously instructed Simons to "go out and dig up something." Simons denied that he had sold heroin, but admitted that he had been a user of the drug even when working for the police. He was acquitted, Justice Kernochan dissenting. In voting for acquittal Justice Collins said:

"I am governed by the rule of law that an innocent construction is to be placed on a man's actions whenever possible. But I cannot help feeling that this man, while under the protection of the police, was engaging in the drug trade. It should not be left to the discretion of a drug fiend to procure evidence for the police."

COL. THOMPSON HELPS PELL FIRM

The Sun (NY) Jan 8, 1915



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csimon

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