

Healer earned \$2, went to Bedford

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expenses. Bond to ensure his appearance in court was set at \$100, a staggering amount for a poor pilgrim who lived such a simple life.

Related the *Telephone*, "The Divine Fakir unearthed from his inside pocket a very human looking roll of money large enough to choke a cow, peeled off a \$100 bill and presented it to the Mayor, who has been looking about for his breath ever since."

Nonplused by his arrest, Schlatter

held a news conference, or at least buttonholed the *Telephone* reporter in a game of verbal "one-upmanship" with the authorities. In its entirety, his statement said:

"I do not practice medicine at all: I merely preach the gospel and pray for those who are sick. They are healed by God through their own faith. All ministers pray for the sick, and I have never been arrested before. I took in \$2 yesterday, which was a free will offering. I lay hands upon people because it is commanded by the Lord, and it was the

custom of Christ and the Apostle. I take it that this arrest is through some misunderstanding.

"I have committed no crime; any healing is by God and not by me. I am without money. I will leave tomorrow for Bedford again, where they treat me very kindly. I took in about \$7 down there. My home is Boston. It is true that God saw fit to answer my prayer and actually raised from death three people in Chicago. It was before they were buried."

Schlatter's legal fate in Bloomington city court may have been re-

corded by the newspaper, but copies for the following days are, unfortunately, somewhat fragmented. There was, however, a little postscript to his visit to the city in the *Telephone*.

"Mayor Malott has received a letter from a woman at Indianapolis, who signs herself Mrs. Francis Schlatter and claims to be the wife of the real Schlatter of Denver fame. The letter says that the be-whiskered prophet who was recently here is a fake and that her husband is the only real original divine healer."