



1-3-1919

## Letter from Henry G. Owen Recounting Alcohol Sales in Minot, 1919

Henry G. Owen  
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OWEN & OWEN  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
 GRAND FORKS, N. D.

Report #2  
 Concerning, Grand Forks 1919

Keep all of these reports on file  
 they will constitute my original entries.  
 In a day or two I will express those  
 papers back to you and will keep only  
 the addresses any such data as is absolutely  
 necessary. I expect to move into the midst  
 of the lion's den on every possible occasion  
 and am taking as little chances as  
 possible. I told you that I would get  
 something for you the first day and I  
 have the following to report.

6 P.M. went to Temple Court Cafeteria and had  
 supper met a passenger brakeman by the  
 name of John \_\_\_\_\_ (Surname will be obtained  
 later have known him for six years) left Cafeteria  
 and went into pool room upstairs, bought cigars  
 and broached subject of getting a drink.  
 We went over to Grand Hotel and met a Mr Kenny  
 car tracer for the Great Northern and (a brother  
 of W.P. Kenny, president of the G.N.) after talking  
 for a while we tried to locate Geo Ball a B. L.  
 and taxi man, the cigar store back of the  
 Leland was also mentioned as selling to those  
 who were OK. At 8:15 P.M. we left Grand Hotel



for the U. S. Cafe next the Soo Railroad on the main street. Kenny asked the Jap who runs the place if he could get us some whiskey he said yes it would probably be \$3.50 per pint. Kenny gave him the \$3.50 and I handed Kenny 3 silver dollars and a 50 cent piece. We went into a booth and the Jap brought in a pint bottle of blue ribbon whiskey wrapped in a newspaper and then came back in with an empty glass for us. The bottle was opened and drunk in the place and the girl who waited on us saw the bottle on the table. I told Kenny to call the Jap in the booth and I asked for another pint, he said sure, I passed him a \$5 bill (53754 Merchants Nat Bank of Richmond, Va., year 1910) he went out and came back in a little while and delivered to me a one pint bottle of "Blue Ribbon Whiskey" and one silver dollar and a fifty cent piece. This transaction took place and each detail was observed by this brokerman John Mr. Kenny and myself. These men will of course be unwilling witnesses. After I get on to the papers a little more I think it would be advisable to have some reliable men of reputation present at some such transactions where we have them dead



III  
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to rights as we have in this case. If you give me the proper support and a months time I will be able to show the Governor that the violations of the laws of North Dakota are both open and flagrant and to such an extent that ordinary ~~and~~ men of intelligence could not help but know that such a condition exists. I have looked all over town for suitable rooms and the best I could do are in the Smart block back of the post-office. I can get nothing less than \$20 per mo. even for single rooms but in this block are two small rooms for \$10 per mo. I must have some place to store my exhibits but will not incur such expense without your approval. I have ~~an~~ exhibit a sealed and unopened but do not like to keep it around my room in the hotel, as the bell boys are pretty nosy. I understand that Judge L. is keeping to the straight and narrow path. How strong will I go on renting furniture.

Respectfully submitted

Henry Owen  
 Jan 3rd 1919