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Letter from Kersey Gowin to Attorney General Langer Regarding Bootlegging and Prostitution in Minot, October 29, 1917

Kersey E. Gowin

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Minot N.D.

Oct 29-17

Wm Langer, Atty General
Bismark N.D.

Dear Sir

I come to Minot as you directed on Oct 26 and have made some investigations of things here, and I find that we have been overlooking the main place, as it is evident that the Law violators here made up their minds, to run Minot and do as big a business as ever. but it is harder for a stranger to get in unless he has someone who is on the inside to touch for him. I have been unable to find a man by the name of Snow that D. V. P. spoke to me about his son in law has moved to Texas and I think Snow went

along, but I have looked around
 some and I find that Tom Lacy
 is running at the same place
 and evidently he has his Whiskey plant
 down the river from town on
 the Ehr Farm and I think at Geo Ehr,
 he goes out that way with a car every
 night. and I am shure Dad Marsh
 place is running has every thing
 to make me believe it is, so is Hurdy
 & Dave Philips also John Moore
 & Herb Bunn in Parker Hotel cigar
 store. Jay Parrott was hauling
 in and making lots of trips so
 I am told is now Bootlegger here
 in town. Wm Kissell also
 was hauling in from Mont
 and was caught in the snow
 storm and had to leave his car
 at Tagers. at the Garage with 500
 pints of Whiskey thought he had the

Garage man fixed but when he went back all the whiskey and he had three Barrells of Beer also: and it was gone. So I am told by a rounder here in the Garage. Jack Wallace was with him and Wallace is the man who has the place rented at the east end of the G + N. R.R. Bridge 5 miles west of Missot, which is said to be a road house and he is the man who looks after the Booze that was put in the Big Coolie when the raid was pulled off last spring and it is reported that two cars of Whiskey is planted there now. Grover Peter a machinist told me he was out there with a fellow who knew the place one dark night and that they went to a dug out and there were 46 Barrells of Booze there.

but says he can not find the way
 back again to where it was. he
 tells me that just as merry Jane
 selling as ever but that it is
 very dangerous to say snitch
 about it. as he is shure several here
 would kill any one who told. he
 claims a Joe Young was getting
 Whiskey on his name and without
 his knowledge untill the States Atty
 sent him notice he had his Whiskey
 one Gallon which he had ordered and
 told him he had recieved 20 shipments
 in a month shortly after he got a
 notice of a case at the Soo R.R.
 Office so he went and it was pd
 for so he signed and took it and
 just as he got home with it Joe
 Young drove up and said that
 his name and I want it. Filer
 said I have it what are you going to

do about it Young said well it dont belong to you. Filer said well I guess you will give it all to me if I say so so Young said well I tell you what I will do you can have half of it which they did. this was last June. Eder Block is run by a man named Allen Odell and is some ~~kind~~ rough joint several ~~women~~ there and the chief of Police is a visitor there almost every night and is drinking heavily in same block as Police Station. Watson Rooming House, on Main St is another rough joint and run wide open girls and Booze. Red McQuil is running again, and there is a fireman on the Grd who is said to have 50 gal. of Whiskey he is laying up

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woman by the name of Bell Boynton and she told a friend of mine about it said he fetched it from Mont got a pass and fetched it in two suit cases at a time some times would put them on an Engine till he was across the line, so you can see how things look here,

Now here is what it will take two good men and if one was a R.R. man so much the better and the other will have to be a man who can get a job, and will need a good woman, that I can put in a restaurant and get a room in one of these houses then in the other one I have not heard from the girl I mentioned to D. B. B., yet but expect a letter any day men to get this stuff will have to be ^{men}

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who are more than the average
and mess with some nerve to.
I am know and all I can do
is to direct the work. now if you
can get me two mess of this
kind and if this woman I have
written card not come will need
a woman two, and it may take
six weeks as they will have to work
a while so as to get in on some
of this stuff. we can land some
of the fellows who are making
all kinds of money out of Boozet
and Winton,

please Advise me further
Respt Nessey E Gowin