

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Job of Getting Bolla's Books in Evidence About Doss.

COULTER ON THE STAND A SHORT TIME

Questioned Only with Reference to Some Entries in Cash Book—Time of City Employees Well Taken Up.

The trial of Henry Bolla on the charge of embezzling \$115,000 of city funds while occupying the office of city treasurer continues to be dull and uninteresting, being confined entirely to the identification of the records of the office in order to get the same in evidence. Testimony of this kind has taken up the entire time of the trial since Tuesday morning, and there still remain several books containing letter-press copies of abstracts of warrants which will be examined and introduced by the defense attorney. Whether these will be followed by the identification and introduction of a large number of other records of the office has not been determined by the prosecution. As a result of the dryness of this kind of evidence, the court room presented a deserted appearance yesterday, there being no spectators except the regular jury panel waiting to be called to serve in the case of the court rooms, and a few witnesses, summoned to appear in the Bolla case, and who drop in to see when they will be called.

The defense, in accordance with an announcement made when the trial started, introduced another official report in the case yesterday in the person of Charles Pearson, court reporter for the Eleventh district, with headquarters at Columbus. Mr. Pearson will make a full report of the proceedings for the use of the defense.

BOOKS IN EVIDENCE

At the opening of court the cross-examination of E. J. Wuehrich was commenced. He testified that his duties, aside from keeping the journal, to which he testified Wednesday, included making abstracts of receipts. In this latter work he was sometimes assisted by other clerks, whom he named. One of the clerks who testified Wednesday was W. Wise. The witness acknowledged that serious mistakes sometimes occurred in these abstracts, and said that his attention had been called to one mistake of \$10,000. In response to a direct question, the witness said this mistake had been made by J. N. Wise, and, in reply to further question, said this was the same man who had been employed as an expert to check up the books of the treasurer's office.

William Schwarick, another bookkeeper under Bolla, was called to the witness stand, and testified to having been made by Schwarick. The county attorney then offered in evidence the journal covering Bolla's entire administration, the defense objecting on a number of technical grounds, and also on the ground that a portion of the journal had been destroyed three years before the commencement of this case. The objections were overruled and the books admitted in evidence.

George W. Holbrook was called and testified that he had been employed in the treasurer's office during the first six months of Bolla's administration. A portion of the check books, showing withdrawals, he had no knowledge of, and he testified that he had no knowledge of the check books. In direct Holbrook testified that he occasionally made entries of withdrawals from certificates of deposit. On re-cross-examination he said that the bank balance books had been made by Holbrook until he went out of office. On cross-examination he testified that the check books had been made by Holbrook from the bank deposit books and from the stubs in the check books. The bank balance books were introduced in evidence, the objections being made by the defense.

COULTER ON THE STAND

William Schwarick was recalled and testified that he had kept the ledgers during Bolla's administration. He identified the ledgers used in the office during that period as having been kept by him. The ledgers were introduced in evidence, the usual objections being made by the defense. Jerome K. Coulter, deputy treasurer during Bolla's incumbency, was called. He testified to having made entries in the cash books, and was cross-examined by the prosecution. Harry G. Coneman, second deputy under Bolla, was the next witness. He testified on the same line as Coulter, and on cross-examination he testified that the entries in the regular course of business were on warrants, but he admitted that it had been customary to advance money to city employees without warrants. He testified that he had been paid up by the treasurer and had been paid up by the treasurer and had been paid up by the treasurer.

MEEK CONVICTED AND FINED

Found Guilty of Violating the Garbage Ordinance. The case against Ephraim Meek, who was charged with illegally hauling garbage on March 17, was called in police court yesterday. Meek lives at 2608 Cuming street. He has a family consisting of a wife and seven children, two of whom are under the age of ten. Meek was unable to find work this winter, and rather than see his family starve, he has earned a few pennies by hauling ashes.

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MRS. ROSA LEVY SEES FOR DAMAGES

In a Petition She Recites a Long Tale. Mrs. Rosa Levy has commenced suit in the district court against the South Omaha Savings bank and H. C. Bostwick for \$10,000 damages.

HOBBSEKERS' EXCURSION

April 21st, 1896. To points on the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad in Nebraska, including points in the Elkhorn portion of the Elkhorn river valley.

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PRICE OF GAS IS LOWERED

Company Makes a Voluntary Reduction of 25 Per Cent.

NEW RATE EFFECTIVE THE FIRST OF APRIL

Some Facts About Omaha Company and Its Franchises—Increase in the Consumption of Gas.

The heads of families in Omaha who regard the monthly gas bills as a burden will have occasion for self-congratulation when they receive their April statements. The Omaha Gas Manufacturing company has decided on a 25 per cent reduction in the price of gas to all consumers. It is now in effect, and the bills which become payable May 1 will be computed on the basis of the reduction. The present rate is \$1.70 per 1,000 feet, with 10 cents off for cash. The new price is \$1.25, with the same discount, which makes the net price to the consumer \$1.35 per 1,000 feet.

President Frank Murphy of the gas company calls attention to the fact that this reduction is purely voluntary on the part of the company. The existing ordinance provides that the company may charge \$1.60 per 1,000 feet until the consumption of gas exceeds 200,000,000 feet annually. Although the present consumption falls short of this limit by nearly 40,000,000 feet, the company has decided to make a radical cut at this time, making the cost of all gas the limit indicated by the ordinance for fuel gas used in the city. There are two large cities in which the price of gas is as low as \$1 on account of active competition, the reductions that have been effected during the past year by the Omaha company are better appreciated by looking at the prices which the previous generation was compelled to pay. In 1863 the price of gas in Omaha was \$3 per 1,000 feet. Three or four years after the extra half-dollar was knocked off, and the price advanced to \$2 until the \$1.90 rate went into effect.

THE FIRST FRANCHISE

The Omaha Gas Manufacturing company was organized in 1863, receiving the first franchise from the city, subject to such reasonable restrictions as might be imposed as the cost of manufacture became cheaper. This franchise was practically exclusive in its nature, and the city constitution knocked out the monopoly by the provision that no exclusive franchises should be granted in the streets of any city. In 1865, therefore, for some years, attempts were made by outside capitalists to break into the field previously enjoyed exclusively by the local company. The Omaha Gas Manufacturing company, which was composed of Philadelphia capitalists, entered the arena in 1863, and finally secured a thirty-year franchise. The city was restricted, however, by the conditions that the maximum price to consumers should not exceed \$2, and that gas for all public buildings, including school houses, should be furnished at \$1.00 per 1,000 feet. This also provided that the city might purchase the plant at any time after the expiration of fifteen years.

PERFECT WISDOM

Would give us perfect health. Because men and women are not perfectly wise they must take medicines to keep themselves perfectly healthy. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier. It gives health because it builds up on the true foundation—pure blood.

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PLAYED IN OMAHA MANY YEARS AGO

Mrs. Jenn Clark-Walters Talks of an Old Busy House.

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Mrs. Jenn Clark-Walters talks of an old busy house in Omaha which she occupied for many years. She says that it was a very interesting place, and that she had many good memories of her life there. She says that she had many good friends who lived there, and that she had many good times with them. She says that she had many good memories of her life there, and that she had many good friends who lived there, and that she had many good times with them.

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