

INDICTS CITY OFFICIALS

Lancaster County Grand Jury Presents Two Lincoln Roodlers.

MAYOR GRAHAM AND EXCISEMAN VAILL

Charges of Accepting Bribes from Police-men and Other City Employees Sustained Sufficiently to Warrant the Bills.

LINCOLN, March 16.—(Special.)—The charges against Mayor Graham and Exciseman Vaill of corruption in office came to a head today when the grand jury brought in three indictments against Graham and two against Vaill. They were both arrested, Graham being bound over to district court in the sum of \$1,200 and Vaill in the sum of \$500. Both furnished bondsmen.

One indictment against the mayor charges that he received \$540 from S. M. Melick in consideration that Melick should be retained as chief of police. Another charges that he received from Richard Eweney \$50 in exchange for an appointment as water tapper, and the third charges him with receiving from George A. Barney \$35 in exchange for an appointment as freeman in the water department. Each indictment contains two counts, charging the receiving of money knowing it to be a bribe, and with being influenced by said money in his official action. The indictments against Vaill are similar, charging that he received a bribe of \$50 from Officer Snell and \$50 from Officer Hathaway, in consideration that he should use his influence as exciseman to retain the officers on the force.

IMPEACHMENT GOES AHEAD. In the meantime during the day the impeachment trial of the mayor has been going on in the court chamber, several witnesses for the defense having been examined. Most of this testimony was of a negative character, having very little effect either way. Exciseman Grimes testified that he had no knowledge of any particular policy regarding gambling, and that he himself had never spoken to any of the police officers about closing up the houses. The question of closing the houses had been talked over by the board, but no official notice had ever been given that there was any gambling in the city. The witness said he had no knowledge that the board or any other official of the city had ever accepted money from the gamblers.

City Detective Langdon was put on the stand to impeach the testimony previously given for the prosecution by Officer Snell. Langdon said that he himself had never received a reward for making an arrest while he was employed by the city, and he did not know that any of the officers ever did. He could not say whether or not the city had ever received money when such returns were offered by outside parties.

Gran Ensign testified as to his conversation with S. M. Melick in 1895, shortly after Graham's election the first time, and soon after Melick's appointment as chief of police. He told Melick that Graham's campaign expenses were over \$1,000, and that it would be best to make a contribution to the chief to donate something to help pay this expense. Nothing had been said about the payment of money before Melick was appointed.

SALOONS AND GAMBLERS. A saloonkeeper named Spain was put on the stand to deny that he had paid a member of the Excise board for the privilege of keeping his saloon open at night. The date referred to was September 1, when the fusion state conventions were in session. Officer George Harry testified as to the closing of gambling houses. He said that he had had orders four or five times to close up the houses. Each time he went and notified the proprietors to close up. The gambling apparatus was not confiscated. He had made reports in each case to the mayor. He had sometimes had special orders to have the saloons closed on Sundays, but said it was always possible for a man to get in a saloon and get a drink on Sunday if he wanted one real bad. The balance of the evidence was unimportant and the case was as strong as the friends of the mayor had hoped.

It was asserted that the prosecution had gained over one of the confederates and that the mayor will surely be impeached when the matter comes to a vote.

The young women of the university will give a musical entertainment at the university armory Friday night, the proceeds to go toward fitting out the base ball club. Mesdames Lamberston, Ogden, McMurtry, Yates, Towler and others have been invited to be patronesses for the occasion.

The funeral of Mrs. Dorothy A. Wilson, who died yesterday, was held this afternoon. The body will be taken to Deputy, Ind., her former home, for interment.

The Chicago and Pacific Railroad company filed a mortgage in this county today in favor of the Central Trust company and George Sherman of New York, amounting to \$100,000, covering the main line and branches of the road from Chicago to Denver.

Omaha people at the hotels: At the Lincoln—L. E. Kern, A. L. at the Lincoln—J. E. Roberts, H. W. Brogan, C. Rold.

Trial of Herbert Mecum. PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—The trial of Herbert Mecum for the desperate assault upon young Peter Curtis at Union last January is slowly progressing in district court. Curtis was on the stand yesterday trying to identify Mecum as his assailant, but owing to the prisoner's being clad in a new suit of clothes and being clean shaven, he experienced considerable difficulty. A man on the stand identified him, however, and he pronounced the prisoner the guilty man. Considerable testimony has been introduced to show Mecum's bad character and to prove various details of the crime. Ex-Sheriff Holloway has been the chief witness for the defense. He expressed a belief that Mecum is not the guilty party. The prosecution introduced considerable testimony to prove that Holloway had made many and various statements of his belief that Mecum was the guilty man, out of the line of the arrest and also shortly afterward.

Mecum testified in his own defense yesterday and again this morning. He explains his presence at Union at the time by saying that he was on his way south and stopped at Union to earn some money unloading a car of coal.

The jury went out in the Mecum case at 6:40 and is still out at midnight.

Fort Crook News. FORT CROOK, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—At about 4 o'clock yesterday Convict Barrett escaped from the guard in a most daring and extraordinary manner. He was on the dump cart at the dump. The guard stood near the cart with a Winchester repeating shotgun. The convict asked him the time and while the guard was looking at his watch, the convict jumped from the wagon on to the guard and grabbed his gun and

wrenched it away from him and in a moment he was gone. The guard pursued him for nearly three miles in the direction of Plattsmouth, then lost sight of him in the bottom. The guard then doubled-time back to the post and gave the alarm. The prisoner was serving an eighteen months sentence.

Lance Corporal E. Axt, company H, Twenty-second infantry, has been appointed corporal, vice Carey, reduced.

Private Sturgeon, company T, is very ill in the hospital of appendicitis. Dr. Pilcher operated on him last Friday.

GOSSIP FROM THE STATE HOUSE. Law Relating to School Lands Comes Up for a Test.

LINCOLN, March 16.—(Special.)—The appeal case of Thomas C. Patterson against the board of commissioners of Pawnee county was filed in the supreme court today. This is the case involving the validity of the law passed by the legislature relating to the sale of school lands. Patterson sets forth that in 1885 he obtained possession of the house of a quarter section of school land in Pawnee county, and relying on the provision in the state law which allowed the purchase of these lands by the leaseholder, he put over \$2,000 worth of improvements on the land, and that the effect of the law passed last year is to take away from him his right to purchase the land and also to take his valuable improvements away from him without compensation. The object of the petitioner is to have the law declared unconstitutional, or at least that part of it which affects prior leaseholders.

It is understood that this is to be a test case, and that a large number of leaseholders in other parts of the state who stand in the same position as Patterson do are anxiously awaiting the decision in this case. The appeal was filed yesterday, and the members of the board have kept up their payments and performed every act required of him under the lease the state cannot come in and deprive him of his right to purchase that having been one of the considerations of the original lease.

This case is brought by two prominent popular attorneys, and when it was first talked of last fall it was intimated that the test was to be made at the request of the state board. At the time the appeal was filed the board was very reluctant to say anything about the matter and at first endeavored to keep this particular case from being made public until it was ready to be submitted to the supreme court.

An application for a writ of habeas corpus in the case of Herman Granger was made in the district court today and the writ was granted, returnable tomorrow morning. Granger was convicted of stealing a cow in Sheridan county in 1895 and was sentenced to the penitentiary. It is pointed out that the bill passed by the legislature in 1895 which made cattle stealing a felony was not properly passed and is therefore unconstitutional and void. The objection to the law is that the bill which was signed by the governor was materially different from the one that passed the legislature, changes having been made in the enrolling and printing.

A regulation was granted today for the return of Charles Claffin from Marion county, Kansas, to Cherry county, Nebraska, where he is wanted for having received a stolen horse, knowing it to have been stolen.

The Citizens Gas company of South Omaha filed articles of incorporation today, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The incorporators are: William A. Schrel, Alfred N. Noyes, C. C. Keys, Thomas Kelley and E. R. Duffie.

The hearing of the Felix telephone case before the State Board of Transportation, which was to have come on yesterday, was again postponed in order that the complainant and the secretaries of the board might call on the State Board of Transportation and find how far it affects the case.

Dodge County Assessment. FRERMONT, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—The assessors of Dodge county held their regular meeting yesterday for the purpose of fixing a basis for making the assessment. It was voted to assess real estate at one-sixth its value, and all personal property at one-fourth. The valuation of live stock for assessment purposes was fixed at the following figures: Horses, \$40; cattle, \$16; mules, \$40; sheep, \$2; hogs, \$12. Bicycles will be assessed at \$25 per pair. Bicycles were valued at \$20; last year the basis of their valuation was fixed at \$40.

Carpenters' platers and bricklayers report more work in their lines this season than for several years past. Only a few new houses are being built, but numerous vacant houses in the city than last year and rents in some localities have been raised.

Working for the Exposition. WEST POINT, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—In the matter of descriptions in aid of the construction of the new City and Great building at the Transmississippi Exposition Cumming county leads all the counties in the transmississippi country. Contributions have been made by men and women in aid of the project. Much credit is due to Mrs. D. C. Giffert's untiring efforts in behalf of the exposition in this county. In addition to large sums of money given, Cumming county citizens have purchased 600 copies of the Hatchet and have in other ways contributed to the exposition funds.

Columbus Cullings. COLUMBUS, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—Charles Huber, son of John Huber of this city, is dying at Oakland, Cal., with consumption. His father has been trying to find him for several years and has only recently located him and that with the sad intelligence that he could survive but a very short time. Mr. Huber has sent full instructions to have the body sent here, he being so far gone that it is impossible to remove it from the coast. The funeral will be held at the residence of Mrs. Marshall of Fremont this morning and will continue the remainder of the week. Nothing but equity cases will be taken up.

Chadron Caucuses. CHADRON, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—One of the most important caucuses in the history of the city of Chadron was held last night. The nominees, who will be candidates on the citizens' ticket, are: Mayor, Charles Rust; treasurer, Charles C. Jameson; clerk, L. J. Jaeger; police justice, D. Y. Meek; city engineer, W. Burt; members Board of Education, Allen G. Fisher, George L. Harner; councilmen—First ward, Charles E. Foster; second ward, J. N. Harter; third ward, J. W. Burt; William Agnew. All of the candidates are republicans with the exception of Jaeger and Harbaugh.

Geneva Items. GENEVA, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—District court is in session this week. The docket is small.

The local Aid society is having a boom. It is expected that about twenty-five new members will be added at its next meeting.

Farm work and gardening have already commenced. Everything betokens an early spring.

Populist Paper Coming West. DAVID CITY, March 16.—(Special.)—Editor Frank L. Lemon of the David City Banner has entered into partnership with Prof. Vincent of the populist journal, the "Nonconformist." It has been published in Indianapolis, Ind., but will be moved to Omaha, where it will be in better touch with western populism.

Court Adjourned. GREELEY, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—District court was to have met today, but was adjourned until April 18. The docket is the lightest. Greer county has had in five years. The most important criminal matter will be that of ex-Treasurer Cushman for the embezzlement of county funds.

Looking for a Soldier. PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—A squad of troopers from Fort Crook in charge of a sergeant were in this city this morning looking for a soldier who had deserted his comrades yesterday. The search proved nothing but his absence here.

Want to Fight Spain. NELSON, Neb., March 16.—(Special.)—Company H, Nebraska National Guard, of this city, at its last weekly meeting voted unanimously to request Governor Holcomb to enlist the company for active service in case of war with Spain.

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At the rear, St. John did equally good work but was not able to make more than one trip as the fire swept through that part of the building before it attacked the front.

At least ten men besides the firemen who started the fire, all escape of the inmates by the stairs and elevators was cut off. There remained only the windows and the slight chance of escape. A narrow rope which was quickly covered with a string of people, some on one side, some on the other. As the rope was being fastened, many people tried to jump over the rope, but were held back by the firemen.

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