

THAT INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Rewick Appeared Before the Board of Public Lands and Buildings and Proved His Charges.

Affidavits Produced—Names of Men Having Information Given—A Case of Forgery—Hastings a Bull-Dozer.

Shortly after ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, October 5, the investigation into the management of the Lincoln insane asylum began in the secretary of state's office. All members of the board of public lands and buildings were present, and took their places as members of the court of investigation. Dan Lauer and Dr. Knapp were present and had C. O. Whedon, the well known pettifogging bull-dozer to act as their attorney. Mr. E. C. Rewick was there to tell what he knew and had Lawyer Whitmore to assist him.

Mr. Rewick was put on the stand. He proceeded to lay before the board the facts in regard to the purchase of beef cattle for the asylum by Lauer and Hubbard.

He also stated that he had affidavits from a number of the farmers who had sold the cattle stating how much they had received. The board wanted him to place these affidavits on file as evidence. This Mr. Rewick refused to do. He offered to show them to the board on condition that they be returned to him, or permit copies to be made. The following affidavits were submitted:

State of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss.:
G. A. Southwell being first duly sworn, deposes and says:
That on or about the 13th day of July, 1891, he sold to the asylum three head of cattle, that the weight of said cattle was 2,910 pounds, and the price 2½ cents per pound; that the sum received by me was \$72.75.

G. A. SOUTHWELL.
Subscribed and sworn to this 5th day of September, 1891, in my presence.
[Seal.] WILLIAM Q. BELL,
Notary Public.

State of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss.:
J. E. Reynolds, being duly sworn, deposes and says:
That on or about July 17, 1891, he delivered to the insane asylum four beeves, that the weight of said beeves was 4,080 pounds, that the price paid was 2½ cents per pound and the amount paid \$102.

J. E. REYNOLDS.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of September, A. D., 1891.
[Seal.] A. D. BORGELT,
Notary Public.

State of Nebraska, Lancaster county, ss.:
Frank Abbott, being by me first duly sworn, upon his oath, deposes and says:
That on or about July 6, 1891, he sold and delivered to the insane asylum one beef cow, that the check given him for said cow was \$28, the sum being drawn on the Capital National bank of Lincoln, Neb., that the above described cow was the one left in his pasture by C. E. C. Rewick on July 5, 1891.

FRANK ABBOTT.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of September, 1891.
[Seal.] M. HOWE, Clerk.
By WILLIAM M. GILLIS,
His Deputy.

These men had received their pay from the cattle buyer for the asylum, which in most cases was Frank Hubbard, and had signed vouchers in blank. These vouchers, which are on file in the state house, make the following showing:

First. That of G. A. Southwell dated July 13, 1891, is made out for three beeves, weight 3,000 pounds, price 3½ cents, and calls for \$105 instead of \$72.75 which Southwell swears he received.
Second. That of J. E. Reynolds dated July 17, 1891, is made out for four beeves, weight 4,200 pounds, price 3½ cents, and calls for \$147 instead of \$102, which Reynolds swears he received.

Third. That of Frank Abbott dated July 6 1891, is made out for one beef, and calls for \$43.75 instead of \$28, which is the sum mentioned in Mr. Abbott's affidavit.

Mr. Rewick then went on to state a number of other cases of a similar nature giving the information which he had secured from men who had sold the cattle to the asylum, but had not furnished him with affidavits.

Attorney General Hastings and Whedon then took turns in cross-questioning Mr. Rewick and trying to bulldoze and browbeat him. When Mr. Rewick was pressed to give the names of other men who had furnished him information he refused to give them, and offered as a reason the same that he gave for refusing to turn over the original affidavits, viz:

That this was not the proper court to try this. Whenever a case was brought against the men charged, in the proper court, which would be the district court, he would submit all his evidence, and he would bring the witnesses to prove all he charged. He said the board had no power to summon witnesses or compel them to testify, nor any right to pay them witness fees. Hence it would be impossible for him to compel witnesses to testify to the facts he had stated unless they chose to.

During the cross-examination Mr. Rewick stated as a further reason that he did not think this board a competent tribunal to pass judgment on this case inasmuch as they were charged with guilt in being grossly negligent in the performance of their duties.

Hastings and Whedon seemed anxious to break the force of Rewick's testimony by making it appear that he spoke entirely from hearsay. Mr. Rewick stated on this point that he had received all his information as well as the affidavits from other parties, that he had no personal knowledge of the matters except in the case of the cow he had left with Abbott to sell.

Abbott had sold the cow for \$28, and the voucher had called for \$43.75. He had had an interview with Hubbard and Lauer. Hubbard had tried to explain the matter and had offered him a check for \$15.75 to make up the difference, but he had refused it.

The following are extracts from the cross examination:

Mr. Whedon—have you been paid anything for making these speeches?

Mr. Rewick—I have not. I made my first speech at the Lansing opera house and I paid for the house myself.

Mr. Whedon—have you had any talk with anyone in regard to making these speeches—made any arrangements with any person or committee?

Mr. Rewick—I am positive that I have conversed with no one in regard to the matter, with possibly one exception. I was told by a prominent republican that I could have employment in the campaign.

Mr. Whedon—Now, Mr. Rewick, do you mean to testify that you have of your own certain knowledge anything concerning the mismanagement of the asylum?

Mr. Rewick—I refuse to say. I consulted with County Attorney Snell last week about the matter and informed him that I was ready at any time to make information.

Mr. Whedon—Will you swear to an information against the parties against whom you have made these charges?

Mr. Rewick—I will not swear to the information myself. I will agree to furnish parties who will swear to them.

Mr. Whedon—Have you any personal knowledge that any voucher has been "raised" or fraudulently treated?

Mr. Rewick—I will name one voucher which, if you will have produced within two minutes, I will prove to have been fraudulently signed.

The board did not produce the voucher, but Mr. Rewick went on to state that it was a voucher to which the name of John R. Rosco was signed. Mr. Rosco is a farmer and an Alliance man living near Denton. Mr. Rewick said Mr. Rosco had never signed the voucher nor authorized anyone to sign it for him, and that the signature was not his hand writing.

Mr. Whedon then tried to pry into Mr. Rewick's private affairs but he didn't make any point.

Under further cross examination Mr. Rewick affirmed that at the proper time he could bring witnesses to prove

his charges about that oats and cattle deal in which Hathway of the Journal is implicated, also the "fine colt" deal. He had learned by telephone where one of the missing mares from the asylum farm is at the present time, but did not wish to say more until he had seen his informant in person.

After the examination was over Mr. Rewick demanded that the vouchers be produced so that he could compare them with the affidavits. This was refused and the board took a recess till after dinner.

When the afternoon session began, Lawyer Whitmore repeated the demand that the vouchers be produced, and they were brought in. They proved just as Mr. Rewick had stated.

Mr. Rewick then said that having considered the matter further, he had decided to give the board a list of names of persons from whom he had secured information. He gave the following and asked that they be brought before the board:

The witnesses are the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Co., or the officer or employe having charge of the switching records or books showing the number or quantity of cars switched to the asylum last year; Gorham F. Betts, formerly a member of the firm of Betts & Weaver, that last year had the coal contract; W. H. Weaver the other member; John Dorgan, representative of the Whitebreast Coal Co; Haas, the teamster who unloaded the coal; William Randall, former delivery man for Betts & Weaver, who now lives at Ord; Dr. Bowman, superintendent at asylum; Fred Race, book keeper; Campbell Cook and Henry Mohlers, engineers at that institution; Oscar A. Mullen, clerk district court of Lancaster county; F. C. Hass and B. G. Safford of Yankee Hill.

Governor Boyd's private secretary then came before the board and stated that Mr. Boyd wished to be present at the investigation as he had matters to lay before the board. In as much as he was absent from the city the investigation was adjourned till Monday.

Meetings.

The independents of Lincoln have held a series of good meetings in various parts of the city, and have done much effective work. Prof. Rork, of Oregon; I. N. Leonard, Mart Howe, W. F. Wright, Hon. Jerome Shamp, W. L. Cundiff and others have been out making speeches both in city and country, and doing much to arouse and educate the people. Other meetings should be arranged for at once and every effort made to stir up the voters to the importance of acting in their own interests.

THERE'S over a month yet in which to win votes.

TAX-PAYERS, how do you like the way republican office-holders handle your money?

EGGESTON can't carry his own precinct. Leonard will beat him out of sight right in his own home.

The farmers of this county want no Moore in the state senate. They have had enough money loaners.

THE Van Wyck club meets at independent headquarters at the Lindell every Thursday evening. Turn out enjoy the meetings.

ONE of the first things the legislature should do next winter is to get back that school land that Joe Burns helped steal from the state not long ago.

R. T. CHAMBERS is one of the most worthy and reliable farmers in the county. He is making a good fight for election, and we believe he will prove a winner.

J. M. MEDDINS stands well with the laboring men of Lincoln and they are rallying to his support. The farmers will stand by him too, and he is going to get there.

A CONTEMPTIBLE DODGE.
Mr. Whitehead, in his ridiculous attack on the independent members of the last legislature, says they stuck to the Newberry bill, when they might have passed the Stevens bill, and it would have become a law. The Kearney Hub takes up the same idea and speaks as follows:

"The adoption of the Stevens bill would have settled the railroad rate question to the satisfaction of all classes, but that was not what the independent politicians wanted, because the settlement of that and a few other questions would have left them all without a job."

This charge is not only ridiculous, it is trifling and contemptible. What reason can any one have for assuming that the Stevens bill would not have suffered the same fate as the Newberry bill? It was substantially the same thing. Except in the matter of rates it was more radical than the Newberry bill. Did Boyd ever say any thing to indicate that he would have signed the Stevens bill? Did any of the republican or democratic senators who opposed the one ever offer to support the other? They moved several substitutes for the Newberry bill, but did they ever move the Stevens bill as a substitute?

Two years ago the republican platform contained the following plank on railroads:

We demand the reduction of freight and passenger rates on railroads to correspond with rates now prevailing in adjacent states to the Mississippi.

This was supposed to mean Iowa rates, which the republicans had repeatedly promised. The Newberry bill provided for Iowa rates. Yet the republicans fought it to the end, and by the most desperate and disgraceful means. Yet these trifling, contemptible hypocrites now try to saddle the blame on the independents!

Now we would like to ask the Hub, and Mr. Whitehead, and others of their ilk some questions:

Why didn't some republican member introduce a bill in accordance with the platform of his party?

Why didn't the republican party which had an over-whelming majority in every previous legislature pass good railroad bills? Why were Agee bill, and Meiklejohn's bill and half dozen other good railroad bills killed in the legislature of 1887? Why was Hall's bill killed in the legislature of '89? None of these bills was so radical as the Stevens bill. Still Mr. Whitehead says:

"Now I say that if any party that has ever existed had ever went before the people at such a time as this and made such promises, giving such pledges, and so utterly failing to fulfil them as they did, that they would be buried so deep 'neath the waves of public indignation that they would never again rise to the surface to deceive the people."

We agree with the sentiment. But it must be applied to the republican party. No other party in Nebraska kills the bill. And it is the party that on the 8th of next November "will be buried so deep 'neath the waves of public indignation that they will never again rise to the surface to deceive the people."

IT DOES but little good for independent editors to put out campaign matter so long as it reaches only the independent voters. Independents who have the cause at heart should put reform papers and books into the hands of men who need to be aroused and educated.

THE Bee in speaking of Nebraska as a wheat state a few days ago spoke of the wheat crop being 18 million bushels. This accords exactly with our estimate.