

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 24 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 24 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 one 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 34 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 34 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 arrangement 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. Roscoe was signed. Mr. Roscoe is a farmer and an Alliance man living near Denton. Mr. Rewick said Mr. Roscoe 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, and so 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.

A Letter From W. L. Greene.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

Never in the history of our party has the outlook been so favorable as at the present. At all our meetings we have very large and enthusiastic gatherings, even surpassing those of two years ago.

There is not merely spasmodic enthusiasm, but that determined earnestness which is an harbinger of victorious action. The people are educated as never before on the political issues of the day, and hence the light literature furnished them by the opposition is as chaff before the wind. I am also sure that the questionable methods resorted to by the enemy have not only failed to weaken us, but have had the contrary effect. Men are not slow to condemn the employment of weak and veal persons to fight us under the garb and guise of "independents." Every man claiming to be an independent and yet fighting the ticket, is marked by the people as an enemy, and the hired tool of corporations, and his darts fall harmless at the feet of our candidates. All the money furnished by the railroads to run so-called independent papers to fight our ticket is spent in vain for the people are fully awake to the specious practices and neality of such degraded tools. The great fight you are making, Mr. Editor, is telling all over the state. And the barking of small dogs at your feet only makes your work more glorious.

We want to make this victory complete, and to this end every member of the party should feel the importance of his station. Personal work will accomplish much that cannot be done in any other way, and every man or woman has his or her work to do, and no other one can do that work.

Let every person who feels the necessity of a change go to work at once to swell the vote of the independents in his locality. The republicans will try to purchase every doubtful

voter in the state and to prevent this you must be as wise as serpents and as vigilant as the hawk.

There are reforms which we must accomplish, and to do it we must have the legislature and the governor, and to enforce the laws when enacted, we must have the other state officers.

There will be a superhuman effort on the part of the opposition to capture one branch of the legislature so that no freight bill can be enacted. Their efforts will be directed to the senate, as that body consists of fewer members than the other, so every farmer should at once see the vital importance of electing members of the legislature who are friends of the people. You can rest assured that the men chosen by the opposition are friendly to the road, for the fight this year is not so much between republicans and independents as between the corporations and the people. Let every man therefore, who loves his home see to it that the legislature is ours. Beside a reduction of freight rates, there are other reforms needed in Nebraska.

At the present time our people are badly in debt, and their homes are so incumbered by mortgages, that unless relief comes pretty soon, thousands of them will be left homeless. We hope in the future to so shape the finances of the country as to enable them to pay off their debts, but something must be done to stay the hand of the destroyer until that can be done. As a means to this end the legislature should enact a law providing that when land is to be sold on mortgage, each subdivision should be appraised separately, and then offered for sale by subdivisions. That is to say a tract consisting of 160 acres is mortgaged for one thousand dollars. Then let it be appraised by parties and then one forty first offered, and if it will not sell for enough to pay the mortgage, then offer another, and so on, leaving the forty on which the house is situated last. Then it should also be provided that the owner of the land should be allowed to redeem within, say two years, all of said land or any subdivision of it by paying its appraised value. By this means many people would be left with a home who otherwise would be homeless.

There are many other things needed of which I have not time to speak. But, to carry out these measures, we must also have the governor. The hardest fight is being made on General Van Wyck by the railroads and their tools. And why? Because if elected he will stand by the people and sign a railroad freight bill and all other bills in the interest of the people.

Let no one deceive you, farmers, but see to it that we elect every man from top to bottom of our ticket.

Vote for home, children and native land, and not for corporations or their tools.

Respectfully,
W. L. GREENE.

Since W. L. Greene's Omaha speech, in which he so clearly demonstrated that money is not a substance and cannot be seen, the editor of this column has worn out a dozen sandwiches by carrying them around in his pocket to prevent his arrest for being found without visible means of support. The editor is now having a wooden sandwich painted to carry around to fool the policemen still further.—Omaha Tocsin.

Oregon, Washington and the North-Western Coast.

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