

IMPORTANT REPORTS

Of Investigating Committees Made and Adopted During the Last Days of the Session.

THE VOTE ON HOUSE ROLL 33.

Hundreds of Pages of Testimony Ordered Printed in the Journal for the Information of the People.

Work of the Closing Days.

THE BRIBERY INVESTIGATION.

On Thursday the committee appointed to investigate the charges of bribery in connection with the senatorial election reported. Casper and Stevens submitted the following report:

Mr. Speaker: As members of your committee heretofore appointed to investigate the charges of improper use of or offers of money to influence the votes of members of the legislature in the matter of the election of United States senator we beg leave to report as follows:

That offers of money were made to eight members of the legislature for the alleged purpose of influencing their votes in the matter above mentioned, and whilst it is true that the parties in every case save one deny that they had so offered money to members of the legislature, they nevertheless admit all the other statements made by said members of the legislature to be true, and this in itself inclines us, as members of this committee, to the belief that offers of money were made with corrupt intent.

The one party admits that he had acted as a go-between for certain interested parties, who showed him the money and said the money would be paid when the votes were delivered, and that he, as a go-between, had offered to two members of this legislature certain sums of money if said members would cast their votes as he might direct.

For further information in respect to these matters we would respectfully refer this honorable body to the evidence now in the hands of the chairman of this committee. Respectfully submitted,

JOHN STEVENS, C. B. CASPER.

McKesson the republican member of the committee submitted a minority report censuring Representatives Krick and Soderman, and asking that Sergeant-at-arms Dungan be discharged. This brought Soderman to the front. He made one of the most eloquent speeches of the session in defense of his course. Krick followed in the same strain, and when the motion to adopt McKesson's report was put to a vote, it did not receive a solitary vote.

A motion was made and adopted providing that the report of Casper and Stevens be received and printed with the evidence.

THAT INSURANCE INVESTIGATION. After the disgraceful row between Sheridan, Rosewater and Roggen, the house appointed a committee to inquire into the charges of attempted boodling in connection with Fulton's insurance bill. On Thursday that committee submitted the following report which was adopted:

First—We have examined twenty-two witnesses, whose testimony is contained in the 172 pages of testimony submitted herewith and made a part of the report.

Second—There was introduced in evidence an article published in the Nebraska State Journal of March 15, 1893, containing an interview in which was mentioned the name of Representative S. Fulton. We find from the evidence herein before referred to that Mr. Fulton is exonerated from any charges of improper influences, and against whom any suspicion has been directed as being connected with any such charge, and that his action as a member of the house and of the insurance committee in reference to insurance legislation has been entirely honorable.

Third—We find that house roll No. 287 was drawn and its introduction secured by a person not a member of the legislature, and that afterwards the same person offered for a consideration of \$1,500 to use his influence to bring about the defeat of said bill, but that said offer was not accepted by the parties to whom it was made, and we believe that no member of the legislature knew of such offer or was in collusion with the party making the same. Your committee cannot condemn in too strong language the practice of any person procuring the introduction of bills of a character prejudicial or injurious to any class of business with the intent of extorting money from those interested therein.

Fourth—We find from the evidence that Representative Kruse, as chairman of the insurance committee, promised several times to give representatives of life insurance companies a hearing before that committee for the purpose of stating their objections to house roll No. 287, but that said bill was reported back to the house with the recommendation that it be passed without any opportunity being afforded said representatives to be heard.

Fifth—From the evidence of one witness and also articles in some of the newspapers published within the state, which articles were offered in evidence before the committee, Representatives J. G. Kruse and I. A. Sheridan were charged with being implicated in efforts to exact money from those interested in insurance legislation, but we find that the evidence is not sufficient to sustain said charges.

Sixth—We further represent that the matter of this report was informally considered by this special committee, all of the members being present, and that findings substantially as above were assented to by Representative G. F. Smith, the other member of this committee who is now absent, and whose name does not therefore appear attached to this report. All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES A. GOSB, H. GERDES.

THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND.

The house committee appointed to investigate the state offices and institu-

tions on Friday submitted the following report:

The total amount of the permanent school fund invested in registered county bonds is \$2,519,872.33; \$1,934,759 of these bonds were purchased at their par value \$42,500 of these bonds were purchased for \$1,457.50 less than their par value.

Three hundred and seventy-six thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five dollars of these bonds were purchased at a premium of \$21,594.37. Two hundred and eighty-eight thousand, five hundred dollars of these bonds bearing high rate of interest were purchased of holders, who were permitted to detach therefrom coupons for interest not yet due, thereby reducing the rate of interest upon the state investment. The interest coupons then detached amounted to \$18,350. Your committee find all of these bonds are in the vaults of the state treasurer, and properly stamped as belonging to the permanent school fund as required by law.

The bonds for which a premium was paid are as follows:

Dakota county bonds \$5,000, at a premium of \$288.33.

Dakota county bonds \$7,000, at a premium of \$329.38.

Dakota county bonds \$60,000, at a premium of \$4,287.63.

Logan county bonds \$6,000, at a premium of \$1,134.22.

Merriek county bonds \$40,000, at a premium of \$3,196.68.

Phelps county bonds \$35,000, at a premium of \$5,838.34.

Richardson county bonds \$20,000, at a premium of \$6,226.18.

Wheeler county bonds \$6,825, at a premium of \$453.76.

These bonds bear from 6 to 8 per cent interest, but the rate of interest upon the state's investment, by reason of the payment of a premium for the bonds, has been reduced to from 5 to 6 per cent.

The bonds from which interest coupons were detached are as follows:

Cheyenne county bonds, \$60,000; coupons detached, \$1,300.

Greeley county bonds, \$50,000; coupons detached, \$2,080.

Howard county bonds, \$5,000; coupons detached, \$1,750.

Kearney county bonds, \$11,000; coupons detached, \$5,900.

Platte county bonds, \$27,000; coupons detached, \$2,160.

Platte county bonds, \$10,000; coupons detached, \$1,200.

These bonds bear from 6 to 10 per cent interest, but the rate of interest on the state's investment, by reason of the detaching coupons had been reduced from 5 to 6 per cent. The bonds purchased at par bore from 4 to 8 per cent interest.

The committee was of the opinion that the practices of buying bonds at a premium, and of allowing interest coupons to be detached were of very doubtful propriety, and might be made a cover for extensive frauds, but made no charges of actual frauds.

The above report is not that of the committee which investigated the reasons for the non-investment of the permanent school fund during the past two years.

CONTEST FEES.

On Thursday the 6th Irwin of Platte offered the following resolution which was supported by 53 members, and therefore adopted:

Resolved, That the chief clerk be and is hereby instructed to issue vouchers for the amounts and to the persons named below, to pay the expenses in the several contests and election cases of members of this house; said vouchers to be drawn against the appropriation to pay the incidental expenses of the twenty-third session of the legislature, to-wit:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. W. N. Mason, for attorney fees, \$ 100 00. Chas. A. Goss, for attorney fees, 100 00. A. L. Sutton, for attorney fees, 100 00.

Stevens attracted the attention of the chair and offered the following report, after the house had allowed the senators their stamps and newspapers and were feeling downhearted over their defeat:

Economy in Printing. Representative Casper who is a practical printer, on Thursday carried his economical ideas into a new field, by offering the following resolution in the house which was adopted:

Resolved, That this house instruct the secretary of state to have the book printed on book paper, two pounds per square. That the type used shall be standard heavy, leaded, with six to seven picas in width. That there shall be no unnecessary blanks and broken pages or paragraphs. The blank space between the proceedings of each day and the session of the same day, and between hand and subheadings shall not exceed one brevier line. The bindings shall be in the same style as the bindings of the house journals of 1891. Orders also that the secretary of state be authorized to have printed one thousand copies of the house journals and that each member be furnished five copies of the same when they are printed and ready for distribution.

THE PASSAGE OF H. R. 33.

The final vote on the freight rate bill was taken about 4 o'clock Wednesday, April 6th. Those who voted for the bill were as follows:

- INDEPENDENTS—Dale, Dysart, Campbell, Gray, Johnson, Packwood, McCarty, Dargatz, Smith, Stewart, Young, Harris, Sanders, Mullen—14. DEMOCRATS—Thomson, Hale—2. REPUBLICANS—Everett and Clarke—2 making 18 in all for the bill.

The names of those who opposed the bill to the last are signed to the following protest placed on the minutes of the senate by Babcock of Omaha. Senator Lett's name does not appear because he was absent, but he stood squarely with the other thirteen:

We the undersigned members of the senate of the state of Nebraska, hereby enter our solemn protest against the passage of house roll No. 33, and assign the following reasons: That said bill has not been read at large on three different days in the house of representatives; nor has said bill been read at large on three different days in the senate; nor has said bill been read at large in the senate as required by article 3, section 1 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska. Said bill not being passed in accordance with the requirements of the constitution of this state, it is therefore unconstitutional and void.

- LEOPOLD HAHN, J. B. POPE, G. W. LOWLEY, A. R. SCOTT, J. E. NORTH, G. W. EGGLESTON, J. P. MILLER, JOHN MATTHEWS, JR., W. N. BABCOCK, C. O. LOBECK, ALEX. SHAWAN, R. E. McDONALD, B. F. MOORE.

Before announcing the vote Lieutenant Governor Majors said:

While the chair is somewhat embarrassed by the explanations of senators as to the fact that house roll No. 33 was not read at large on three different days, yet the chair in justification of his submission of the usual formula which comprehends only the constitutional requirements of all bills legally acted. It is not for the chair to challenge the reading of any bill, he not being a member of the body but must accept the reading as by the secretary, if the same is unchallenged.

Lieutenant Governor Majors announced the vote, 18 yeas and 14 nays, and declared the bill passed by a constitutional majority.

On Thursday when the minutes were read Clarke of Douglass moved to have the above protest expunged from the records because it reflected on the senate and conflicted with the records of the body which show that the bill was read three times. Majors made one of his outrageous and unprecedented rulings to the effect that nothing of the kind could be expunged, and ruled the motion out of order.

The claim that the bill had not been read three times as the law requires, is a merely technical objection. When bills, especially long ones, are read the first and second times, they are nearly always read only in part. If this objection should hold good against the rate bill, it would also hold good against almost every other long bill passed by this as well as previous legislatures. The filing of such a protest simply shows to what depths the railroad tools will stoop in their desperate efforts to thwart the people.

THE POPE'S AMBASSADOR.

Mgr. Satolli Will Visit Lincoln Next Saturday in All Probability.

Mgr. Satolli, the papal ambassador in this country at the present time, will be in Lincoln on Saturday of next week to take up several interesting cases in connection with Bishop Bonacum's management of the Lincoln diocese. Rooms for himself and two secretaries have been secured at the Lincoln hotel, and the evidence in the matters will be heard there.

Nothing is known definitely of the charges that will be heard against the bishop, but it is pretty definitely known that his removal to the diocese of Cheyenne is asked for on the ground of his autocratic treatment of several of his priests. The instances cited are in the cases of Father Walsh, whom he suspended for five years for what the priest's friends claim was without just provocation and done in a fit of temper, and Fathers Crowley and Corbett, to whom his bearing and manner has been harsh and autocratic, as the priests allege. The bishop is something of a fighter himself and his friends have been busy for several days searching newspaper files and interviewing prominent Catholics after evidence. Father Walsh is equally active and the hearing promises to be a very breezy one. The case will be partially heard on documentary evidence and both sides have been notified to prepare as much of their case as it is possible in that manner for submission.

When the devil can't have his way about who the pastor of the church shall be, he generally manages to have a hand in picking out the janitor.—Ram's Horn. "Just see that trombone player. His face is red as a beet from blowing hard." "Yes, he certainly ought to know what is meant by strains of music."—Boston Herald.

"Mrs. Brown and I never quarreled but once." "What? I heard you two weeks ago, and I heard you again to-day." "It was the same quarrel, sir."—New York Sun.

"You must come over and play with the July some time," said the visitor. "May-be I will," answered the little girl. "Is it a walking baby or just a wagon baby?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Police Justice.—"What is your residence, prisoner?" Culprit—"Well, if your honor lets me down say it'll be somewhere on the Bowery. Or I live it to the judgment of the court."—Puck.

He—"So you positively will not give me one kiss! And I had a \$10 bet with Tom Ricketts that you would." She—"I am sorry for you, but I have a bet with him of a box of gloves that I would not."—Indianapolis Journal.

A collector of carons in New York peddles himself on a "lot of quartz that has two crystals on its face. These crystals form a perfect cross, one intersecting the other at right angles and a little hollow behind them throws them into high relief. It is the only known specimen of the kind and came from the West. The Indians used to have a poetical tradition that the small crystals of this mineral found on the upper Hudson and about lake George were the tears of stricken deer solidified.

SIX ARE IMPEACHED!

(Continued from Second Page.)

The Convention Meets.

It was nearly 8 o'clock Friday evening when the joint convention got together. The resolution of impeachment against Benton was read. Jensen of Fillmore wanted to have the whole matter dropped. He thought this nonsense had gone about for enough. Watson was afraid it was unconstitutional to impeach an officer after his time had expired. Several republicans wanted the evidence read. This was exactly what the independents were waiting for. Porter suggested that the evidence of A. M. Waring be read. It was read, and when it was done Benton's fool friends wished they had kept their mouths shut. Waring testified that he was one of the notaries who took the evidence in the Powers-Boyd contest two years ago. Some-thing like \$5,000 had been appropriated by the legislature to pay him and his assistants without an emergency clause, and hence they could not get their money till August 1st. They needed the money badly and decided to discount the claim at the Commercial Bank of Omaha. But before the bank would accept the vouchers, the notaries had to see Auditor Benton, and ascertain if he would issue the warrant when the time came. He said that he suspected that the appropriation was unconstitutional, and he wanted \$700 of the money. The result was that the notaries finally had to give Benton \$700 in order to get him to promise to issue the warrant. Waring's testimony was supported by that of the bank cashier who brought copies of all the papers in the case showing that Benton had drawn the \$700.

After this evidence had been read, Watson wanted the question of constitutionality submitted to the three attorneys employed in the case. An independent called attention to the fact that already these lawyers had drawn articles against one ex-officer, Mr. Hill, and suggested that they wouldn't be fools enough to do such a thing if it were unconstitutional.

The resolution of impeachment was then adopted by a vote of 82 to 5.

Knowing how near the end of the session it was, the committee had articles of impeachment against Benton already drafted. They were read and adopted.

Leese's Case.

Although it was nearly ten o'clock when Benton's case was finally disposed of, the case against Wm. Leese was taken up. None of the stock objections urged by republicans in other cases were heard in this. The independents declared that they were as ready to impeach Leese as anybody else if there was any evidence against him. Porter wanted to know what charges and what proof they had. Senator Pope, a railroad lawyer from Crete, got up and made a speech in which he made a good many assertions against Mr. Leese, and said he could bring men who would swear they were true.

It appeared that no evidence what ever had been taken. It looked very much as if the resolution against Mr. Leese had been trumped up as a bluff to stave off action against Benton.

Porter replied to Pope, saying that when the house had asked the senate to come over to impeach the state officers, they had sworn testimony. Now the senate asked the house to help impeach a man merely on their verbal statement. Pope then sent up a resolution asking that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to take evidence in Leese's case and present it to the joint convention at 10 o'clock Saturday. It also provided that the three attorneys, Doane, Pound and Greene, draft articles of impeachment upon the evidence, if in their opinion was sufficient, and report the same to the house. The resolution was adopted and the chair appointed Pope, McKesson and Porter as such committee.

Then the joint convention adjourned over to 10 o'clock Saturday.

Saturday's Convention.

When the two houses got together on Saturday the committee appointed to take testimony reported that they had examined several witnesses, the evidence had been submitted to the attorneys and they had decided that there were grounds for impeachment.

The report was adopted. At 11:30 the articles of impeachment were read and adopted.

The charges against Leese are that while he was a member of the board of public lands and buildings there were fraudulent vouchers approved for coal for use at the asylum similar to those of the past two years; that he collected money from the state ostensibly for expenses in prosecuting cases in the United States supreme court, while such money was never spent for that purpose, and that he worked for a fee against the state in a certain bond injunction case.

The same committee and the same attorneys were appointed to take charge of the cases against Benton and Leese. John C. Watson, in behalf of the republicans asked that Judge Pound be substituted in place of Lamberton, as that gentleman could not get back from Washington in time to take charge of the case. This was done. Finally at about 12 o'clock the joint convention adjourned sine die.

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Reference: Metropolitan National Bank, Chicago.

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