

STATE PAYS THE RENT

An Entire Weekly and Job Printing Plant in a Public Building at Peru.

PRIVATE CONCERN MULCTS STATE

Serious Charges At Jugglery of Text Books—Dealers and Students Alike Complain Books Are Changed Without Cause, Presumably for Money in It.

PERU, Neb., Aug. 13.—The State Normal School at Peru furnishes another example of fusion spoliation, incompetency and discord. This institution maintained by the state for the purpose of affording those with moderate means an opportunity of obtaining an education, has been no more fortunate than any of the rest in escaping the vile effects of fusion mismanagement.

Not alone has this school been subjected to the evil effects of fusion incompetency, but it has been made the prey of political adventurers whose only purpose seems to be to exact unlawful tribute from the tax payers of the state.

To illustrate the true situation, it is only necessary to point out that in one of the buildings owned by the state, a private business enterprise is established and conducted, no rent being paid the state, while on the other hand, the state pays for its lighting, heating, pays excessive prices for material supplied, and, in addition, is mulcted to the extent of \$20 per month. This is the way the state of Nebraska is being plucked at Peru, and that, too, by fusionists.

AN OUTRAGE ON TAXPAYERS.

The business enterprise heretofore referred to, is the printing establishment owned and conducted by J. D. Bishop & Co. Right in the building owned by the state this printing company monopolizes three large rooms, has its press and type, publishes a weekly newspaper, the Peru Pointer, keeps books and stationery for sale, does the job printing for the business houses of the village and for the institution, and transacts all its private business. It pays no rent, but what is still worse, it has its rooms heated and lighted at the state's expense. And what is worse still than that, it has the boldness to charge excessive rates for printing stationery, catalogues and the like for the institution, the expenses of which are borne by the tax payers of the state. That this is being done is attested by J. D. Bishop, head of the concern, and conspicuous in the councils of the fusion party in Nemaha county.

In a conversation with Mr. Bishop, among other things, he said:

"We have a pretty good thing of it here, we have the use of three rooms with light and heat, and all free. Then we have the state printing for the institution, that is a pretty good thing."

"Do you have to compete with other printing houses?" "No, we fix the prices to suit ourselves, we have no competition. Here for example, is a catalogue, we charge the state \$250 for printing it, and we are getting it printed at the Norton Printing company at Nebraska City, for \$200. You see we make a clean \$50 there, without having to do a thing. We would make more than that if we printed it ourselves, but this year they were slow about getting us the copy, and, to get it out on time, we had to send it to Nebraska City, but we will still make \$50 and that is not so bad."

"We also print the paper called 'The Messenger,' which is gotten out monthly by President Beattie of the school."

"Who pays for that?"

"The state. Every month we get \$20 from the state for getting it out. We also get all the money accruing from advertisements in it."

"Have you a contract with the state for printing stationery for the institution?"

"No, we regulate that ourselves."

"Does it amount to much?"

"Considerable. You see we do all the printing for the institution or school and besides this we have many special orders from various teachers."

"And the teachers have private stationery for which the state pays?"

"Yes, the state pays for it all."

"How much does it all amount to in a year?"

"I don't know exactly. Well, the fact is that we are not making much of an effort for other business and we are clearing at least \$150 per month."

"Do you publish the Pointer here?"

"Yes, this is where we publish it. We get it out every week."

"How long have you been doing business here?"

"The plant has been in this building about two years. Prof. Spelbring, when he came here to teach, bought the Pointer outfit and brought it from down town up here and consolidated it with the college plant. We got the outfit from him when he left."

"How long has the \$20 arrangement existed?"

"About one year. We have been getting \$20 every month from the state for the last year, and we are still getting it."

And this is the spectacle, a regular weekly newspaper, not a college paper at all, being printed in the state insti-

tution! Can anything like it be found anywhere else in the world?

A private printing office in a public building growing fat on the tax payers and getting a bonus for doing it!

Being interrogated concerning the matter Prof. Beattie, who is supposed to exercise supervisory control over the school and its affairs, evinced a disposition to evade discussion. He endeavored to excuse the payment of the \$20 monthly to Bishop & Co., on the grounds that they received it as part pay for printing the monthly college paper. But when asked what services Bishop & Co. rendered for the use of three rooms with light and heat, for the commission they received on the sale of second hand books, for the money they received for advertisements in the college paper, and for the snap they had in printing supplies for the institution with the 250 students at prices far in excess of standard prices, Prof. Beattie expressed a desire not to be quoted.

That this is the fruit of fusion goes undisputed. Not until the fusionists got into the saddle was there a private printing office in a public building at Peru.

MENACED BY PARTISANSHIP.

It is indeed a sad theme for contemplation that the patronage of so important an institution as a normal school should be treated by persons high in authority in the state government as fit plunder to divide among the heifers and henchmen of the party. Yet this is true. Among the members of the board of trustees are some men utterly incompetent to act in this capacity, and the only reason they are there is because they have won recognition through political achievements. The resident trustee of the Peru school is a drummer for a cigar and tobacco house in Council Bluffs. Nor is his devotion to the cause of fusion without its object. In the short time he has been on the board he has succeeded in ousting James F. Hosc, professor of English Language and Literature, and installing in his place Grace Culbertson, his sister-in-law. Prof. Hosc has distinguished himself in the faculty of the school, and is a man rich in learning. His successor is inexperienced, is simply an alumnus of this school, and those who are familiar with the merits of both and who are competent to judge are authority for the statement that the change is a great loss to the institution. Nevertheless, Prof. Hosc has got to go and Miss Culbertson's name goes on the pay roll at \$800 per year.

It is a significant fact that Miss Culbertson, herself, does not feel fully equal to the duties of her new position, as she is to go to Chicago this summer and study in the Mrs. Emmons Blaine school. However, her name is listed for the pay roll, and that, in the fusion way of looking at it, is the main achievement.

MAD SCRAMBLE FOR SPOILS.

Perhaps the most flagrant attempt to profit at the expense of the state, in the way of placing the names of relatives on the pay roll of the institution, was recently made by Major Daley, a fusion wheel-horse of Nemaha county. It was while Major Daley was meditating over the pay roll of the institution that he concluded that his son-in-law, ex-State Superintendent Goudy, was especially devised, adapted and designed for the presidency of it. The salary attached to the presidency is \$2,500 per year, and the chivalrous scheme proceeded at once to shake the persimmon tree. He laid his plans with the strategy of a Von Moitke, having for his aid-de-camp, it is said, no less a personage than Governor Poynter. Daley labored in darkness and daylight, massing his guns at every vantage point, and finally after a season of strategic and subtle campaigning, got so far as to have the board called together. The board met. It was a meeting distinguished for courage on one side and subtlety on the other. Daley cracked the whip around the recalcitrant members of the board, who courageously stood out against his device, but without effect. It was urged by his opponents that Goudy was rusty in the art of pedagogy, and that it would be a fatal step to deviate him to the presidency. This was scouted and disputed by his champions. But he failed to receive the necessary support, and though his supporters succeeded in creating a vacuum for him by forcing the resignation of President Beattie, the plum fell to Prof. Clarke and Promoter-General Daley suddenly discovered that "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-glee." As might have been expected, the removal of the president precipitated no little amount of discord and disarranged things generally at the school.

The board wound up its meeting by removing the janitor, a man of many years of faithful service, and appointed in his stead a man named Ed Wright, distinguished from the rest of the fusion lieutenants of Peru by his dexterity in handling the pasteboards, and alleged brilliant feats at the gaming tables.

OTHER CAUSES.

The only excuse offered by the Daley faction for the removal of Prof. Beattie and the appointment of Prof. Goudy was that Daley had to have the concession as a reward for political services rendered. But, entirely free from the Daley proposition, there seems to be good cause for summoning Prof. Beattie to public judgment. These objections the board overlooked, but they nevertheless are apparently well founded.

CHARGES OF FRAUD.

Considerable complaint is being made by students, parents and local book dealers about the manner in which changes in text books are being made and the prices charged the students for books. If half the circumstantial and parol testimony is to be believed, and on its face it is sub-

stantially true, gross outrages are being perpetrated by individuals prominent in the faculty of the school. It is openly charged that certain members of the faculty are manipulating the text books used to the great disadvantage of the students and to their own private gain. The local dealers claim, and in this they are corroborated by the students, that the teachers are charging as much for books which they receive direct from the publishers as the local dealers charge, and in some instances more. Having it within their power to change the text books at their pleasure (and they have done this very thing on numerous occasions, thus requiring the students to purchase new books), a way for making considerable money is left open to them. Certain it is that many changes have been made, and that too, without the slightest justification. Even in mathematics, whose principles have remained unchanged since the days of Archimedes, frequent changes have been made. Manipulations in this respect extend to Latin Grammar, Botany, Geography, Moral Philosophy, German, English Grammar, Geometry, Modern History, Civil Government, Orthography, Etymology, Literature, and, in fact, all the branches. So far has this practice been carried that the students have in many instances been distressed by the frequent raids on their small capital. As a rule the students are possessed of but moderate means, their parents being of that class of citizens who often go without things at home in order to educate their sons and daughters. To subject these people to downright pilfering, is, to say the least, a monstrous outrage. Nor can it be denied that this very thing has been done.

BOOKS COST MORE THAN BOARD.

One of the students in the school, who, by the way, is a fusionist, is J. V. VanPelt of Archer, Neb. He was reluctant to complain of his grievances publicly, but in the course of a conversation, said:

"Yes, there is something suspicious about the text book problem. I have tried to find out, but have not been able to do so. The fact is, and I regret to say it, that my books, if I should buy all they have asked me to, would cost me more than my board, and I am boarding at the highest price hotel in the town. Indeed, in the nearly two months I have been here, though neglecting in several instances to buy books as requested, I believe my book bill has been nearly as much as my board bill. I know something is wrong, but I cannot say just what. Two things are certain, we are having too many changes in text books, and we are paying entirely too much for the books purchased. I have dealt in school books myself and I know whereof I speak."

TEARS IN THEIR EYES.

Inquiry among the dealers disclosed the fact that there has been a great deal of jugglery practiced at the school in connection with the text books. H. M. Schumann, with O. D. Sears, a local dealer, said:

"I have seen poor girls come in here with tears in their eyes inquiring about text books. Most of them who come here have plans laid ahead, and the manner in which every penny of their small means shall be spent is provided for. An extra expense on them means the disarrangement of their plans, and, if the expense be material, it compels them to leave the school and return to work. As for changes in books, it has become notorious. The way the teachers do is to ask at the opening of the class how many students need books. After ascertaining this they send direct to the publishers for the number required and get them. They buy just as cheap as we do, and possibly cheaper, but they charge just as much and in some instances more than we do. We make from 25 to 30 per cent profit and they make the same. I don't know who gets the profit, but I do know that the students are being shamefully preyed upon. What makes matters worse, is that there are a few students late at the opening of school in every class, and as the teachers order only a sufficient number of books to fill the demand at the time and have no stock on hand, those who are late are sent to us and are required to wait until we secure the books. The teachers have succeeded in one thing, and it speaks anything but praise for them, and that is, in changing the books so often they have practically driven the local dealers out of the book business, thus removing all competition against them. We have over \$300 worth of school books now on hand, not worth 25 cents on the dollar, because of changes. As we cannot return them to the publishers, and as the bulk of the business is now done at the school, we are simply compelled to go out of the business, except on a limited scale. I don't know who is getting the rake off at the school, but some one is getting it."

W. D. Abbott, who is of the fusion faith and who has been in business in Peru for many years, said:

"There is no doubt in my mind but that there is a great deal of crookedness about this book business. I have been in the book business myself, and I know something about it. Nor is the outrage upon the students confined to selling them books alone. There is scarcely a term of school that does not open with a delay of two or three weeks in getting books. The teachers wait until the students are here before they order books, and I have known whole classes to wait fully two weeks for the books to arrive."

"Some of them have, on various occasions, become discouraged and left the school. This is one of the evils of teachers being book dealers. If they would keep their heads off, and let the local merchant handle the books, they would keep a stock on hand, and the students would not have to wait one hour for books, whereas now they wait weeks. It is by these means

that the profits are made by the teachers, for they charge as much, and, in some instances, more, for books than the regular dealers. I defy Prof. Beattie or any one of his teachers to produce a book that has been sold a student by him or them in the last two years at cost price. On the other hand, except in a few instances perhaps, not a book has been handled by them out of which they have not gotten the retailer's profit. I am not in the book business now, so you can see I am not prejudiced through personal motives. What I say, I say for the purpose of putting a stop to this outrage."

PRESIDENT BEATTIE INTERVIEWED.

When questioned concerning the matter, Prof. Beattie affected to know but very little about the book business. He admitted that there had been some changes, but he thought those were necessary. Questions bearing upon the cost of books, the frequency of changes and the manner in which these changes were made, seemed to cause Prof. Beattie some uneasiness. The complaints of the students he attributed to lack of knowledge, and those of the local dealers to personal aggrandizement. But his statements were both indefinite and evasive, and he acted the part of one who fully estimated the distinction between silence and incriminating speech. He denied that books were sold at a profit, but when he was asked to produce his invoices or bills rendered for books bought from the publishers and sold to the students in proof of his assertion he flatly refused. He admitted that he had the bills, but no amount of persuasion could induce him to produce them. With a view to ascertaining just who was profiting by the deal, he was asked who authorized changes in text books and who ordered the books, but his answer was that "sometimes I do and sometimes somebody else," thus leaving the arena of research for facts as wide as ever. Certain it is, however, although the board of trustees made no inquiry into these complaints, that gross abuses are being perpetrated on the students and the public in connection with text books, and if something is not done to stop it, incalculable injury will be visited upon this institution.

Old Pennsylvania Law.

By a peculiar arrangement of the Pennsylvania election law votes are not canvassed for the candidate for whom they are cast, but for the ticket or tickets upon which his name appears. Thus in the election of Chester (Chester is a strong republican county and contains the town of Chester with its large shipyards), both parties agreed last year upon Joseph Hemphill for common pleas judge. This is the way the official canvass was declared: Joseph Hemphill, republican, 8,162 votes; Joseph Hemphill, democrat, 4,371 votes; Joseph Hemphill, fusion, 1,643 votes; Joseph Hemphill, scattering, 374 votes. There was no other candidate in the field.

French Celebrates at Harvard.

The fourth annual lecturer of the Cercle Francais de l'Universite Harvard will be Monsieur Gaston Deschamps, the well known literary critic of the Paris Temps. He will sail for America early in February and will give at Harvard under the auspices of the Cercle Francais eight lectures on the "Theatre Contemporain."

Passover Cakes for Lord Roberts.

Among the many presents sent to Lord Roberts, one which is said to have pleased him much was a case of Passover cakes sent to him by the Jews of London. It was sent at Easter time, and his acknowledgement of the gift has just been received.

A Good Cough Medicine.

It speaks well for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy when druggists use it in their own families in preference to any other. "I have sold Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for the past five years with complete satisfaction to myself and customers," says Druggist J. Goldsmith, Van Etten, N. Y. "I have always used it in my own family both for ordinary coughs and colds and for the coughs following grippe, and find it very efficacious." For sale by Keeling.

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