

COMPLAINTS WANTED.

All our catalogues for the fall season are now gone. We sent out seventy-five thousand, all told. Out of every hundred persons who received these catalogues seventy-two have sent us orders up to date and we have not heard of a single instance of dissatisfaction by any name or of any kind. If there is anybody amongst the fifty-four thousand who ordered goods through this catalogue and who is dissatisfied we want to hear from him now. We want to know just wherein he has cause for regret. We want to hear complaints of any nature, large or small. We wish to rectify whatever may seem to be wrong.

Nebraska Clothing Co

GOVERNMENT BUILDING NEEDED

Ex-Mayor A. H. Wier Explains Why Senator Allen's Bill Should Pass.

In reply to a request from the INDEPENDENT for his opinions concerning the necessity for a new government building in Lincoln and the probable chances of passing the bill which Senator Allen has introduced providing for the necessary appropriation. We are in receipt of the following communication from Ex-Mayor A. H. Wier. The article calls for especial consideration when it is remembered that as mayor of the city of Lincoln for four years Mr. Wier conducted the affairs of the city on a more economical basis than any mayor in its history. Mr. Wier writes:

In reply to your request for my views in reference to the proposed government building in this city, will say that I am heartily in favor of the proposition. I know the general feeling among the members of the people's party in reference to expenditures etc. and that the proposal will meet with more or less opposition because of this fact, but such conditions ought not to influence political interests when the question is one that relates to an actually needed public improvement. I am as much opposed as any one to a useless expenditure of public funds. There has been altogether too much squandering of the public money, and I left the republican party in the interests of a more economical government as well as other public reforms, but I am not willing to oppose any improvement that is called for by real public necessity and is intended for actual public benefit. I do not believe that any one familiar with the facts and conditions in Lincoln, will seriously object to the proposed new building, unless it be for other reasons than those of political economy. Let me briefly state some of the facts.

When the present building was erected, the city made a donation to the government of the entire block on which it stands. There has not been a day since that time when this block of ground has not been worth more than the building which the government placed upon it.

Therefore the city actually built this building, by donating property worth more than its cost. Therefore from this standpoint the city is entitled to some consideration from the general government.

Again, any one familiar with the present building knows that it is utterly inadequate for the accommodation of the volume of business now required to be transacted between its walls. Every department is crowded to its utmost capacity. Note the frequent changes in the post office department, made in order to gain a little more room and convenience. Part of the hall ways on upper floors have been partitioned off to make more office room. The United States commissioner says that he has been unable to hold court there for want of room for some time.

Ask the custodian Mr. Burks, if the building is adapted for its present business. Look at any of the requirements of such a building for the use of a city like ours, and see how far it is short of fulfilling these requirements. There is today no city in the union that needs such a building more than does Lincoln. Of course we can get along with the present building for a time, but that does not alter the fact that we need a larger building and ought to have it. The most opposition to this enterprise will develop among the political interests involved. I already bear intimations that it is a piece of political jobbery on the part of Senator Allen to secure friends and influence for re-election. I am glad that I have a higher opinion of Senator Allen than to attribute to him such unworthy motives. He stands today the recognized peer in ability and devotion to his country's interests, of any man in the United States Senate. His career has been a surprise to his own party and to the country at large. I heard a prominent republican say that he was the most brilliant man in the senate. An accusation of this character against him can only be the outgrowth of political jealousy. When any man shows undoubted ability and by his very work secures honor and distinction, there are always ready a lot of carping critics to assail him. Senator Allen is to be commended on his interest in his state, and for the honest effort he has made to secure for his state a share of the distribution of public plums, which are sure to

go somewhere whether we get them or not.

I endorse fully the sentiment that prompts economy in the administration of public affairs, but much larger sums will be voted for objects less deserving than the request of Lincoln for a new government building. So far as Lincoln is concerned, the government has practiced economy towards the city long enough. Let some other city enjoy the benefits of an economical condition for a while.

I am in favor of this building because the public interests of the city demand it. There is no adequate accommodation for the large amount of public business now transacted in this city.

I am in favor of it, because the government has practically expended nothing for the city in the way of a public building. They built the present structure, but they received property worth more than the building is worth or ever has been worth.

I am in favor of it, because I believe it is a right and proper use of the public funds, and it cannot be opposed on just and reasonable grounds.

It will not be long until such a building will be an absolute necessity. The conditions for securing it now may never again be equaled. With Senator Thurston in the prominent position he occupies as the leader of the republican side of the senate, Senator Allen as the unquestioned leader of the party that holds the balance of power in the senate, Mr. Mercer in the house, with as it is claimed very close relations with Speaker Reed, and the entire Nebraska delegation in positions of influence and power, such as they never possessed before, surely the conditions are favorable, and I hope that no man who lives in Lincoln, and is dependent on his business and enterprise for his sustenance will raise his voice in opposition to a measure that is destined to have a weighty influence upon its future prosperity.

This building is an actual need of the city's business today. The conditions of returning prosperity will make this all the more imperative and I am glad to give to Senator Allen my best efforts and whatever influence I possess to aid him in securing for Lincoln this much needed improvement, and hope that political jealousies and animosities will not interfere. At least I hope that no improper motives will be ascribed to the distinguished senator for his efforts in our behalf.

Dec. 30, 1897. A. H. WIER.

TWO FIRES IN DAWSON

Front Street Threatened With Destruction—Gold Seekers Leave on the Ice.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—According to news received here from Dawson City under date of November 25, two front street log houses were destroyed by fire, November 22. One was a lodging house and church. The lodgings contained food and outfits for men, and nothing was saved. The fire was caused by the overturning of a lighted candle by a drunken man, and a similar cause started another three days later, when the theater and two saloons were burned. The snow upon the roofs saved the rest of front street from destruction. Provisions and liquors valued at \$40,000 were destroyed.

The Yukon froze November 19 for the winter and since then about 3,000 persons have started over the ice for Fort Selkirk.

Murdered and Robbed.

GUTHRIE, Okla., Dec. 30.—At Medford, Frank Drake was decoyed from town, brutally murdered and robbed of \$100. Two men and three women whose actions are suspicious are under arrest for the crime.

THE MARKETS

Kansas City Grain and Live Stock.

Hard Wheat—No. 1, 80c; No. 2, 78c; No. 3, 76c; No. 4, 74c; No. 5, 72c; No. 6, 70c; No. 7, 68c; No. 8, 66c; No. 9, 64c; No. 10, 62c; No. 11, 60c; No. 12, 58c; No. 13, 56c; No. 14, 54c; No. 15, 52c; No. 16, 50c; No. 17, 48c; No. 18, 46c; No. 19, 44c; No. 20, 42c; No. 21, 40c; No. 22, 38c; No. 23, 36c; No. 24, 34c; No. 25, 32c; No. 26, 30c; No. 27, 28c; No. 28, 26c; No. 29, 24c; No. 30, 22c; No. 31, 20c; No. 32, 18c; No. 33, 16c; No. 34, 14c; No. 35, 12c; No. 36, 10c; No. 37, 8c; No. 38, 6c; No. 39, 4c; No. 40, 2c.

Send this paper to some friend in the east.

AT THE PENITENTIARY

Report of the Investigating Committee upon This Institution.

STARTLING REVELATIONS.

Comparative Statement of Cost Under State and Contract Management.

Facts That the Journal Omitted.

The report of the legislative investigating committee upon the Nebraska state penitentiary, was filed last week by Fred Jewell, expert accountant, and Senator C. W. Beal, of Custer county. One statement in the report stands out like a mountain peak of fact in the multitude of minor details to command the instant attention of every taxpayer in Nebraska. The statement was carefully omitted by the Lincoln State Journal and other republican papers in this state, which published an abstract of the committee's report, but this omission will not prevent the people of the state from knowing the facts. The statement is in the form of a comparative statement of the cost of maintaining the convicts under the old system which prevailed during the Mosher—Stout—Dorgan contract and the cost of maintaining them under state management as at present. Here it is:

Bienium	No. of Prisoners	Cost of Maintenance	Per Prisoner per month	Per Prisoner per year
1887-8	336	\$96,998.46	\$1,011.80	\$12,141.60
1888-9	345	109,787.30	1,574.47	18,893.64
1891-2	340	85,806.40	1,376.36	16,516.32
1893-4	324	78,349.60	1,338.26	16,059.12
1897	324	7,671.92	1,096.56	13,158.72

*April 6th to Nov. 6th, 1897, seven months.

Average cost per month to the state for each convict for above years under Mosher—Stout—Dorgan contract.....\$11.17

Under State management and control..... 3.38

The committee adds a "note" to this comparative showing, stating that their reason for not including the bienium of 1895-6 in the statement is that that period was partly under the contract system and partly under state management. This is not really a sufficient reason for its exclusion and for the purpose of making the showing complete, we have secured the figures for 1895-6 and append them:

For 1895-6, Average number prisoners, 318; average cost per month, \$5,125.82; average cost for each prisoner per month, \$9.83.

Take the entire period of ten years and the rates of cost of caring for convicts in the penitentiary of Nebraska under the old system and under the new system is as 3 to 1. This fact speaks more than hundreds of pages of comment. It should be placed before every voter and every taxpayer in Nebraska, and if republican newspapers refuse to place it before their readers, populists should see that their neighbors are made to know it regardless of party.

The committee makes a further finding of the profits of the contractors who have been working the convicts of this state the past twenty years. This statement is not important for any purpose of recovery, but is interesting in view of the tremendous change made by the cancellation of the old contract and the abolition of the Mosher—Dorgan regime. This finding is from official statements of the contractors and state officials on file and is that the contractors made a net profit by \$98,233 annually on the labor of each prisoner and in the eighteen years from 1877 to 1895 a total legitimate profit of at least \$492,467.77 and besides this the contractors succeeded in lobbying through bills for repairs and improvements, which, under their contract, they were bound to pay for themselves, to the amount of \$44,393.82, making a total of \$536,861.59 in the eighteen years. As affairs go in the commercial world, it is of course nothing against the contractors that they drove a good bargain with the state and then carried it along for twenty years, but the change in expense of maintaining the prison, will open the eyes of a good many Nebraskans who have heretofore been party-blind to the faults and abuses of management of state affairs.

These are the main features—the important items of the report. They are the ones the people are most concerned in and ought to give the most consideration. They point out the radical difference between the old and the new penitentiary management so unmistakably that no one can miss it. They are a solid refutation of the campaign predictions of monopolists and corporationists regarding populist administration and an unpropitious challenge to the tin trumpets and Joe Johnsons of partisan attack today.

But besides these, there are a great many minor items in the report that are full of interest and meaning. One of these is the sale of state property, seven shot guns, five Spencer carbines, one Springfield carbine, used by guards, by W. H. Dorgan, contractor, to the state in his settlement. The value of this property as paid for, was \$137, which amount is properly recoverable from Dorgan, who is still in Lincoln.

Another of the petty grabs, long recognized by custom under the old management, is thoroughly exposed by the report of this investigation. It is the practice of former wardens in charging up per diem for conveying prisoners and in charging back here to and from the penitentiary, when, as a matter of fact, the trips were made in the street cars at an expense of ten to twenty cents instead of in a hack at a cost of three dollars. The question of per diem charges by the warden for attending court with prisoners, was fully decided by the Nebraska Supreme court, in 1884 (15th Neb., p. 459), where the court held that the salary of the warden was fixed by law at \$1500 and his living, and that was all he was entitled to, beyond that, was to be reimbursed for money actually expended. Notwithstanding this decision, for twenty years, both republican and democratic wardens, (the latter under Gov. Boyd's administration), have

charged and collected from the state per diem, hack hire and mileage charges never contemplated by law and expressly forbidden by the decisions of the Supreme court. Here is a sample bill of that kind made by warden A. D. Beemer, and paid by order of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

VOUCHER NO. 84,003, FEB. 5th, 1894.

For conducting Green S. Gravelly, from penitentiary to Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 17, 1894, self and guard one day.....\$5.00
Mileage..... 60
Conveyance..... 2.00

Total.....\$7.60

Actual expense as shown by affidavit of Gravelly, was street car fares to and from Lincoln, a total of .15
Over charge.....7.45

There are scores of these overcharges made in face of the plain decision of the supreme court, allowed by the board of public lands and buildings in defiance of law and paid by the state treasurer. The amounts which the committee find and the recovery of which they recommend from ex-wardens and ex-state officials are as follows:

From K. W. Hyers, warden and state officials.....\$ 11.30
From Dan Hopkins, warden and state officials..... 249.90
From J. P. Mallon, warden and state officials..... 89.49
From A. D. Beemer, warden and state officials..... 148.88

Besides these there are considerable amounts which are outlawed and therefore not subject to recovery.

The stealing of \$40,000 appropriated for building a new cell house in 1891, the investigation of the same by the legislature of 1893, the impeachment of Allen, Humphrey, Hastings, and Hill for their part in the transaction, their trial before the supreme court in the summer of 1893, the decision of Judges Norval and Post which virtually found them guilty, but restored them to office; the minority opinion of Judge Maxwell which found them guilty as charged, and sustained the impeachment; and the subsequent defeat of Judge Maxwell for re-nomination in the republican state convention because of his opinion—on all matters of familiar history in thousands of homes over the state. The review of the actual facts of stealing made by the committee in this report will no doubt seem "old" and tiresome in certain quarters. But it has here its proper place and the repetition of it is also timely. The people are prone to forget. The facts in the penitentiary steals and their subsequent whitewashing by the supreme court are so flagrant they cannot too often be repeated. These facts—open and conceded by all parties now—are that the board of public lands and buildings took \$500 of this \$40,000 and spent it on a junketing trip in open violation of the law and act of appropriation, that by systematic collusion of W. H. Dorgan, the agent for the state with the contractor, the state was defrauded out of most of the balance of the money and has nothing but bare unfinished walls to show for its forty thousand dollars. The parties responsible for this transaction have been turned loose by the courts and there is nothing for the people to do but grin and bear and remember it.

One of the new and striking features of the former penitentiary management unearthed by the committee is the action of ex-warden A. D. Beemer who on June 1, 1894 made out a voucher for J. R. Strack for 73 days carpenter work about the penitentiary at \$2.00 per day—\$146 which was allowed and paid to Beemer. Beemer, however, paid Strack only \$75 retaining the balance. Beemer also made out and secured payment upon another voucher for Strack for 51 days work, \$102—all of which he kept himself and that the aggregate of these two claims is for 124 days work and all performed between March 1, 1894 and June 1, 1894 (a period which includes only 79 working days) and that of the total \$248 received by Beemer, he paid Strack only \$75. There are numerous other minor items in the committee report which go to make up a total of \$5,525.04 which the committee believes subject to recovery and recommends suit upon.

It is not probable that much of anything will ever be recovered of these sums found justly due the state. At least the previous experience of the state in seeking to recover on official bonds is not hopeful for recovery of this money. It is nothing against the value of the investigating committee's report that such is the case. The real value of any investigation is not measured in the amount of stolen funds recovered, but in the exposure of faulty systems and corrupt methods, in the awakening of the people so that they may be prevented. Very little of the millions stolen by the Tweed ring from the taxpayers of New York City was ever recovered, but the investigation saved them millions of dollars. And if the people of the state of Nebraska learn enough of the corruption and venality of past state administrations to cure them of partisan blindness whether republican or populist, to make them demand and secure strict obedience of law from public servants, and to amend the faulty system under which much of the state's business has been done the present investigation will have amply repaid its cost.

Scrofula

Manifests itself in many different ways, like goitre, swellings, running sores, boils, salt rheum and pimples and other eruptions. Scarcely a man is wholly free from it, in some form. It clings tenaciously until the last vestige of scrofulous poison is eradicated from the blood by Hood's Sarsaparilla. Thousands of voluntary testimonials tell of suffering from scrofula, often inherited and most tenacious, positively, perfectly and permanently cured by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

The One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

Hood's Pills set harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Judge Coffin, attorney for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. of Lincoln, returned this morning from a trip to Hering, Neb., where he went to look after some legal business in the interest of the

RUDGE & MORRIS CO

1118-1126 N st., Lincoln, Neb.

The Christmas Climax

has been reached. We lead the van. Our stocks are the largest, newest and most varied of any in the west. Our qualities are above reproach and our prices cannot be touched. When in the Capital city do not fail to visit this store. In fact, a saunter through the Rudge & Morris House Furnishing Emporium is alone worth a trip to the city.

Plated Spoons

- \$1.75 buys a set of triple plated Rogers' Chevalier Teaspoons.
- \$3.50 buys a set of triple plated Rogers' Chevalier Tablespoons.
- \$1.25 buys a set of sectional triple plated tipped Teaspoons.
- \$2.50 buys a set of sectional triple plated tipped Tablespoons.

Plated Knives

- \$3.00 buys a set of William Rogers' triple plated Knives and Forks.
- \$3.50 buys a set of Roger Bros.' 1847 triple p'd Knives and Forks.
- \$5.00 buys a set of Antique Ivory Handle Knives and Forks.
- \$8.00 buys a set of Fancy Antique Ivory Handle Knives and Forks.

Chairs . . .

- \$4.50 buys a set of cane seat, brace arm, oak chairs.
- \$6.00 buys a set of extra heavy cane seat brace arm Oak chairs.
- \$9.00 buys a set of leather cobbler seat, brace arm Oak chairs.
- \$12.00 buys a fancy quartered Oak back, cane seat set chairs.

Rockers . . .

- 90c buys a full size, solid Oak, cane seat, ladies' Rocker.
- \$1.15 buys a large, heavy Oak, cane seat, ladies' Rocker.
- \$1.65 buys a solid Oak, leather cobbler seat, arm Rocker.
- \$2.15 buys an extra heavy Oak, cobbler seat, arm Rocker.

Dinner Sets

- \$4.50 buys a 73-piece decorated semi-porcelain dinner set.
- \$6.50 buys a 100-piece decorated semi-porcelain dinner set.
- \$7.50 buys a \$10 100-piece semi-porcelain dinner set, decorated.
- \$25.00 buys a 100-piece Haviland & Co. dinner set.

Knives . . .

- 25c buys a good two-blade boys' knife.
- 50c buys a three-blade pearl handle knife.
- 75c buys a warranted three blade knife.
- \$1 buys a 3 blade, pearl hdl warranted knife.

Razors . . .

- \$1.50 buys a genuine Star Safety Razor.
- \$3.50 buys a genuine Star safety razor with 2 blades—leather case.
- \$1.50 buys a genuine Swedish razor, warranted.
- \$2.00 buys the best razor made.

Skates . . .

- 40c buys a solid steel pair skates, worth 50c.
- 60c buys a pr Klipper Klub Skates, blue top.
- \$1 buys a pair nickel plated club skates.
- \$1.50 buys a pair of hardened steel nickel plated skates.

Sleds . . .

- 25c buys the boy's sled with steel shoes.
- 50c buys a good strong sled, large size.
- 75c buys a coaster with spring steel runners.
- \$1.50 buys the best iron sled in the market.

Farmer's Mutual. He goes to Omaha tonight on similar business. The increasing volume of business done by these two companies, keeps the Judge bobbing around.

INTERVENTION JUSTIFIED.

Palma Gives His Views on the Sending of Relief to the Cubans.

New York, Dec. 30.—"Governor General Blanco's acceptance of President McKinley's request that the American public be permitted to relieve the sufferings of reconcentrados in Cuba is tantamount to acceptance of the offer of intervention by the United States in the conflict so long in progress between the people of Cuba and the Spanish government," said Thomas Estrada Palma, the chief of the Cuban junta in this city, today. "As the administration believes that the peace in Cuba can be restored only by political intervention, it cannot reject the favorable opportunity that this presents itself to intervene for the purpose of ending the war in Cuba. The deplorable condition of the reconcentrados has been caused by the cruel warfare waged by Spain and the government, finding itself unable to relieve the situation, has applied to the United States for aid. President McKinley must see by now that there is no chance for peace to be established in Cuba without intervention, and living up to his word as given in his previous messages, must intervene and Spain cannot rationally and consistently reject such intervention."

JAPAN WILL FIGHT.

A Powerful Fleet Ready to Assist in Checking Russia.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A special dispatch from Shanghai, says: "It is reported that a Japanese fleet of warships is waiting near Goto island, outside Nagasaki, fully equipped for war, and only awaiting instructions. This includes the Yashima and Fuji, two of the finest vessels in the Japanese navy, and the Chen Yuen, that was captured from China. The Japanese fleet, it is understood, is acting in close touch with the British squadron under Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Buller, commander-in-chief on the China station."

"Japan will certainly oppose a permanent Russian occupation of Port Arthur. The sudden dissolution of the Japanese diet was owing to the war spirit."

His Tin Fall Bank Robbed.

NILES, Mich., Dec. 30.—Lawrence Walters, an aged farmer living three miles north of Wayland, Cass county, had no faith in banks and placed his savings, consisting of about \$2,500 in greenbacks, \$1,000 in government bonds, notes, mortgages and other valuable papers in a tin pail, which he buried beneath the floor in his barn. He had been in the habit of visiting the hiding place every day to see if his fortune was safe. Yesterday morning when he made the customary visit he found that robbers had been there.

Was a Tragic Joke.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 30.—It was developed last night that the shooting of Katie Dosenbach by Marcus Nassaer at Clayton and his own suicide were the result of a practical joke. It is claimed Nassaer's friends had constantly told him the girl loved him deeply, and she herself entered into the spirit of the fun by telling him she was about to leave for Oregon to be married. Driven to desperation by the thought of losing her, Nassaer called at her home and shot her and then blew out his brains.

FLAMES AND EARTHQUAKE

Eight Hundred Homes in Port au Prince Burned—The Town Shaken Later.

PORT AU PRINCE, Hayti, Dec. 30.—At 11 o'clock last night a fire, which was almost unchecked because of lack of water to supply the pumps, destroyed 500 houses, including a number of warehouses, a hotel, the Church of St. Joseph and its parsonage. About 3,000 people were rendered homeless.

This morning at 5:40 o'clock there was an earthquake, lasting half a minute and causing slight cracks in the earth.

End of Thirty-Year Homeless.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 30.—A romance that had its beginning at the time of the civil war resulted in the marriage yesterday of Frederick Walsen, ex-State Treasurer of Colorado, and a millionaire banker of Denver, to Miss Emma Storek, aged 33, of this city. Mr. Walsen, who is a Union veteran, returned to this city after the war, broken in health and pocket. He was nursed back to health by Mrs. Gustave Storek, mother of his bride. He went West and gained prominence and a fortune.