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INVESTIGATING PASSES

The Republican Committee Runs Against a Snag as Soon as It Starts Out.

CALL THE STATE OFFICERS

Not one of Them has Charged the State for Riding on the Railroads.

Thousands of Dollars Saved. The committee appointed to investigate the pass question got to work last week. The first thing that they did was to call on the auditor's office for the public records. They got the following document:

INVESTIGATING PASSES. Hon. W. A. Prince, House of Representatives, Dear Sir—

In compliance with your request of recent date, I will state that the records of this office show that during the past two years the state officers have been reimbursed from the state treasury for railroad fare paid as given below:

Governor \$ 37.50
Auditor Nothing
Treasurer Nothing
Secretary of State Nothing
Commissioner of Public Lands and Building 2.00
Superintendent of Public Instruction Nothing
Attorney General 239.75

The chief oil inspector has not been paid anything from the state treasury. J. W. Edgerton, secretary of the board of transportation, was paid \$13.25, February 3, 1898. In this amount was included railroad fare for himself, J. C. Dahman and G. L. Laws from Atchison to Topeka, Kansas. If a more detailed account is wanted the records of this office are open to your inspection. Respectfully,
JOHN F. CORNELL,
Auditor of State.

After reading the document and cogitating over the situation for a while they got into a committee room and sent for all the state officers. One by one they testified. Governor Holcomb owned up to having drawn \$37.50. Cornell had drawn no money for railroad fare. Meerve had drawn none, Porter had drawn none, Wolfe owned up to having drawn \$2, Jackson not a cent and Smyth had drawn \$239.75, most of it for his expenses to Washington to get the supreme court to modify the injunction in the maximum rate case.

Meerve made his statement in writing and wanted it filed among the permanent records of the state. It was an unique document. It is here printed in full:

To Your Honorable Committee: I understand that this investigation is for the purpose of putting the state officers upon record in regard to passes and while I deny that you have any right to call an executive officer before you for this purpose I never did anything in my life but what I was willing to go on record and state my position clearly upon, hence, I wish to offer the following as my entire answer upon this question:

lapse back to the treasury, and yet every member of that board rode upon a pass. I attach an itemized statement of the vouchers drawn against the appropriation made in 1897, giving the number of each voucher so that you can go to the auditor's office and get the original voucher and see every item there expressed and for what purpose it was used. I have never charged a dollar to the state of Nebraska for traveling expenses. As long as a republican official rides upon a pass I expect to ride upon one as long as I hold office.

BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS. Traveling expenses. Date. To whom drawn. No. Am't. Amt. of appropriation.

A little further investigation by the committee showed that of the thousands of dollars appropriated by the legislature to pay railroad fare was all in the treasury ready to be turned over to help lighten taxation and reduce the debt that the republicans inflicted on the taxpayers of the state. If any of the taxpayers have a kick to make on that score they are entitled to be heard.

ELECTING SENATORS

The amount of reform that is lodged in the breasts of republicans is shown in the unanimity with which the gentlemen of that persuasion voted down the resolution of Mr. Elwood, the populist member from Antelope county when he wanted to do something practicable and sensible in relation to the election of senators by a vote of the people. His resolution was as follows:

Whereas, the opinion as expressed by this house that United States senators should be elected by a direct vote of the people. Therefore, be it resolved that we hereby request our senators and representatives in congress to procure as soon as possible the submission of an amendment to the constitution of the United States, to the several states for ratification providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

JUST TAXATION.

A Citizen Who Sees in the VanDusen Bill For Equalizing Taxes Some Relief. Editor Independent:

The people are not expecting any legislation this winter in the interest of the wealth producers of the state, and they will be joyfully surprised if any such measures become laws. The Pollard revenue bill was prepared in the interest of the honest taxpayer as against the tax shirker, but the lobby has such a strong pull with the majority party that it is doomed to defeat.

The VanDusen bill is a similar but better bill, and should receive the support of every member not an agent of corporate and special interests. Our present mode of assessment enables the owners and loaners of money, and large merchants, to shift the burden of taxation upon the manufacturers and farmers.

The assessor in the country is generally a well-to-do farmer who makes no effort to hide his own acres of land, or stacks, or machines, and sees to it that all the farmers list their property for taxation. The assessor in cities of the second class—he is generally some unfortunate man whom the money interests and large merchants elect, regardless of his politics, and thereby make him their agent. He is so grateful to them for his opportunity to obtain three dollars for a few hours pleasurable work that he sees and knows nothing counter to their interests.

The VanDusen bill heals the defects in our present law by first assessing all property, real, personal and corporate, at its cash value. Second—it imposes such severe penalties, both upon the assessor and the assessed, that very few would dare disregard its mandate. Some of the rural merchants object to the bill on the ground that cities and towns will bankrupt themselves with bonds for interest, but they do not need. Should this prove true, the next legislature could amend the law for voting municipal bonds, to govern people who do not know enough to govern themselves.

The people would only have the expiring months of 1900 to bankrupt themselves with bonds before the meeting of the next legislature. Let the fusion members be sure they are right before proposing as good a measure as the VanDusen revenue bill. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 22, 1899.

The Kansas and Nebraska troops seem to be trying to work out the same problem over in Manila. The Nebraskans captured the water works and the Kansans drove the Filipinos out of a brewery and burned it. Plenty of water and no beer.

GEN. MILES' EVIDENCE

He has it Piled up Waist High and it Comes From Every Regiment in the Service.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Refrigerated beef of the classes known as embalmed was sent to and rejected by General Miles at Porto Rico. This was the cargo of the Manitoba, which was thrown overboard in New York harbor. It was condemned by a board of survey.

2. Tinned roast beef was declared to be unfit food for soldiers, sickening and nauseating. This statement was made by many officers immediately after the fall of Santiago, and subsequently by nearly a thousand witnesses whose evidence has been obtained by General Miles.

3. Tinned roast beef was largely prepared from beef of the poorest quality, from which the nutrition had been abstracted for other commercial purposes to be had by packers. The proof of this is to be had by analysis of contents of specimen cans.

4. Canned meats were exported from this country and imported from England and Germany for food for the American army, irrespective of the age of such supplies. The proof of this will be made by the dates and marks on the imported goods and by the direct admissions of the commissary department.

5. Beef was treated with deleterious chemicals in order that the packers could fill contracts. The proof of this is to be had on the testimony of Major Daly, Dr. Maxwell Christie, I Parnan and eye-witnesses of the process at Omaha and elsewhere. General Miles has in this statement the most important testimony, which he has refused to divulge.

6. Refrigerated beef of an unwholesome quality by medication and otherwise was furnished to the army under pretense of experiment.

These are the "allegations" which have been formulated for the basis of proceeding by the court of inquiry which will meet here on Wednesday, provided General Davis who is on the way from Cuba, arrives here by that day.

Colonel George B. Davis was engaged all day in the collection of evidence as to the character of tinned beef, as demonstrated by experiments at the agricultural department, the character of the packing establishment, and the steps taken by the commissary department to provide proper food supplies for the army. For the last named purpose, Colonel Davis had a long conference this afternoon with the officials of the commissary department.

General Miles will probably be called on the first day. He will be represented by counsel. General Eagan will also be called and he will be represented by counsel.

The beef packers being indirectly named in all of the allegations, will be summoned and it is understood they will be represented by counsel. The rule of the court will be that whenever the testimony develops a name of a party accused in any grave matter that person will be summoned, and will be allowed counsel, the rule having been laid down in the case of the court of inquiry on the quartermaster's department at Fort Sill, ten years ago.

The most important evidence to be placed before the court of inquiry is that which has been collected by General Miles and which is rapidly being put into shape by Acting Inspector General Garlington, who has returned from New York, where he made important discoveries as to the importations of canned meats. The court will sit for several months.

The army people declare that the court can have, for the asking, the evidence of 25,000 regular soldiers and the volunteer statements of 100,000 volunteers to sustain General Miles' charges as to the tinned roast beef. He already has 244 statements representing 22,000 men with five regiments to bear from, but whose testimony is known to be in his favor.

A pointed issue has already been raised as to the analysis of the tinned beef. The analysis of the agricultural department relates to the presence of the poisonous gases in the meat. The analysis ordered by General Miles relates to the lack of nutritive elements in the meat, which is the only "allegation" as to the tinned meat.

The secretary of the war has so far declined to act on General Miles' request made day before yesterday, that no further tinned roast beef be furnished to the army.

In presenting the Arlington Nursery to our readers we wish to say that they are situated in one of the oldest and best parts of the state, and are benefitted by the results of 25 to 35 years experience in orchard planting. They have visited hundreds of orchards in Nebraska and western Iowa for the last 12 years; they have made a constant study of the nursery business and have selected varieties best suited to this country. We can recommend them to any one thinking of tree planting, as they are perfectly reliable.

News of the Week.

The war department says that there are 5,000 soldiers in Porto Rico, 14,000 in Cuba, 14,000 in the Philippines and on the way there, and it wants a bill passed increasing the standing army to 100,000 so that it may keep them there indefinitely. It will take a good deal

more than 100,000 men to do that. The sickly season is near at hand and even if the natives do not succeed in killing very many of them, recruiting officers will have to be stationed pretty thick all over the country to keep the ranks filled. Every week will bring a long list of the sick and dying.

The generous-hearted McKinley who agreed to transfer all of Spain's soldiers back to the mother country at the cost of the taxpayers of the United States, finds that there are not so many of them to transport as the army officers reported had been turned over to them by about thirty thousand. The question is, were there that many Spanish soldiers or have they been allowed to leave the ranks and disperse through the country to make trouble in the future?

The house, under a suspension of the rules, voted the \$20,000,000 that McKinley gave to Spain for the privilege of carrying on an unending war with the Filipinos. If there was ever anything that equaled that provision in the treaty in all history, the historians have failed to record it.

All of the volunteer soldiers remaining in southern camps were ordered to be discharged last Monday. They should have been discharged six months ago.

The military court appointed to inquire into the charges of General Miles that bad beef was furnished to the troops is taking testimony every day. So far the witnesses have been old army officers and most of their statements are stronger than any that Miles ever made. They say that the canned roast beef was not fit to eat, that it made the soldiers sick, that it had no nourishment in it and everything and more, than Miles ever said about it.

When this court makes its report, the Alger whitewashing commission will present a very disreputable aspect. Miles is the only man in the United States who seems to have the courage to fight the meat trust. He'll have a hot time of it before he gets through. That meat trust is no infant.

Gen. Brooke has come down from his high horse. Whether he has been called down from Washington or concluded that the snubbing of Cuban public men cannot be further indulged in with safety, or whatever the cause, he has issued orders that Gen Gomez and other Cuban generals shall be hereafter treated with some respect. Gen. Gomez is expected in Havana within a day or two to make arrangements for the payment and disbanded of the Cuban army. Gen. Brooke has issued orders to extend to him all the military honors. When the dead body of Gen. Garcia was taken to Cuba for burial he forbade all public demonstrations.

\$100 REWARD \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that it is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer one hundred dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75c.

Part of the "benevolent assimilation" scheme seems to consist in buying canned beef of Phil Armour which the Japanese condemned and refused to receive during the Chinese war, pay him full price for it, sending it first to our troops and when it was again condemned sending it to the Cubans as benevolent contribution from Alger and McKinley.

McKinley seems to have started out to entore the dread Scott decision. The principle that a black man has no rights that a white man is bound to respect is the policy he has adopted in regard to the Filipinos. If the Filipinos had any rights at all, they certainly had a right to know what the policy of this government was to be in regard to them. McKinley absolutely refused to give them the slightest indication of what that policy was to be. His whole plan is based on the theory that the people of these islands have no rights which the white man with his army and modern guns is bound to respect. In those degenerate days, that is what the stolid, stupid, prejudiced republican calls Abraham Lincoln's republicanism. May the Lord buy us mercy on their blighted souls, that is, if they have any.

THE LICHTY CHARGES

The Investigation so far Shows That Lichty was the Only one Guilty of Illegal Acts.

A FULL INVESTIGATION HAD

The Auditor Turns Over all His Books Public and Private and Says Investigate.

The First Haul Catches Lichty.

The treachery of Lichty and the investigations that were made by reason of it, are proving to be the best thing that ever happened to the populist party in the state of Nebraska. The committee appointed by the governor to make the investigation met in the office of the attorney-general at 2 p. m. on Friday. This committee consists of the attorney-general, Mr. Smyth, the secretary of state, Mr. Porter and the commissioner of public lands and buildings, Mr. Wolfe. A short preliminary meeting was held the day before and a written statement was read from Lichty in which he positively refused to appear before the committee to sustain the infamous charges that he made. By this action he went over to the republicans, cut his connection with the populist party and announced that he would join with the political enemies of the men whom we had by years of self sacrifice placed in control of the state government.

As Mr. Lichty refused to file any charges with the committee, it took up the charges that had been made by him in the State Journal and Omaha Bee. The first thing that came out in the testimony was that Mr. Lichty had never been a populist, had never attended any of its conventions previous to his appointment or in any way given it any assistance whatever. The reason that he received the appointment was as follows: After the fusion state officers were elected it was thought only just and right that the free silver wing of the prohibition party, which had rendered good service in the Bryan campaign, should be given one appointment at the state house, and the other state officers asked Mr. Cornell to make such appointment in his office. Mr. Lichty was a resident of the auditor's county and he selected him. That is the way that he got into the auditor's office. This relieves the populist party of any responsibility for Mr. Lichty.

The next matter that was taken up was the charge concerning that Pullman palace car and the trip of the auditor to the Black Hills. When the sworn and undisputed evidence was taken down by the stenographer and examined it showed the following facts:

There is a state board whose duty it is to make the assessment of the railroads for the purpose of taxation composed of the auditor, the governor and treasurer. The auditor has always had the most to do with this matter and is considered the most influential man on it. The evidence showed that Mr. Pollard, the tax commissioner of the B. & M. road made persistent efforts to have the assessment of the road lowered. He claimed that it was assessed higher than the other roads and justice demanded that it should be lowered. The auditor gave him no encouragement and no promise that the assessment would be lowered. Mr. Pollard then asked the auditor to make a trip over the road and look at it. He wanted Mr. Cornell to see that there were no valuable stables and houses and that there were miles of country through which it ran that was mostly uninhabited.

Mr. Cornell finally agreed to take a look at the road and I agreed to make a trip over it for that purpose. When he got ready, he found that the train from Lincoln left at 6 p. m. and ran over the road during the night. So he told Mr. Pollard there would be no use to go for he could not see anything of the road if he did. Then Mr. Pollard said that the president's private car was at Lincoln and if Mr. Cornell would only go and look at the road, he would send that car over the road in the daytime so he could see for himself, and asked Mr. Cornell to invite the other state officers to go along so that they might all take a look at the road and its property.

Mr. Cornell accepted this invitation and invited the other state officers and urged them to go so that the matter might be settled. They were all too busy, but some of them sent their deputies. Those who did go were Deputy Wines and wife, Deputy Pool and wife and Mr. Cornell and wife. Mr. Pollard said in explanation of the president's

car being in Lincoln that it had just been returned from Kansas where the board of assessment there had been invited to go over the road and they had done so.

The trip was made. But when the assessment was made, instead of lowering the rate on the B. & M. they kept it at the same figures and raised the assessment on the other roads \$186,040.70. This showed that the board acknowledged that the B. & M. was assessed higher than the other roads was in part true, but they took the populist way of equalizing it by raising the assessment on the other roads. There was no Pullman train, it was not a trip simply for pleasure but it was for business, if there was any attempt to bribe it did not succeed, all of which goes to show that the whole yarn as told by Lichty was in every essential particular false, and not made in the interest of good government but for the purpose of injuring the state officers who raised the assessment on the railroads and to aid in restoring to power the party the railroads have always supported and tried to keep in power.

The Bee had another half tone picture of a letter in which the auditor's office was charged with holding up the National Life Insurance company of Vermont. That matter was gone into by the committee to the fullest extent. The evidence showed that Mr. Cornell as soon as he saw the charge in the papers, sent to the president of that company the following telegram:

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 16, 1899.—National Life Insurance company, Montpelier, Vt.: An article appeared in the Omaha Bee charging the Nebraska insurance department of holding up the National of Vermont for \$500. Who authorized this statement and to whom did you pay the money. Wire at my expense. J. F. CORNELL.

The following reply was received: Montpelier, Vt., Feb. 17.—J. F. Cornell, Lincoln: Your telegram first intimation of article in Bee. Unauthorized. No demand or payment made except of legal charge. CHAS. M. DEWEY.

It was reported that Mr. Rosewater being at the capitol was asked, after having been shown these telegrams to correct the statement made in the Bee. Although this charge was printed on the first page of the Bee in the most conspicuous manner possible not a line appeared in the next addition to correct the falsehood, which shows that the republican investigation is not for the purpose of arriving at the truth, but it was to malign, misrepresent and slander the populist office holders.

The matter of insurance inspectors was gone into most fully. The auditor's office is operating under republican made laws. They provide for examiners, but do not regulate their fees. There is no record of their work provided for under the law, except their report of the soundness or unsoundness of the companies examined. An examiner is commissioned to examine a company. He charges the company for his services, but that is a matter between him and the company. If he overcharges, the insurance company may appeal to the auditor. The evidence showed that but two such complaints had been made—one of them on the ground that the company was not subject to examination under the law. Both were satisfactorily settled. The auditor receives no part of the money for examinations.

Insurance companies are all anxious to have these examinations made and are willing to pay for them. A certificate of the state examiner that he has examined the company and found it safe, sound and reliable, is their most powerful agent in getting business. The law is bad in that it does not provide that these examiners should make regular itemized reports of the charges made and that such reports should be kept on file in the auditor's office.

The auditor testified that he had never received a cent, directly or indirectly, from any insurance company for examinations, and had received no complaints except in the two cases mentioned.

In regard to the charge that Messrs. Price and Whitaker had been paid for doing work that they should have done without pay, the evidence showed that these parties had done extra work, such as packing parcels and getting them into the hands of the express companies, of which work, at certain seasons of the year, there was a great deal to do. After warrants were drawn for the payment of such services, a doubt had arisen as to the legality of making such payments to men who received salaries from the state, and the opinion of the attorney-general was asked. The attorney-general decided that they were illegal, but Judge Irvin took the matter to the supreme court and that court decided against the attorney-general, after which the warrants were paid. It was the republican supreme court, Judge

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