



### CORRUPTION EXPOSED.

**How Corrupt Republican Officials Robbed the Taxpayers at Norfolk Insane Hospital.**

**OFFICERS REFUSE TO INVESTIGATE.**

**An Employee Tells What He Knows About It—G. W. Wilkinson Accused of Crooked Financial Dealings.**

**A Startling Exposure.**

Combinations of corrupt men banded together to rob the taxpayers of a great state may succeed for a time in carrying out their nefarious schemes, and covering their tracks. But the day of exposure and retribution is bound to come sooner or later. The day and the hour has now come when the republican boodlers of Nebraska are to be shown up in their true light.

The exposures made in the following letter may well startle the patriotic people of Nebraska, and make the guilty parties quake with fear; but the rottenness here exposed is trifling, is a mere drop in the bucket, in comparison to the corruption that exists, and pervades the state house and the state institutions of Nebraska. This is no idle remark, but a statement based on reliable information, which is likely to be put in the hands of the people before many days pass by.

The following letter is in the main self-explanatory. It may be well to state however, that the appointment of officials for the various insane hospitals is in the hands of the governor; but the management and authority to investigate is in the hands of the board of public lands and buildings. This man Wilkinson, who by the way was a defaulting treasurer of Dakota county to the tune of several thousand dollars, was appointed superintendent of the Norfolk hospital by Governor Thayer, and held that place with the approval of the board till removed by Boyd.

The following letter which is written by a reliable man who knows whereof he speaks, should be read by every honest citizen of Nebraska. The

facts set forth in my letter at any time, and can furnish sworn proof to the most of it."

YANKTON, S. D., Sept. 10, '92.  
S. Edwin Thornton, Editor ALLIANCE-  
INDEPENDENT.

I wish to say first that I was employed at the Norfolk hospital from December 10, 1887, until June, 1892, as supervisor. I wish to state through the columns of your paper to the taxpayers of Nebraska something of the crookedness in the financial department of the Norfolk hospital for insane during the superintendency of G. W. Wilkinson, and that it was known by Commissioner Humphrey and Secretary Allen and Attorney General Hastings.

About the 1st of June '91 the undersigned went to the commissioner of public lands and buildings' office in Lincoln and to the above named members of the board I told that I had charges to prefer against the management of the Norfolk hospital for insane. They asked me what the charges were, and I refused to make the charges there, but told the above named members of the board that I wished them to visit Norfolk hospital, that I wished to make the charges in the presence of the ones charged. They (Humphrey, Allen and Hastings) agreed that this was the proper place, and they there and then agreed to visit the Norfolk hospital as soon as Capt. Hill returned from California which would be soon. In two or three weeks after my return from Lincoln I received a letter from Mr. Humphrey saying that the board would visit Norfolk hospital to investigate the crookedness of said place.

It should be remarked that during this time Dr. Hesson, assistant physician of said hospital, made two trips to Lincoln with regard to the charges.

A little later I received the second letter from Mr. Humphrey saying that the board would be at Norfolk on the following Thursday and that they—the board—wished me to have my charges against the management in writing and that they would look after any mis-spent money.

They failed to come on the day set, but about two weeks later the three named members of the board came to Norfolk staying at the hospital from about 4 o'clock p. m. until next morning at 8 o'clock. They refused to hear my charges and said they found the

board,) and it is generally believed that there was a trade between the board and Wilkinson, as the board wanted re-election. After they had refused to investigate the case, I told them many of the charges against Wilkinson, and also placed in their hands the charges in writing. The next day after they had been at Norfolk, the Omaha Bee said *that the state board had visited Norfolk hospital and found everything all right and did not like the course of J. T. Lee.*

The written charges were substantially as follows:

First—That he (Wilkinson) had bought or caused to be bought, not less than \$50.00 worth of shot gun ammunition from C. F. Eiesley and A. Degner of Norfolk and had same charged to the state as so many nails and a state warrant drawn to satisfy same.

Second—That Wilkinson and Dr. Hesson went hunting on the Platte, and also to the lakes in Cherry county, using this ammunition paid for by the state, and when they would return, Wilkinson would buy the game they killed for a sufficient amount to pay the expenses (railroad fare, etc.) of the trip. No matter how little they got it would have to pay expenses. The steward told me there was one lot that cost the taxpayers more than 30 cents per pound.

Third—That Wilkinson had drawn from the return patient fund \$107.00 and had spent (for such purpose) but \$53.00.

Fourth—That he had carried persons on the pay roll after they had left the institution.

Fifth—That Wilkinson, just before Dr. Summer took his place the first time, bought a lot of old furniture from Dr. Hesson for the state, and among this stuff was an old organ such as would be bought on the street any day for from \$3 to \$8, but it cost the taxpayers of Nebraska \$40.00.

Sixth—That there was a wagon and team of horses bought at a cost of \$150, for the express purpose of sending the children to school, and that there was a man paid \$20 per month and board to drive the children to and from school.

Seventh—That Wilkinson permitted employes of the institution to gamble for money.

Eighth—That Wilkinson kept three horses of his own at the hospital and fed them from the state crib.

that such a state of affairs existed and would not take steps to renovate things, a duty that they had held up their hands before God and sworn to do, and now these same gentlemen are asking for re-election. I will say further with regard to G. W. Wilkinson that if any one wishes to know the aptness that he has in handling other people's money, I will refer them to the county commissioners of Dakota county, Nebraska.

Very Respectfully Yours,  
JOHN T. LEE.

#### A Great Joint Discussion.

It occurred at Milford, Seward county, September 13. The opera house was crowded. General Vifquain and "Calamity Bill" Dech, democratic and independent candidates for congress, were the principals. J. Sterling Morton was there under pretense of expecting to meet Gen. Van Wyck whom he knew would not be there.

Morton was given the floor first. He abused and sneered at General Van Wyck, gave a stereotyped democratic harangue, and then launched out into abuse of the calamity howlers. He said they were the unprincipled outcasts of other parties, dishonorable in their designs, and if elected would be a disgrace to the state.

Then Vifquain, the polished Frenchman, waded through a so-called argument for three quarters of an hour. As a French gentleman, he is a decided success, but a complete failure as a political reasoner.

Then came Dech, and the deafening applause that greeted him showed, not only the resentment felt by the crowd at Morton's abuse, but the general popularity of the people's candidate. He was master of the situation. Treating his opponents with the greatest courtesy, he proceeded to tear their sophistry in shreds and politically skin them alive. He discussed the money question mainly, and in a way that carried conviction. Morton squirmed in his seat as point after point of his argument was exposed in its true light. He realized for once that "calamity" had overtaken him.

The arrangement was that Vifquain should close the debate. When he tried to run in Morton, the crowd would stand no more. They rose, shouting and hissing and Morton had to give way amidst the wildest confusion.

When the meeting broke up the cheers for Dech and Van Wyck resounded on all sides and continued till the people had dispersed.