

ARE THEY GUILTY?

**Crooked Dealings at the State House—  
The Property of the State Mysteriously Disappears.**

**HOW THE G. O. P. HEADQUARTERS  
ARE FURNISHED.**

**Children and Fools Will Tell the Truth—  
The State Officers Should Be Investigated—Crookedness at Norfolk.**

The exposures of corruption in the in the management of the Lincoln insane asylum have created a sensation in political circles, and have compelled recognition from the republican state officers. They have at last become convinced that an assumption of supreme dignity and perfection are not sufficient to shield them from criticism. It is very doubtful if they would have taken any official notice of the charges, had not Governor Boyd made it absolutely unavoidable by the following communication:

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 29, 1892.—[Hon. A. R. Humphrey, Chairman State Board of Public Lands and Buildings] My Dear Sir: I would respectfully call your attention to the statement made at a public meeting in this city and discussed in the press of dishonest management of the hospital for the insane at Lincoln, and state that I feel it my duty as chief executive of the commonwealth to respectfully urge your board to make a thorough investigation of the charges made for the purpose of bringing the parties, if proven guilty, to justice and the recovery, so far as possible from their bondsmen, of amounts stolen from the state, if such theft shall be established. I am moved to this course in the discharge of my duties by certain facts having come to my knowledge through official channels which would seem to lend corroboration to some of the published charges. I am, very respectfully, yours.

JAMES E. BOYD,  
Governor.

Acting on this suggestion the board decided to investigate and appointed Wednesday afternoon October 5th, for that purpose,

The exposures made by Mr. Rewick were so damaging, and so definite, that with the exception of the State Journal (one of whose proprietors is implicated by the charges) all the republican papers and leaders have acknowledged that there is something wrong. But they have consoled themselves with the claim that none of the republican state officers were guilty. The blame must be placed on the men holding positions at the asylum.

Independents are excusable for looking upon the proposed investigation as a farce, inasmuch as it is to be conducted by the very men who ought to be investigated. It looks too much like a judge proposing to try his own case. The best that can be expected is that an employee will be made a scape-goat to carry the sins of the state officers into the wilderness.

But they will not escape so easily. I, for one, propose that the members of the board of public lands and buildings shall not escape on the plea that nothing has been charged against them.

For years there has been a general rumor afloat to the effect that furniture purchased by the legislature regularly and mysteriously disappears from the state house during the interval between the sessions of that body. It is believed by many that this furni-

ture finds its way not only into the homes of the employees but of state officers.

Now the law makes it the duty of the Secretary of state "to take charge at the close of each session of the legislature of all tables, desks, chairs and other furniture of the two houses thereof, and not permit the same to be wasted or used for other than public purposes during the recess of the legislature."

Now I have succeeded in reducing the general rumor already spoken of to a specific form as follows:

When Capt. Crawford, who was head janitor at the state house under Thayer went out last spring I am told that a large amount of furniture disappeared from the state house, particularly the following articles: Half a dozen fine chairs, one leather covered settee, one antique oak writing desk, one black onyx clock worth about \$25.

I am further reliably informed that Secretary Allen was informed in writing where this furniture could be found, much if not all of it being at the house of Capt. Crawford. Did Secretary Allen investigate this matter? If he did the public has not heard of it.

Again I have positive information to the effect that the republican state central committee have furnished their headquarters in the Lansing building with furniture from the state house, and there can be found at this writing in their committee rooms some dozen chairs, two desks and two tables belonging to the state. Does Secretary Allen consider that this property is being used for a "public purpose?"

And now I want to bring this matter a little closer home to Mr. Allen. At the time of the silver celebration about May 25, 1892, two men went up into what is called the Grand Army room of the state house to get some chairs to use in the senate chamber. Mr. Allen's son, a boy some eight years old, accompanied the men. Now it is an old saying that "children and fools tell the truth." There were some half dozen chairs not exactly like the rest. When some of these were approached the boy said "don't take them. They are our chairs." Asked what he meant he said: "Why we brought them from McCook, and my pa changed them and got some better ones." This is substantially the language used. The gentlemen smiled at each other, and Prof. T. remarked that "children sometimes tell tales out of school." Not long after that these chairs disappeared from the state house and rumor says they went back to Mr. Allen's house. Whether the "better ones" were returned or not, rumor saith not.

There is another well founded rumor to the effect that the carpet which was on the floor of the attorney-general's room now graces the floor of a janitor's private residence, and that the carpet from the Lieutenant Governor's room was transferred to the attorney general's room.

At the close of the session there were large quantities of House and Senate bills stored in the bill rooms. It is reported that the janitors sold these to the Lincoln paper mill and pocketed the money.

The board of public lands and buildings is required by law to pay every expense out of its "proper fund." But an examination will show that the engineer at the state house is paid out of the appropriation for "fuel and lights," instead of the appropriation for "employees wages." The only possible reason for this is that there are six janitors employed to do what two active able-bodied men could easily perform,

and the employees fund is thus exhausted.

Another employee, J. H. Naden is drawing two salaries, one of \$500 as bailiff of the supreme court and another of \$200 or thereabouts as janitor. Is there any law for this? If the board of public lands and buildings set such an example of disregard for law, how can we expect anything but rottenness in our state institutions?

**CROOKEDNESS AT NORFOLK.**

Now let us look in a different direction and see if the members of the board have been in such blissful ignorance of existing crookedness.

One John T. Lee who was a supervisor in the hospital for the insane at Norfolk from Dec. 10, 1887 to June 1892, not long ago sent me a written statement which was published in the ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT of Sept. 15, in which he states eight specific and very damaging charges against the management of that institution. He also affirms that he laid these charges before the board of public lands and buildings and demanded an investigation, but the board absolutely refused to investigate. This statement was published three weeks ago and yet the board has utterly ignored it.

Considering the facts herein set forth and the other facts set forth in Mr. Rewick's exposure, is there not just and ample ground for suspecting that the members of the board have been guilty of complicity in the crimes committed by men who handle the state money?

The only investigation that will satisfy the people of the state is an investigation of the board of public lands and buildings by the state legislature. Let every man who wants to see the truth laid bare no matter whose reputation suffers vote for members of the legislature who will make such an investigation.

Yours for truth,  
S. EDWIN THORNTON.

**In Old Richardson.**

STELLA, Neb., Oct. 3, '92.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

Hon. J. H. Powers and Hon. Logan McReynolds addressed a good audience in city park at Auburn, Nemaha county, last Saturday.

The people were highly pleased with Mr. Powers' very forcible and convincing presentation of the people's party principles. His plea for the people to unite and wrest the reins of government from the trickster politicians met with general approval. And his glowing tribute to Gen. J. G. Field put many a man to shame for having tried to prevent people voting for him because of his having been enlisted on the wrong side thirty years ago. McReynolds also spoke well and made many friends and the meeting was a decided success.

T. G. F.

**Hall County Safe.**

Not long ago the independents of Hall county met in county convention and nominated the following ticket:

For representatives, Henry Schlotfeldt, and John L. Johnson; for county attorney, the present incumbent, Chas. D. Ryan. Mr. Schlotfeldt was a member of the last house, and made an excellent record. The democrats met October 1st, and endorsed the whole ticket.

**In Oregon.**

Governor Penoyer of Oregon is on the stump for the people's party. He addressed a great meeting at Roseburg, Oregon, October 1.

**Independent Swedes.**

The Swedes of South Omaha organized an independent club September 29th. They propose to make their influence felt where it will do the most good.

**At Franklin.**

About 4,000 people attended the grand rally at Franklin, Sept. 30. Hon. W. S. Prickett of Fairfield was the principal speaker

**In Colfax.**

The independents met at Schuyler October, 1st, and re-nominated Francis Dunn for the legislature. Frank Sucha and C. Funk were nominated for representatives. J. A. Grimeson was chairman of the convention.

**Gale's Successor Named.**

The independent convention of the representative district comprising Brown and Rock counties met at Bassett October 1. An excellent speech was made by Robert Wilbert. H. Ford a substantial and popular farmer was nominated for the legislature.

**Van Wyck at Columbus.**

When the time came for the third joint debate between Van Wyck and Crouse at Columbus, Judge Crouse failed to appear; but chairman Cady appeared to say that the Judge was suffering from a sore eye and couldn't be there. So he took the Judge's place and the debate went on

**At Stromsburg.**

Rosewater went out to Stromsburg, Polk county, Sept. 28, and delivered a speech some three hours long to a small tired looking crowd of republicans. The principal features of his speech were the advocacy of the sugar bounty, and a piece of doggerel about the people's party written by himself.

**Weaver in No. th Carolina.**

General Weaver and Mrs. Lease addressed a large crowd at Greensboro, N. C., September 28. Dr. Exum, candidate for governor, also spoke. They were courteously treated.

They spoke on the 29th at Raleigh, the capital of the state, to a very large and enthusiastic audience.

**Wayne Wakened Up.**

WAYNE, Oct. 1.

September 29th, was the date of the big blow out here. J. M. Devine spoke to a fair-sized audience in the opera house. In the evening we had a torch-light procession, and Hon. W. A. Poynter addressed a large audience. All are well pleased with his speech. It looks like the independents will carry this county.

L. R.

**Business Men Awakened.**

LOUISVILLE, Oct., 1st, 1892.—Hon. Jerome Sharp spoke here to-night and was well received and enthusiastically applauded.

His speech though short was well received, and made a decided impression. Mr. Cundiff of Lincoln also spoke and made an especial appeal to the business men of Louisville. His remarks were well received and to-day many business men are conceding there is much truth in what he said.

**In Valley County.**

Edgerton and Mr. Howard have been here. They had a good audience on the fair grounds. But few men can speak successfully at a county fair—but "our Joe" can and did. Then at the night meeting at the court house, Howard filled us full of thrilling music. The vast audience was delighted and enthused. Our home vocalist Mr. Cronk sang one of his own songs.

J. W. Edgerton was introduced and delighted, instructed and convinced his audience that the people's party had a just cause, a sound platform and a rapidly increasing following. One family came twenty-five miles to hear the speech. The wife said "it was such a grand talk some of it seemed like a sermon and all of it gospel." In short the speech was one of the best ever made in this county—many pronounce it the best they ever heard.

D. MCCALL.

Ord, Oct., 1st.