

## THAT INVESTIGATION.

Rewick's Charges Fully Confirmed—  
Other Damaging Facts Brought  
Out—Boyd Writes a Letter.

### TWO MEN FLEE FROM THE STATE

The Board Recommends That a Grand  
Jury Be Called—Some Counts  
Against the State Officers.

The speech made by Hon. E. C. Rawick on Sept. 27th came to the republican party like a "clap of thunder from a clear sky." They were just congratulating themselves on the prospect of getting through the campaign without having any of their corruption shown up, but that bright prospect was suddenly dispelled. Mr. Rawick's speech was the sensation of the campaign. It caused the hearts of the republican office-holders to grow sick, while their knees smote together with fear. So soon as they partially recovered their wits they looked about them for means to stay the on-coming disaster.

"Ah, then and there was hurrying to and fro.

And whispering with white lips, 'the foe, they come, they come.'"

But for once their magic galls deserted them. They could think of nothing on the spur of the moment, but to grasp their old weapons, slander and vituperation, and attack the author of their troubles. Hence they hurled at Rawick's devoted head such missiles, as "disreputable character," "disappointed office seeker," "black-maller," etc. But all in vain. The news flew. The people talked and shook their heads. They did not care so much about Mr. Rawick as the truth of his charges. Then came Governor Boyd's letter demanding an investigation. Something had to be done.

At last the members of the board shook off their consternation sufficiently to call an investigation. Mr. Rawick came before the board and in a straight forward candid way laid before them an array of evidence which as he said, was enough to send more than one man to the penitentiary. Then Attorney-general Hasting undertook to bulldoze Mr. Rawick and signally failed. There was nothing left for the board to do but to call the witnesses Mr. Rawick named and proceed with the investigation.

Fortunately for the guilty parties, the investigation had to be adjourned for a week on account of Governor Boyd's absence. During that week what scheming was done will perhaps never be known by any save those who did it. At any rate when the investigation was resumed Oct. 12, it was discovered that two of the

#### GUILTY MEN HAD FLED

to parts unknown. Frank Hubbard, the man directly charged with the crooked work in the cattle purchases was nowhere to be found; and the same was true of Gorham Betts the man who had the coal contract. That these men fled solely on their own account is absurd. They were undoubtedly concealed or railroaded out of the state in the interest of the men who had used them as pliant tools in robbing the state.

Then it appeared that a change had come over the board itself. The members seemed more resigned to their fate and made very little effort to hin-

der the witnesses from telling what they knew.

It is not necessary to repeat the evidence submitted. One after another the charges of Mr. Rawick were taken up. The witnesses appeared, and fully confirmed the charges. Only in one or two minor points were his charges disproven, while a large number of equally damaging facts, not exposed by Mr. Rawick, were brought to light. And all this in spite of the fact that several of the most important witnesses absolutely refused to testify, and some others testified in such a way as to shield the guilty parties.

Dr. Knapp and Dan Lauer with their attorney made great efforts to throw the blame on Hubbard who had fled; that they failed is amply shown by the report of the board.

The investigation continued through the 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th.

Right here let it be said that great credit is due

#### GOVERNOR BOYD.

Indeed there is a strong popular suspicion that the whole investigation would have proved a farce and a whitewash if it had not been for Mr. Boyd. He took a place among the questioners at the investigation and made a most vigorous and determined effort to get the whole truth from every witness. It is an open secret among those who attended the investigation, that the governor was several times on the point of dismissing the whole affair and calling a grand jury. Undoubtedly the knowledge of this fact caused the members of the board to give reluctant aid in bringing out the facts.

The recommendations of the board were no doubt shaped if not forced by the following

#### LETTER FROM GOVERNOR BOYD.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 14, 1892.—[Gentlemen of the board.]—Though I have no voice in your deliberations, I have been attending all the sessions of this investigation in my capacity as executive of the state, and officially interested in its proceedings. It is evident to me that the sittings could be prolonged indefinitely; but, inasmuch as this board has no power to compel the attendance of witnesses, nor to compel witnesses to produce books or papers; and as some of the most important witnesses have left the state, and inasmuch as the board has no power to punish guilty parties or compel them to refund to the state moneys unlawfully in their possession, I deem it proper that I state at this stage of the proceeding that sufficient testimony has already been produced to convince me that the whole affair should be made the subject of an investigation by a grand jury; and I further declare it my purpose as governor of the state to bring the same to the attention of the prosecuting attorney of Lancaster county.

Very respectfully,  
JAMES E. BOYD, Governor.

To A. H. HUMPHREY, Chairman.

In accordance with this suggestion of the governor, the investigation was cut short, and the following report submitted:

#### THE BOARD'S REPORT.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 15, 1892.—[Hon. James E. Boyd, Governor of the State of Nebraska.]—Dear Sir:—We have the honor to submit for your consideration a report of our findings, as well as the testimony taken in the matter of investigating alleged irregularities in the management of the hospital for the insane at Lincoln, Neb. The investigation was begun on the 8th day of October, 1892, and was concluded on the 15th day of October, 1892. As you will observe, the fullest latitude was given all witnesses and counsel. Much of the testimony is hearsay and irrelevant, but as we are seeking light upon the several subjects under consideration, we deemed best that no check or re-

straint be placed upon the testimony offered.

First.—We find that from the 7th day of December 1886, to the 23rd day of February, 1892, Dr. William M. Knapp was the superintendent of said insane hospital, and that during all of said time J. D. Lauer was the steward. That among other things it is the duty of the superintendent to employ all attendants, servants and such other persons as he deems necessary for the efficient management of the hospital, to have entire control of the medical, moral and dietetic treatment of the patients, and to see that the several officers of the institution faithfully discharge the duties respectively assigned to them.

Second.—We find that it is the duty of the steward, under the direction of the superintendent, but not otherwise, to make all purchases of supplies for the hospital, to keep the accounts, make engagements with, pay and discharge employes, and personally superintend the farm, garden, grounds, stock, etc., etc.

Third.—That the supplies of all kinds are purchased, as far as practical, under the contract system, that is to the lowest bidder, under the direction of the steward, and that when money is drawn in payment of supplies, furnished vouchers are first signed by the party furnishing the supplies in triplicate, one of which goes to the auditor, one to the board of public lands and buildings and one to the superintendent of the hospital. On the voucher that comes to the board of public lands and buildings the superintendent makes a certificate in the following form: "I certify that the within account is just and correct and that it is a necessary and proper expense and has not been paid."

This is signed by the superintendent and this is the bill upon which the board is required to act on the payment of bills.

Fourth.—We find that when Dr. Knapp entered upon the discharge of his duties as such superintendent he employed one Frank C. Hubbard and that that said Hubbard continued in his employ as farm boss and butcher so long as Knapp continued in charge of said hospital, and for sometime thereafter under the instruction of Dr. Bowman and it was the habit and custom of said Hubbard, with the knowledge of the superintendent and steward, to purchase cattle for the use of the hospital and to slaughter the same. That it was his practice in some instances to induce the persons of whom he bought animals to sign vouchers in blank and afterward fill them up at a sum far in excess of the sum actually paid for the same and the difference appropriated to his own use. These raised vouchers were each duly certified by the superintendent to this board as just and correct. Of these raised vouchers discovered by this board were the following:

J. P. Higgins, voucher \$453.15 actually received, \$370.15.

G. A. Southwell, voucher \$105, actually received, \$75.75.

H. A. Smith, voucher \$82.10, actually received, \$25.

G. P. Loose, voucher \$89, actually received \$20.

Frank Abbott, voucher \$43.75, actually received, \$28.

C. W. Kaufman, voucher \$55, actually received \$22.

Benjamin Safford, voucher \$66.25, actually received, \$42.

These sums evidenced by these certified vouchers were paid by the state, as is proven by the warrants introduced in evidence. The vouchers nor anything else presented to this board at the time they were allowed, indicated any raising or other juggling with the accounts. They were presented to this board fair on their face, and regular in every particular, duly certified by the officer whose duty it was to examine these accounts and certify to the board the amount justly due.

Fifth.—We find that the amount of coal purchased at the hospital during the year 1891 and up to the month of May, 1892, has been in excess of the actual amount used, and that there has been mismanagement of the part of the officers of the hospital regarding the coal supply. We were unable to probe the matter to the bottom for several reasons, all of which must be apparent to yourself, as you were present during

the examination, among which, however, is that the board has no fund at its command for persons or papers.

Sixth.—Other irregularities in the purchase of supplies, the making and certifying of vouchers to the board, and in permitting subordinates to make contracts and handle vouchers have appeared in the evidence.

We therefore recommend that a searching investigation be held before a court of competent jurisdiction of the several matters hereinbefore referred to at as early date as practicable, to the end that all money unlawfully obtained from the state may be recovered and all parties who have defrauded the state be brought to justice.

A. R. HUMPHREY,  
JOHN C. ALLEN,  
J. E. HILL,  
GEORGE H. HASTINGS,

Board of Public Lands and Buildings.

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