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### Commissioners' Proceedings.

McCook, Neb., December 6, 1905.  
The board of county commissioners met pursuant to adjournment. Present: D. A. Waterman, Samuel Premier and C. B. Gray, county commissioners, C. E. Eldred, county attorney, and E. J. Wilcox, county clerk.  
Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

On motion clerk was instructed to notify H. B. Wales to move the fence out of road No. 320 running along the east side of the south-east quarter of section thirty-four 34, town four 4, range thirty 30.

Claim of Ben G. Gossard, county treasurer for refund of redemption paid E. B. Cowles under order of the county commissioners September 19, 1905, was considered by the board. On consideration whereof it was ordered that Ben G. Gossard, county treasurer, be credited with amount of said claim, amounting to \$87.75, the same to be charged against the following accounts: State \$5.00; county, \$13.91; school district No. 17, \$23.75; school bond district 17, \$8.00; Willow Grove precinct bond, \$5.31; McCook bond, \$4.74; McCook City, \$21.95; advertising, \$20.00; interest \$1.28; total \$87.75.

The following official bonds were examined and on motion approved:

Ben G. Gossard, county treasurer.  
E. J. Wilcox, county clerk.  
H. I. Peterson, sheriff.  
W. E. Corwin, justice of the peace for Valley Grange precinct.

F. W. Polton, constable for Lebanon precinct. Charles Masters, overseer road district No. 31. John Haag, overseer road district No. 23.

Pursuant to law in such cases made and provided, the board on motion selected the following named persons from which to draw a jury for the January term of the district court:

Alliance precinct, O. V. Ault, Adolphus Heat, on.

Reaver, Tom Boyd, Henry Kettering, Clayton Burgess, Alex. Strain.  
Bondville, Charles Ebert, Joseph Downs, Box Elder, Martin Kennedy, Wm. F. Satchel, Coleman, Clarence Wales.

Danbury, W. V. Miller, J. C. Ashton.  
Driftwood, George Plumleigh.  
East Valley, E. J. DeArmand, Henry J. Hall, Frank Hodgkins, Hiram Walton.

Frisch, James Barber, Joseph McKiver.  
Gervar, Don L. Thompson.  
Grant, August Wesch.  
Indianola, John Beck, Harry Whitmore, F. M. Emerich, A. J. Rohrer.

Lebanon, W. R. Morgan, J. W. Atkins, J. B. Cummings, Wm. Booth.  
Missouri Ridge, Harve Springer.

North Valley, Perry Gintner, John O'Malley, Perry, Marion Plummer, Ed. Filcraft.  
Red Willow, James M. Brush, Jacob Randal, Tyrone, E. E. Feichter.

Valley Grange, R. D. Rodgers, E. J. Baker.  
Willow Grove, Ed. F. Conso, D. G. Divine.  
Walter Hickling, Julius Kunert, James I. Lee, M. S. Modrell, Otto Pate, T. J. Ruggles, Paul Anton, E. M. Bigelow, C. W. Britt, D. C. Marsh, Geo. Cooley, W. P. Bross, Ed. Jeffries, E. C. McKay, W. B. Mills, Ed. Polk, W. O. Russell, W. A. Middleton.

Annual settlements of the following overseers of highways were examined and on motion clerk was instructed to draw certificates on road districts in payment thereof as follows:

Dist. Cer. No.	Am't.
Jay L. McCafferty.....4	392.....\$ 13 00
John R. Brown.....13	393....." 30 00
Don L. Thompson.....14	394....." 30 00
Wm. Sullivan.....24	395....." 18 00
Frank Hill.....28	396....." 30 00
John N. Smith.....19	397....." 30 00
R. Podoiski.....15	398....." 30 00
C. G. Wilhelm.....16	399....." 30 00
J. S. Modrell.....7	400....." 30 00
W. F. Andrews.....10	401....." 30 00
Chas. H. Angell.....21	402....." 30 00
August Ryden.....23	403....." 30 00
W. B. Sheldon.....26	405....." 19 00
F. P. Ratliff.....30	406....." 30 00
A. L. Miller.....33	407....." 30 00
J. H. Wade.....35	408....." 16 00
W. G. McBrayer.....40	409....." 30 00

The following claims were audited and allowed and clerk was instructed to draw warrants on the county general fund levy of 1905, as follows:

J. F. Cordale, canvassing vote of 1905 and selecting jurors.....\$ 6 00  
C. W. Barnes, same....." 6 00  
John G. Ervin, judge of election and returns for Missouri Ridge....." 7 00  
John R. Brown, same....." 3 00  
G. M. Gray, same....." 3 00  
Frank Tigard, clerk and same....." 3 00  
Sabin O. Gray, same....." 3 00

School district No. 2, use of building for election, claimed \$5, allowed at.....\$ 3 00  
School district No. 16, use of building for election....." 3 00  
School district No. 33, same....." 3 00  
School district No. 58, same....." 3 00  
Lyman Jennings, same, lights, fuel and booths....." 5 00  
H. E. Wange, same and nails repairs etc....." 25 20  
A. D. Johnson, putting up and repairing election booths....." 3 00  
A. C. Crabtree, distributing ballots....." 19 00  
C. H. Harman, posting election notices....." 25 00  
Andrew Phillips, salary for November....." 1 00  
Floira B. Quick, 3rd quarter salary and office expenses....." 250 05  
Ben G. Gossard, office expense....." 86 00  
Frank Moore, same....." 3 75  
E. J. Wilcox, same....." 24 05  
McCook Republican, printing....." 45 45  
L. W. McConnell, supplies....." 17 15  
F. D. Burgess, repairs radiators and furnace....." 30 35  
Wm. Johnson, road grader....." 50 00  
John E. Kelley, agent, premium on surety bond....." 210 00  
W. T. Coleman, custodian....." 3 50  
A. C. Harlan, coroner services, Walker case....." 3 00  
A. L. Miller, repairs on plow....." 4 00  
C. A. Gentry, same....." 4 00  
John Castillo, blacksmithing....." 75 75  
Peter Meisen, lawn signs....." 7 50  
McCook Electric Light Co., lights and re-novels for November....." 7 80  
C. G. Cogilizer, work and material for court house....." 19 00  
C. L. Fahnstock, medical services 3rd quarter, per contract....." 25 00  
J. H. Grannis, mdse. for paupers....." 8 00  
Albert Guy, same....." 18 00  
E. G. Caine & Co., coal for paupers....." 12 00  
W. C. Bullard, same....." 7 80  
Barnett Lumber Co., same....." 8 30  
Perry & Co., same....." 7 95  
S. A. Austin, same....." 4 15  
A. C. Crabtree, attending district court....." 10 00  
R. M. Osborn, bailiff district court....." 8 00  
R. M. Osborn, jailors' fees and board prisoners....." 4 50  
R. W. Devos, attending district court and office expense....." 12 20  
R. W. Devos, fees, State vs. Clarence Gill D. A. Waterman, services as commissioner....." 2 75  
Samuel Premier, same....." 33 70  
C. B. Gray, same....." 28 90  
And on the county bridge fund levy of 1905, as follows:

Perry & Bee Co., lumber....." 211 70  
W. C. Bullard, same....." 59 70  
Barnett Lumber Co., same....." 1 05  
E. G. Caine & Co., same....." 122 65  
Perry & Bee Co., lumber and coal....." 96 78  
H. V. Lord, nails....." 8 70  
H. P. Waite & Co., nails....." 3 30

G. W. Jones, same.....	4 49
A. Lord, nails, wire, etc.....	32 80
Stephen Bolles, bridge work.....	5 00
C. H. Angell, same.....	5 00
Charles E. Lee, same.....	8 00
G. W. Cramer, same.....	16 00
T. C. Kelley, same.....	9 00
M. L. Scarrow, same.....	15 00
W. M. Hindman, same.....	3 00
Frank Hill, same.....	17 50
John Dunning, same.....	14 00
N. C. Moats, same.....	8 00
A. L. Miller, same.....	18 00
Chas. M. Broomfield, same.....	11 50
John R. Brown, same.....	23 00
Joseph Rayer, same.....	2 00
G. E. Everton, same.....	15 00
J. L. Gentry, same.....	7 00
George Broomfield, same.....	4 00
R. G. Irvine, same.....	6 00
Wm. Sullivan, same.....	5 50
R. Podoiski, same.....	6 50

And on the county road fund levy of 1905, as follows:

O. H. Colling, road work.....	6 00
J. Reddick, same.....	3 00
J. S. Daffar, same.....	3 00
L. M. Richard, same.....	3 00
J. Hunter, same.....	3 00
Lee Walburn, same.....	3 00
Frank Holt, same.....	3 00
F. M. Jennings, same.....	21 00
Charles R. Lee, same.....	7 50
T. C. Kelley, same.....	21 00

On motion the board adjourned to meet December 28th, 1905.  
D. A. WATERMAN, Chairman.  
Attest: E. J. WILCOX, County Clerk.

### City Council Meetings.

Council met in regular session with the mayor, all councilmen, city attorney and clerk present.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. The following bills being O. K'd by finance committee were read and ordered paid:

J. S. LeHew, gen'l fund.....	\$12 50
H. P. Waite, same.....	18 75
A. C. Ebert, same.....	18 75
C. A. Ward, same.....	12 50
M. Lawritson, same.....	12 50
C. D. Custer, same.....	12 50
C. J. Ryan, same.....	12 50
W. A. Middleton, same.....	25 00
Cogilizer & Bush, road fund.....	52 80
G. W. Furrow, same.....	11 10
Orvil Furrow, same.....	9 00
A. W. Caldwell, same.....	3 75
G. W. Billings, occupation fund.....	50 00
T. Burge, same.....	50 00
T. F. Rowell, same.....	2 00
John Ekstedt, same.....	47 75
L. W. McConnell, general fund.....	50 00
R. J. Predmore, same.....	6 15

McCook Electric Light Co., light fund.....\$9 27  
The reports of police judge and chief of police for November read and placed on file.

Council adjourned until Thursday, December 14, at eight o'clock p. m.

### Real Estate Transfers.

The following real estate filings have been made in the county clerk's office since last Thursday evening:

J. W. Dalley to C. E. Beck wd to nw qr 25-26-30.....\$3,750 00  
Mary Adair to J. E. Nee wd to lot 1, blk 1, Dunbury....." 65 00  
H. E. Smith to Louise Bodwell wd to lot 1, blk 2, Bodwell's add....." 950 00  
Mary F. Jones to Anna B. Gotchall qcd to s hf 15-1-27....." 50 00  
F. B. Duckworth, to E. E. Thompson wd to lot 7, blk 33, Indianola....." 1,000 00  
E. E. Smith to Bertha D. Paley wd to lots 3 to 10, in B Esther Park....." 300 00  
E. E. Smith to Bertha D. Paley wd to lots 1, 2, 11 and 12 in B Esther Park....." 50 00  
United States to S. Premier pat to nw qr 1-4-27....." 50 00  
United States to J. Robinson pat to se qr 33-4-29....." 50 00  
B. A. Jones to Jones Farm Co. wd to pt 30-29 and 27, 31-3-27....." 5,450 00  
Amanda Duncan to Eva Grover wd to lots 9, 10, 11 and 12, blk 24 Indianola....." 950 00  
L. J. Ritchie to W. H. Kite wd to lot 6, blk 18, Bartley....." 500 00  
M. C. Shurleiff to C. G. Needham wd to nw qr 29 and ne qr 19-4-29....." 4,800 00  
G. Polities to K. G. Kleint wd to nw qr 31-1-30....." 650 00  
J. Kunert to W. H. Smith wd to lots 1, 8, 17 to 24, blk 2, lots 1 to 8, blk 3, North McCook....." 2,000 00  
United States to A. H. Cowles pat to nw qr 27-4-29....." 50 00  
United States to R. S. Gordon pat to ne qr ne qr 24-3-29....." 50 00  
J. M. Harman to S. J. Ryan wd to sw qr 10-1-30....." 100 00  
S. J. Ryan to F. T. Walker wd to sw qr 10-1-30....." 1,500 00  
F. S. Stoddard to M. L. Stoddard wd to ne qr 27-1-30....." 350 00  
M. L. Stoddard to F. T. Walker wd to ne qr 27-1-30....." 800 00  
A. B. Dewey to E. Pearson wd to se qr 29-2-26....." 1,200 00  
S. M. Coeran to C. F. Lehn wd to blk 7, 3rd McCook....." 2,700 00  
Mabel M. Kimmell to C. F. Lehn ed to lot 39 and 37 in 2nd South McCook....." 150 00  
E. Wians to C. F. Lehn wd to lot 18, blk 15, McCook....." 1,000 00  
Lincoln Land Co. to Zint & McClain wd to lots 13, 14 and 15, blk 21, lots 20, 21 and 22, blk 28, McCook....." 4,000 00  
J. E. Ludwick to J. A. Modrell wd to w hf nw qr 28 and e hf ne qr 29-4-29....." 1,000 00  
United States to A. C. Hoppe pat to nw qr 21-3-26....." 50 00  
United States to Annie M. Ward pat to sw qr se qr 7 nw qr ne qr 17-4-30....." 50 00

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## Hitchcock and the Land Frauds



THERE has seldom arisen in the history of the United States a scandal that has involved so many politicians as that of the western land frauds. In the battle against thieves and grafters who sought to enrich themselves at the expense of Uncle Sam the leader of the combat from first to last has been the aggressive and fearless secretary of the interior, Ethan Allen Hitchcock of Missouri. A battle of this kind is very hard to fight because those under suspicion always have influential friends who seek to exert political pressure against a full and free examination into the subject. It is charged that the people of the United States have been cheated out of thousands of acres of land, valued at millions of dollars, by the crooked schemes concocted by men organized to perpetrate wholesale frauds.

These frauds have been going on for years, but they at last reached a pass where herculean efforts were plainly necessary to stop them, and Secretary Hitchcock proved the man for the task.

Stealing government land had become such a common and apparently respectable offense that there was danger lest the public become entirely oblivious of the immorality of the act. As a result of the campaign against land frauds a United States senator, John H. Mitchell, and a congressman, John N. Williamson, have been tried and convicted in Oregon, and another Oregon congressman, Binger Hermann, is under indictment. Indictments against other leading politicians in Oregon have been found. Twenty-seven men have been indicted for land frauds in Idaho, and several indictments for similar offenses have been found in California.

In Nebraska, South Dakota and Kansas the secretary of the interior is engaged in prosecuting politicians and others for violating the fencing laws.

Something of the spirit that dominated the ancestor for whom he was named



ETHAN ALLEN HITCHCOCK.

ed animates the quiet but determined business man at the head of the interior department. He is a great-grandson of Colonel Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame, the hero who commanded the Green Mountain boys, and who captured Fort Ticonderoga "in the name of the great Jehovah and of the Continental congress." Lucy Allen, daughter of the Vermont hero, married Judge Samuel Hitchcock, one of the foremost men of New England in his day, and their son Henry moved from New England to Alabama, where he practiced law and rose to the position of chief justice of the supreme bench of the state. He was the father of the present secretary of the interior, who was born in Mobile in 1835. He has been described as "an Anglo-Saxon of Vermont parentage and Alabama birth, a Yankee and a southerner, born of a northern father and a southern mother, a business man of Missouri who believed in Lincoln, Grant and Sherman."

During his boyhood Secretary Hitchcock lived in Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee and Missouri and in 1860 went to China to engage in business, remaining there twelve years. On his return to Missouri he became identified with large manufacturing enterprises and amassed a considerable fortune. President McKinley appointed him minister to Russia, and, as the legation at St. Petersburg was raised to the status of an embassy shortly after he arrived at his post, he became the first American ambassador to the court of the czar. Mr. McKinley invited him in 1890 to take a seat in his cabinet as head of the interior department, and President Roosevelt has continued him in office and gives him hearty support in the war against the land grabbers.

When Secretary Hitchcock assumed his present post he found at the head of the land office, an important branch of his department, Binger Hermann of Oregon. Mr. Hermann was born in Maryland in 1843 and removed to Oregon as a young man and took up the practice of law. He served in the Oregon legislature and was elected to congress and was serving his sixth term when Mr. McKinley, in 1897, appointed him commissioner general of the land office. His policy and acts were not satisfactory to Secretary Hitchcock, who in 1903 requested his resignation.

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