

THE INVESTIGATION RESUMED

A Further Ventilation of the Trouble at the State University.

MANY EX-STUDENTS EXAMINED.

Their Testimony Substantially the Same as That Adduced at the Former Sessions of the Board of Regents.

LINCOLN BUREAU OF THE OMAHA BEE, 1025 P STREET, LINCOLN, July 17.

Pursuant to Friday's adjournment the board of regents this morning resumed the investigation into the conduct of Chancellor Maunatt since he became the recognized head of the state university. The alumni introduced Mr. Frank W. Kramer for the purpose of substantially proving the charge in specification seven. Being duly sworn he stated that he became a student of the university during the fall of 1884. Prior to his matriculation, however, he formed the acquaintance of S. S. Chase, with whom he made arrangements to live and work for his board during his student days. That he might do this he sought relief from drill in the cadet corps and called upon the chancellor to see whether or not he could be relieved from such duty. The chancellor was unwilling, said Mr. Kramer, "that I had to make my own way and had engaged to do this and other things for my board, but would have to walk eight miles each day, which I could not do and attend to drill exercises. He advised me to go home and come back, but he did it in such a way that it hurt my feelings very deeply. But he excused me from drill." The witness then took up at a moment's time, and the prosecution rested. The chancellor asked the witness if the advice he gave him was not due to the great distance he would have to walk each day, to which he replied, "I do not know, but the manner in which you advised me hurt my feelings very deeply."

Prof. Charles E. Bennett was first called by the defense and duly sworn. He said that he was the principal of the Latin department of the state university, and had been during the three years last past. He further stated that his relations with the chancellor, faculty and students had been most cordial and intimate, and that he felt himself competent to testify on most questions, if not all, raised in the alumni's charges against the chancellor. The witness very positively asserted that the chancellor's rulings and bearing when in faculty meetings were uniformly dignified and fair, and while he sometimes used sarcasm and irony, he thought not sufficiently severe to warrant the specified charges of the alumni association. Indeed, "no witness could be more extremely rare when the chancellor used irony and sarcasm in faculty meetings. I attended them quite regularly, but happened to be absent at the time of the open rupture between the chancellor and Prof. McMillan. In his relations with the students," the witness said, "the chancellor was extremely patient, considerate and as deferential as he could well be considering the dignity of his position. I happened to witness the meeting between Chancellor Maunatt and Mr. Tinker, the student who testified against the chancellor regarding the disposition of the society meetings, arranged for the commencement week, but which were opposed by the chancellor. Tinker's attitude was very defiant and his language indicated insubordination. The chancellor treated with this matter very calmly and, I thought, wisely, his bearing toward Mr. Tinker was certainly very kind and considerate. I was present when Mrs. Lloyd and the chancellor met in the laboratory, and heard the language attributed to the chancellor by the lady. I could not see anything very censorious or intemperate in the language. You have gauged your work above the capabilities of your pupils. The circumstances warranted it. Yes, Prof. Howard said to me on one occasion that if the faculty would not stand any more of the chancellor's aggressions, the conversation that followed has remained in my mind. The faculty had entered into a conspiracy against the chancellor and would resent future actions on his part. He said in the line with their wishes and expectations. I have also heard Prof. Howard advise the abandonment of the office of chancellor, and a government of the faculty to be established.

Prof. Bennett was cross-examined at great length, but in spirit and fact his testimony remained unshaken. It is true, however, that he showed a personal interest, but in no way bearing upon the charges under investigation, were developed. viz: That the chancellor and he were on very friendly terms; that the witness expected professional advancement through the aid of the chancellor, but not under pressure of allegiance to the administration; that the witness and administration had not always been friendly; that grievances between them had existed; that the meeting had been settled without official interposition. The witness insisted that he esteemed the chancellor competent for the position he held, and that he was fair and considerate in his rulings and government of faculty meetings. He claimed friendly feelings for the faculty and all parties interested in the investigation, and was deliberate, fair, frank and seemingly honest in all of his statements.

Regent Mallott settled the impression by a few timely questions that there had been a collusion between the professor and chancellor relative to the salary and advancement of the witness, and the fact was most thoroughly developed that Bennett is still working for the same salary paid him the first year. It seems that the chancellor had agreed to recommend the raise of his salary \$400, recently, at the present meeting of the board of regents.

Judge Allen W. Field, a graduate of the university of the class of 1877, was called to the stand and sworn, testifying that he was a member of the alumni association and had been since the year following his graduation, and that he had been in the habit of attending the meetings of the association. When asked if he had attended the last meeting of the alumni, he said: "I did not because I received no notice that such a meeting was to have been held. It is usual," said Judge Field, "for notices to be given, and sometimes the officers of the association are so polite that invitations are issued. Such notice or invitation may have been given but I received none." Judge Field further said that had his attention been called to the meeting he should most certainly have attended. Witness did not believe that the meeting was generally known. He said that the conservative members of the association would have entered a vigorous protest against the passage of the resolution; that it never would have passed had the meeting been generally attended, and that he believed that he was in a position to know what he was testifying to. He said that one great reason for this is because the majority of the association know very little regarding the present "internal" condition of the affairs of the university; that the past had demonstrated that the chancellor's position in the Nebraska university was something like a whipping post, to be used by the faculty as circumstances and conditions might warrant, and always to hide behind when personality was to be introduced in any way. The witness was very sure the chancellor was a man of high character and high ability, and that the matriculation of students from all over the state and the commencement of his administration of the university had been without precedent during the entire history of the institution. The university has a fair name abroad, and until the last meeting, very little was known of "trouble brewing and war" in the city of Lincoln, the home of the institution. The witness said that the general reputation of Chancellor Maunatt is high, and that he found him most gentlemanly in his demeanor and bearing. I have always found his man-

ner of address very pleasant and agreeable. The cross-examination, conducted by Mr. Wilson, was too long for detail. It strengthened rather than weakened Judge Field's statements. When asked if he had not declared Maunatt unfit and incompetent for the position he was occupying, he made an unequivocal denial. He said, however, that he had remarked that no one could do efficient work under present conditions, but that he did not want to think that the chancellor ought to be held responsible for the present unprosperous state of the university. Present members of the faculty who had had experience in other university studies, who would come in for at least a share of censure and blame.

P. P. Holmes being duly sworn, testified that he was a graduate of the state university and was connected with the present situation of affairs. He stated that he did not believe that the action of the alumni association last June was timely or wise; that it did not express the sentiments of a majority of its members, and that had the attendance been general the passage of the resolution would have been defeated. The witness further said that he believed the present administration had been remarkably successful considering all the circumstances surrounding it, that he had heard Prof. Nicholson say that some of the students threatened to ride the chancellor on a rail; that while he held the title and emblems of a large number of the students, the institution has continued to grow and prosper; and that he (witness) desired to believe that some of the family were largely responsible for the state of feeling now existing at the university. Mr. Holmes thought that the chancellor's work in drawing the university into closer relationship with the schools of the state was a great reason for the present prosperity; that with the few exceptions noted, the passage of the resolution, which led to the charges, without having acted squarely against a fact of general belief, I believe the alumni could not have passed the resolution and acted intelligently. The majority of the alumni having no knowledge of a very bad state of feeling toward the chancellor, they naturally voted the resolution down.

Josiah Pound was called to the stand to testify the Lieutenant Dudley reception shirt. He testified that one of the shirts was at the time of the reception. He said that he was approached by fellow-students who represented the university, and they requested if he had a thing to do with the reception if the chancellor was invited, and it was represented that Prof. Hunt was in the same boat. Mr. Pound, however, failed to state what influence this had upon his action.

H. C. and E. H. Eddy, graduates of the university of the classes of 1883 and 1887, respectively, testified that they are members of the alumni association and they believe that the resolution passed at the June meeting of the alumni association was a very great wrong, and that it is in a great measure due to the splendid work he did in bringing the university and public schools into intimate relations.

C. D. Kestraw, superintendent of schools at Nebraska City, testified under oath that he has done matriculate work in Orono, Fillmore, Hall, Lancaster and other counties of the state, and has knowledge of the general reputation of the present administration of the university, and he finds it better record than ever before during the history of the institution; that this is measurably due to the chancellor's efforts in bringing the work of the university into closer relationship with the schools of the state; that he has talked to a number of students graduating from the university during the past two or three years, and with one exception they have spoken very highly of the chancellor and his splendid administration. The witness noted one significant fact. One of his former pupils attended the university about a year ago and found that the chancellor was very unpopular with a large number of the students, and he joined the crowd for no other reason. Cross examination affirmed the foregoing statements.

Prof. Fontaine, instructor of French, testified that he did not believe the present state of affairs ought to exist. He said that he was educated in a different way; that he always thought that the chancellor was the head of such institution, and that his law was supreme; that while he might not approve of all that the chancellor has done, he could not see where it was gravely objectionable. His testimony was not positive, neither was it explicit. The chancellor has always treated him kindly and he had no reason to complain.

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NO PALACE OF PRODUCTS. Omaha Will Do the Grand Thing or Nothing. The committee of the Union club to whom was deputed the matter of considering the advisability of having a Palace of Products met last evening at the Union club rooms. The matter was pretty well discussed by the members of the committee, and it was generally conceded that it was not only now too late to make a grand success of the matter, but the indifference in all departments of business this year would not warrant such an outlay. However, it was deemed best to still agitate the matter and make a great success of it another year. The building and its display should be commensurate with the greatness and rapid growth of the wonderful Nebraska metropolis. As Mr. Frank Colpetzer fittingly expressed it, "a car palace that would be a great success in Omaha." Something much greater would be expected from the Gate City. It was recommended by the committee that some sort of entertainments be provided for the evenings during the fair to amuse the great crowd of visitors.

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