

WHAT PAUPERS MUST ENDURE

The Management of the Poor Farm to Be Fully Exposed.

BEGINNING OF THE GOOD WORK.

Things Observed at the Mahoney Establishment—Women Overworked When They Need Rest—Bad Food.

The Investigation.

The investigation of John Mahoney and his wife, charged with incompetence and unfitness for the positions of superintendent and matron of the county hospital and poor farm respectively, began before the honorable board of county commissioners yesterday morning.

No Nurse Provided.

Mrs. Kate Miken, the first witness, being duly sworn, testified as follows: My name is Kate Miken; have been acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney for a short period; I became acquainted with them in June, 1878, out at the poor farm; I was an inmate at that time for about six weeks; I was in the nursery ward.

Q—Were you sick while you were there?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—What was the matter—was it confinement?

A—Yes, sir; I had my child there.

Q—Who was it nursed you during that time?

A—No one; I had to take care of one another; we had no nurse at the time.

Q—At the time of the birth of my child Mrs. Mahoney was there in attendance—stepped in several times at the time.

A—Yes, she was there; she was also there; there was no nurse there at the time.

Q—There was a nurse girl there, but she was not qualified for the place at that time.

A—The first name of the nurse girl was Tillie; I do not know her second name.

Q—Did you see Mrs. Mahoney at the time she was nursing the child?

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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE, TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1880.

on her clothes and around the bed. Other inmates in the sick-room noticed her in the same condition. The crutches were also afflicted in the same way, but the rooms and beds were kept as clean as could be under the circumstances, with the lice around them pretty thick and they at one time got pretty thick down under the covers.

Q—How was that?

A—It was awful. It was dirty and filthy, and smelled so that I could not stand the smell of it when I was there.

Q—How about the vermin, was there any?

A—Yes, sir; there was plenty of it in the clothes.

Q—In what ward?

A—I could not tell you; it was in the clothes, with the exception of one woman I saw it on. She was crazy. She was so old she was foolish. Her head was covered with vermin. The other women that were sent there to be confined worked too.

Q—At whose request did these women work?

A—Mrs. Mahoney's.

Q—How much of the time?

A—I guess pretty near all the time.

Q—Up to within what time of their confinement?

A—There was one woman there, and as near as I can remember, she was just about to be confined. Her name was Martha, and she was well.

Q—What kind of work did they do?

A—Some worked in the laundry, some in the kitchen, and some in the wash-house.

Q—Who was nurse up there?

A—Josie Peterson. Her duties were to nurse. She did Mrs. Mahoney's work in her room, the children's room, the sitting-room, in the hall and other places. She did nursing when she had time. The inmates, when she was not there, had to take care of each other.

Q—With regard to clothing, do you know whether the women inmates had night gowns?

A—That was Mrs. Mahoney's complaint, there was no night gowns, after I went there, but before that time there were plenty in the cupboard, because I knew that Mrs. Pierce had made plenty in the spring when I was there before, for I had worked for her, and they were all washed and some of them I left in the trunk in the old ladies' clothing room.

Q—What kind of clothing was it that was made?

A—Night-gowns, drawers, chemises and baby clothing.

Q—Did the inmates have night gowns?

A—Some didn't.

Q—State the condition of the crazy ward.

A—The stove was all broken up and ashes, and the slop bucket was all split over, and the floor was fearfully dirty. The inmates attended to that ward. I was there every Monday, and I never saw it any different.

Q—Do you know whether or not Mrs. Mahoney saw any property out there?

A—I saw a pair of rubbers out there that a girl said she had bought from her.

Q—Did Mrs. Mahoney see any property out there?

A—Yes, she saw a pair of rubbers out there that a girl said she had bought from her.

Q—Was Mrs. Mahoney present at the time?

A—Yes, she was present at the time.

Q—Did you speak to her about buying any property?

A—Yes, sir. She said she hadn't anything to fit me.

Q—What did she charge?

A—Thirty-five cents, I think.

Q—For what kind, new or old?

A—Brand new. They were kept there, rubbed and mended in a box. The box was full of rubbers and mittens.

Q—Cross-examination, by Mr. O'Furt:

Q—How long have you borne the name of Mrs. Mary Mohr?

A—Since the 25th of last September. I was married then.

Q—What was your name when you were out there?

A—Miss Sennett.

Q—When did you leave?

A—In March, 1878, as near as I can remember. I left because I wanted to. Mrs. Mahoney and me had a few words, and I told her right away she could get somebody else to attend to that.

Q—You both got mad about the same time?

A—Yes, I was going to leave anyhow. I was going to tell her that night or the next day.

Q—She didn't send you away?

A—Not until I told her she could get somebody else besides me.

Q—After you told her she could get somebody else, she told you could leave right away?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—Did you leave with any very friendly feelings towards her?

A—I haven't anything against her. So far as that is concerned, I never had any very friendly feelings towards her.

Q—You were both angry at the time you left?

A—No, sir; I was not angry. I was perfectly cool, as I am now.

Q—You had a fuss?

A—No, sir; she asked me to tell her something about the inmates, and I told her to get somebody else.

Q—Didn't Mrs. Mahoney send you away for quarreling with the inmates?

A—No, sir.

Q—You were addressed there and did nothing but attend to the duties of that position?

A—That is what I was hired for, and that is what I did. It was the duty of the inmates to make their beds. I did not go through the wards and get the different articles out of the ward, as the crazy ward Monday to tell the man to come and help me wash and run the machine for me.

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REMEMBER: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

Upon Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 28th, 29th and 30th, we will place upon our counters a line of clothing of which we enumerate a few. These goods are all staple and regular, but sizes have been broken, and having discontinued sorting up special lots, we have for the occasion of this sale, marked them at prices which under other circumstances, would be ruinous. Those who come first will find themselves most fortunate on account of choice of selections. We need say but little as the goods speak for themselves. NONE of the goods will be offered, or sold, before or after above mentioned days, at other than at REGULAR PRICES. And for this reason, in justice to those who live at a distance, we announce this special sale, in order to give all ample time to present, or send their orders by mail; such mail orders will have our special care, and all may rest confident that their wants will merit the same choice in selection, as though present in person.

Wendell P. Cole stated that he was an inmate of the county poor house for eight or ten days. He was treated others in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney, but had seen some of them ill treated there. I hit one old man with a pole, and was instructed for it by Mr. Mahoney. That was shortly before I left for the soldiers' home at Grand Island. When Mr. Pierce was there I asked him to get me a pair of trousers, and he gave me a pair of dirty inmates and when Mr. Mahoney took hold I requested him to furnish me with clean ones, and he was unwilling to do so, but I had something to do.

Couldn't Eat the Meat.

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