BLEEDING DOUGLAS COUNTY

How Carcless Commissioners Were Hoodwinked on the Drug Contract.

BIDDER USED THE "SLIDING SCALE"

Absurdly Low Prices for Drugs Little Needed and Others Exorbitantly digh-Dr. King Asked to Make an Accounting.

Douglas county paid \$4,388.65 for drugs for the year ending March 1, 1893, divided as follows: Poor farm, \$1,802.40; Jail, \$343.03; indigent poor, \$2,243.22. The amount was considered very large and an effort was made to try a new system this year and the result promises to give the sounty a larger bill to pay this year than it had last, even if the amount of drugs used is not increased.

The county will probably have a law suit over the bill for last year and Dr. King, the late county physician, will be the defendant. When the doctor's successor was elected a short time ago it was discovered that a member of the Board of County Commissioners had been investigating the expenditures for the past year and had learned of the existence of certain things that should be explained. At the meeting of the board at which Dr. Lanyon was elected county physician Commissioner Livesey presented a statement showing that the county in the year past had paid out \$561.25 for surgical instruments ordered by Dr. King. Mr. Livesey wanted these instruments turned over to Dr. Lanyon and made a request to that effect upon Dr. King. The late county physician was grossly insulted. He declared that he had nothing in the surgical instrument line that belonged to the county. Pressed for some report as to the disposition he had made of the large amount of such goods ordered by him from the county drug con-tractor he asked to have a statement showing the list of the articles. This was furnished by Commissioner Livesey, who exacted a promise from Dr. King for the return of the list. This promise was not kept and the commissioner wrote to the doctor asking that the list be returned according to promise and that some steps be taken at once to account to the authorities for the goods in question. The letter went unanswered and Commissioner Livesey placed the matter in the hands of Assistant County Attorney Troup, with instructions to effect a settlement with King or commence suit against him for the value of the goods which had not been accounted for. Mr. Troup has written several letters to Dr. King about the matter, but has been unable to get a reply from him, and a suit will probably be the result.

Hard Work to Get Competition,

But the surgical instrument feature of the county drug bosiness is not the only one that appears queer on the face of the figures in the county clerk's office and causes the commissioners no end of troubled thought. It seems almost impossible to get bids for furnishing the county with drugs or to get a contract that will not allow all sorts of abuses that cost the taxpayers very dearly. abuses that cost the taxpayers very dearly. In addition to the stock of surgical appliances bought for Dr. King last year, the county paid some very big bills for drugs that no one seems able to explain. Under the old order of things the bills came in every month and the county paid them. There was no way of telling what had been received and what had not. The contract which the county had with the local druggist specified but few of the items that were needed in the practice of the county physician, and the most of the goods that were needed were accordingly charged up at regular retail rate and the county had nothing to far retail rate and the county had nothing to

Some Old Tricks Exposed. There has been trouble in the matter of There has been trouble in the matter of furnishing drugs for the county for several years. The old plan of having a branch drug store in the basement of the court house was full of weak points; the frands that were perpetrated upon the county and the taxpayers under that system were exposed by Tuz Bez and the drug beauty of the rear form was realished. branch of the poor farm was abolished Then the county decided to try the plan of having prescriptions for the poor filled by uggist, and asked bids for the con-This was not a success, as it was shown that parties who were in official posi-tion in the county were having all sorts of prescriptions filled at the county's expense. any quantity of liquor and such items as combs and brushes for the officials' private combs and brushes for the officials private consumption being charged up to the county. This was exposed and then the county tried the plan of advertising for drugs by specifications, the same as groceries and fuel bids were asked. This was tried last year and the contract was awarded to the Aloe & Penfold company. The list of specified drugs was very incomplete, however, and when it cannot be marked by growth these forms. it came to purchasing goods it was found that many items the county wanted were not named in the specifications on which the contract was awarded and the county paid retail prices for a very large share of the drug supplies and medicines that went to the poor farm, the jail and the treatment of the indigent poor for the year ending

March 1, 1893. Thought This Would Work,

This year it was to be different. County Clerk Sackett made an effort to get up a list of specifications that would cover nearly if not everything that would be required in the drug and medicine line and called Dr. King, who was then county physician, to his assist-ance in the preparation of the specifications. The new list was made out and was much more complete than any that had been tried more complete than any that had been tried before in the county, calling for more than 300 articles supposed to be most needed in the treatment of the county patients. This was supposed by the county clerk and commissioners to be just the thing needed to secure the desired competition between the druggists and give the county the lowest figures upon the big item of expense in the care of the pear.

But the plan did not work worth a cent. When the bids were opened and the contract awarded it was found that the supposed very complete list contained no end of items.

very complete list contained no end of items
that are very seldom used in the practice of
medicine at poor farms or anywhere else and
that many of the drags in most constant demand were not mentioned at all. And the
opening of the bids showed more than that,
but the comparisoners did not see the really but the commissioners did not see the really peculiar feature of the bids until the con-tract had been awarded and they have noth-ing to do now but go shead and pay the bills as they have done before.

History of the "Sliding Scale "

Three years ago THE BEE exposed the trick of a big job printing house, not now in business, that secured the contracts for printing the blank books and furnishing the stationery for the county by bidding ridicul-ously low on the articles that the county had no use for and putting in a good price upon the articles most needed by the county, thus keeping the average bid well below the offers of the firms that had bid housetly on all of

the items named in the specifications.

This style of bidding became known around the court house as bidding on the "sliding scale" and it was this plan that some of the druggists allege was used by the some of the druggists allege was used by the successful bidders for the county drug contract for the year beginning March I, 1853.

When the bids for drugs were asked in January one druggist decided to try a new plan for the purpose of getting at the inside of the deal by which one firm could get the contract so easily. He had bid on the contract in 1892 at a very low margin of profit and missed the contract by a great deal. This year he took the price list of the biggest wholesale drug house in Chicago and in making his bid put in the articles called for in the specifications at the exact net cost price in Chicago. Some of the articles were put at even less than the cest at net wholesale prices in Chicago. The druggist felt that he would surely lose money if he secured the contract, but he was willing to invest a few hundred dollars for the privilege of finding out the method by which his competitors could take contracts and be giad to get them at prices that beat the competitors could take centracts and be glad to get them at prices that beat the wholesale houses of the country. He did not get the contract this year and when the bids were opened he found ample proof that the famous 'sliding scale' had been used by the Aloe & Penfold company, the successful bidders. In proof of his claim he cites figures in the two bids to show that the successful bidders offered in their bids to furnish the county articles

named in the specifications but for which the county had no use at from 10 to 00 per cent of the net wholesale price of the article, while they put a figure upon the goods most needed that ranges from 10 to 50 per cent above the bids of unsuccessful druggists who bid on all of the articles in the specifications without regard to the amount used by the county. In the figures given the prices of the firm that named the net Chicago wholesale price in its bid are given in comparison with the figures of the success. comparison with the figures of the successful bidders.

Trouble From the Word Go.

Trouble From the Word Go.

The trouble starts with almost the first item in the list of the specifications. Carbolic neld is used almost by the barrel in hospitals and by every physician almost daily in his practice. The specifications called for Mallinckrodt's brand, and the Aloe & Penfold company bid 50 cents per pound in nive-pound cans. Another firm bid 21 cents. But for the next item on the list the scale slid the other way. Pyrogalic acid is seldom used in medicine, its chief use being in photography. Aloe & Penfold offered to furnish this at 10 cents per ounce, while the net wholesale price of the article is 35 cents an ounce. The down slide is used also on the next item. Ammonium iodide is rarely used in ordinary practice and the successful bidgers offered to furnish it to the county at \$1 a pound, while it is a smart wholesaler who buys the drug at \$3.50 a pound.

while it is a smart wholesaler who buys the drug at \$3.90 a pound.

Then the up slide was used for the bid on two drugs that are used very much. Antifebrin and antipyrine are the great remedies for headache and nervousness. They answer about the same purpose but are widely different in price. Antifebrin is cheap while antipyrine is expensive. Aloe & Penfold bid the same on each drug, \$1.50 an ounce. Another firm bid \$1.30 on antipyrine and 22 cents an ounce on the cheaper remedy. an ounce on the cheaper remedy.

Beats Fire Sale Bargains. Apomorphia muriate crystals form the antidote for morphine poisoning and one grain a year would be a liberal allowance for the poor farm, as the drug is but very seldom used. Aloe & Penfold bid 10 cents an ounce on this drug, while the wholesale price is \$1.25. The same liberal reduction was made on the price of hyosein hydrobromate. This is one of the rarest drugs used in the practice of medicine and five grains of it would last an ordinary drug store for years. Aloe & Penfold offered to supply the county with & Penfold offered to supply the county with this drug at 20 cents an ounce, while the net wholesale list price is \$1.60 an ounce. And the next discrepancy in bids was even greater. Ichthyol (Merck's) is listed by wholesalers at \$1 per pound. It is rarely used and Aloe & Penfold offer to furnish it at 30 cents an ounce. Fow drug stores will get more than one prescription a year that will call for the use of iron hypophosphate. It is worth \$3.50 a pound at wholesale, but Aloe & Penfold offered it to the county at the cut rate of 10 cents a pound. Lime hypophosphate is worth \$1.25 a pound, but the firm will furnish the county with all it the firm will furnish the county with all it needs of this drug at the bargain rate of 6 cents a pound will buy from them for the county use lactophosphate of lime, while wholesalers who are not making cut rates get 84 a pound for the same article. But the county has no use for an ounce of any of these drugs in a lifetime.

Nice Profit on Staple Articles.

Iodoform is used at the poor farm and in the treatment of county cases very largely and the up slide was used on the bid for this drug. Aloe & Penfold's bid was \$5 a pound, while another firm offered to fill the county's while another firm offered to fill the county's orders for \$4 a pound. Iodoform gauze is used by the hundreds of yards every year in the county cases, the bills showing that nearly 100 yards a month, were used at the poor farm alone last year. Aloe & Penfold are furnishing this at 30 cents a yard. Another firm offered to furnish it at 20 cents a yard in five year learns on 18 cents, a year in twenty five. yard cans, or 18 cents a yard in twenty-five-yard packages. Aloe & Penfold are furnish-ing lint at 45 cents a pound. Another firm's bid was 48 cents a pound, and there is lots of it used. Potassiam iodide is ordered by druggists for their trade by the hundreds of pounds. It is used daily and in liberal quantities. The county is paying Aloe & Penfold \$4 a pound for it, while another firm wanted to furnish it at \$2.85, a difference of \$1.15 a pound on a drug that is used constantly. The large quantity of quinine given the county patients costs the taxpayers 40 cents an One of the drug firms offered to furnish it at 26 cents an ounce.

Clearance Sale of Winter Stock. The high prices of the successful bidders on these last mentioned staples were more than offset by the bargains offered in a lot of drugs that the county never has and probably never will have any use for. Atropia crystals are used by occulists to dilate the pupils of eyes. They are worth \$4.25 an ounce at wholesale. The county only has to pay 10 cents an ounce for what it buys of Aloe & Penfold, and it probably won't have to buy twenty grains in a year. Bismuth salicylate is worth \$3 a pound at wholesale, but the county can get it at 40 cents a pound if there is ever any call for it. Musk Tonquin is worth \$4 a dram at wholesale, but Aloe & Pénfoid will furnish it to the county work when every the requires at 10 cents were poor, when occasion requires, at 10 cents per dram. Oakum is worth \$4.80 per bale, but the county will have to pay but 5 cents per bale under its present drug contract. And the same way with the oil of bitter almonds. It is a poison and used very seldom, and costs \$9 a pound, but the county can get it from its druggists for 40 cents a pound. Then from its druggists for 40 cents a pound. Then Wyeth's malt extract, for which druggists have been paying \$4 per gallon, can be bought for the county patients at 30 cents a gallon. Payson's indelible ink is sold the country over by wholesalers at \$24 a gross, but the linen of the county poor may be marked with this ink and the county can buy it from its druggist at \$4 per gross, a clean \$20 off the regular jobbing rate. Hydrastin, seldom used, is worth \$1.15 an ounce, but is furnished the county at 30 cents an but is furnished the county at 30 cents an

But the up scale is put on another batch of drugs that are much used in all medical practice. Chioral, that sheet auchor in the treatment of insane patients and sufferers from the jim jams, costs the county \$2 per pound, while other bidders offered to furnish it at \$1.40 per pound. Bismuth subnitrate, much used in local applications and stomach troubles, costs the county \$2.25, while other druggists wanted to furnish it at \$2 per pound. Squibbs' chloroform, used daily at the hospital and jail, costs \$1.75 a bottle, though it could have been secured from another bidder at \$1.40. Hydrastis, a staple remedy in a class of diseases common with remedy in a class of diseases common with poor farm and jail patients, is being furnished at \$1.50 per pound; other druggists offered to supply the demand at \$1.25 per pound. Sulfanel, the staple cure for sleep-lessness, is charged for at the rate of \$1.75 an ounce; other druggists bid \$1.35, a big difference on a drug of which large quantities

Homeopathic remedies are not used by the county physicians and it is alleged that Aloe & Penfold bid on them at prices about one-fifth that at which they can be bought at

How the Bids Were Tabulated.

When these figures were noticed by the unsuccessful bidders they were not slow in discovering why the contract had been awarded to the Aloe & Penfold company. The county authorities in tabulating the bids had simply made the totals on the bids for the various articles and then divided the amount by the number of articles bid upon and gave the centract to the bidder whose average was the lowest. The bids were not submitted to any physician or disinterested average was the lowest. The bids were not submitted to any physician or disinterested druggist, and no effort was made to detect any fine figuring in the proffers of any of the firms. It is claimed by the interested drug-gists that any outside druggist in the city would have noticed the peculiar slading bid of the Aloe & Penfeld company instantly, and they allege that the commissioners were very negligent of their duties or some such very negligent of their duties or some such precautionary measure would have been

Last Year Birds' Nests. There are some peculiar charges in the drug bills rendered by the Aloe & Penfold

company last year for goods which were not

specified in the list upon which bids were respecified in the list upon which bids were re-ocived, and which were accordingly charged to the county at the same rate that private parties would be taxed. And this rate was not always the same on the same articles. For instance, during the month of Septem-ber the firm filled three orders for senna leaves. In one case the charge was 50 cents for a half pound of the leaves. A few days later are order for specific places and pound was later an order for another half pound was filled for 30 cents and still later in the month the firm sent one pound "of senna leaves to the poor farm and charged the county 40 cents or 10 cents less than had been charged for half the quantity early in the mouth. Tartar emetic was charged for the same month at 20 cents an ounce while the rent bid of the firm for the drug was 3 cents an ounce. Cough cures and diarrheea remedies for use in the jail were charged for at from \$1 to \$2 per bottle.

Brisk Demand for Liquors. There were no bids last year or this on whisky or alcohol the explanation being that bids could not be made unless a certain brand of certain age was specified and that brand of certain age was specified and that that would be impracticable. But with or without bids the druggist did a lively retail liquor business with the county. For the month of September, 1892, there were delivered to the poor farm, hree gallons of port wine at \$2.50 a gallon, four gallons of whisky at \$3.50 a gallon, two gallons of branty at \$3.50 per gallon, and a pint of Jarvis Three Star orandy on the side, for which the county paid \$1. The excuse that the whisky was paid \$1. The excuse that the whisky was for the patients to take quinine with won't do in this case, as the county only had four grains of that drug at the poor farm during the month. In October the whisky order feil to three gallons and the price fell to \$3 a gallon. Three gallons of port wine and three gallons of alcohol were used. The bills for the year average about the same and usually include about four gallons of whisky, three of brandy, three of port wine and three of alcohol each month. No explanation is of-fered for the use of the large amount of liquors used and as yet none has been asked. All that is required is that the superintendent at the poor farm certify that the amount charged in the druggist's bill has been re-ceived and the county pays the claim.

In the matter of prescriptions for the county poor the county last year paid its druggist \$2,243.22. These bills were paid upon the certificate of the county physician. The contract with the druggist called for the filling of prescriptions at a nominal rate. The county has had no plan of checking the claims of the drug contractor. No one in authority knows whether the county physi-cian ever checked the bills or not. No one knows whether the drug contractor has the original prescriptions or whether they have been destroyed. All the officials know of the matter is that the bills have been presented regularly and paid by the county without inquiry or protest.

Trusts and Combinations Are unpopular. But there is one form of trust against which no one has anything to ay. That is the trust which the public re-oses in Hood's Sarsaparilla, and the best of t is the trust is fully justified by the merit f the medicine. For remember, Hood's

Hood's Pills are purely vegetable and do not purge, pain or gripe. Sold by all druggists.

Sarsaparilla cures.

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BROOK BROS,' make ladies' \$5.00 French button shoes at \$3.50, B to E widths, opera and C. S. styles.

ADAMS & PETTINGILL'S make ladies' \$4.50, patent leather, button shoes, at \$3.00, A to E widths, opera HUISKAMP BROS, make ladies

\$3.50, fine climax kid, button shoes, at \$2.75, C. D and E widths, opera and C. S. These are bargains no lady can afford to miss, come and get choice of sizes and

Men's fine calf, hand sewed, \$5.00 shoes, at \$3.50, lace and congress, A to E

widths. Men's fine \$4.00 calf welt shoes, at \$3.00, B to E widths, lace and congress. Men's zebu calf \$3.50 shoes, at \$2.50, lace and congress.

made and every pair a big bargain. HAYDEN BROS. Dry Goods and Shoe

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NEBRASKA'S WICKEDEST.

Casafe Place to Visit with Money in One's Pocket. Nick Maher, who is practically the mayor of Covington, was in the city yesterday, and

in speaking of that wicked place said: "What is the moral condition of Covington at the present time? Well, I am afraid it hasn't much improved. The tough element comes pretty nearly having the mastery. We have tried hard to have the laws enforced, but with poor success. Our attorney is not but with poor success. Our atterney is not as diligent in the prosecution of offenders as he should be. We have been obliged on several occasions to employ outside help and pay for it out of our individual pockets. At the last session of the grand jury a large number of persons were indicted, but when their trials came on every one went free. We have changed city marshals four times in as many months. The shals four times in as many months. The ne now acting promises well, and we hope

to see some good results. "I know our town has a pretty hard name, and I am sorry of it. I think if our own papers hadn't said so much about it our reputation would be better. Still, I can't say that they have exaggerated matters much. It's an actual fact that if one comes into our town with money and is not pretty shrewd he will go away without it. I have helped a number of people, who have been confidenced, to get their money back, and expect to help a good many more.

"The new bridge? Well, it's going ahead in good shape. There are 250 men at work on it. The caissons on the east side are practically finished, and those on the west

ide are under way. "The bridge will be a low draw, and when completed will accommodate steam cars. electric cars, pedestrians and horses and

The pontoon bridge worked very well during low water, but when the floods came down it went out. Last summer I went down the river, paid \$5,000 for a boat, took it to Covington and used it as a ferry. We had to have some means for crossing to Sioux City, and this was what we used."

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You can leave here by the Burling-ton's No. 2, the vestibuled Flyer, at 4:45

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Almost all are perfect.
All imported dry goods; every imaginable kind of merchandise used or sold in a dry goods store. They are coming in now by the car

There seems to be no end to them. The reserve stock rooms at the Boston Store are already jammed full, clear to the ceiling

The local freight warehouses are clamoring for us to get the goods out faster or pay storage. We have put on double force all through the establishment.

We are working day and night to get these goods ready in time for sale. Once ready we promise a sale of WET AND DRY GOODS

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A fine upright piano, used only six months, at half price. Ford & Charlton,

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Smoked salmon, 16c. Salt salmon, Sic; smoked sturgeon, 15c. Herring, 2c each; finnan haddies, 10c. Anchovies, Sc per pound; smoked hali-but, 15c; salt eels, 15c; fet melcher her-

ring, 8 for 25c; Lake Superior salt white ish, 10c. We have all kinds of fresh fish and fresh Baltimore oysters, 30e per quart fresh white fish, trout and red snapper at 10c; perch, 74c; smelts, 10c, and a lot

other fish too numerous to mention. When you want anything in fish call at HAYDEN BROS., Fish department.

Take home a box of Balduff's fine candies, 16th and Capitol avenue. None better.

INTO A CISTERN.

Draft Horse Breaks Through a Pavement

Into a Concealed Hole. Yesterday afternoon as Peter Snyder, a driver of one of the South Omaha Ice company's wagons, was about to unload the usual daily supply of ice at the alley entrance of the Millard hotel, one of the heavy team of draft horses suddenly broke heavy team of draft horses suddenly broke through the covering of an old cistern and went down. When he stopped only his head and fore feet protruded above the ground.

A derrick was procured and the work of raising the animal was begun. This was no easy undertaking, for the horse weighed about 1,500 pounds. After nearly an hour's work he was brought to the surface, pretty badly cut on the hind quarters and legs, from which wounds the blood was flowing quite freely. Unless internally injured he will probably be all right in a day or two. He is valued at \$200. e is valued at \$200. The cistern was about ten feet deep and four feet in diameter. The brick at the top was arched and over it concrete and paving blocks were laid. The covering had sus-tained the weight of the team many times

before, but was probably weakened a little Rheumatism

each time.

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It requires no learned experts or scientific experiments to establish the fact that DR. PRICE'S DELICIOUS FLAVORING EX-TRACTS are not only the strongest, but positively the sweetest and most delicate fruit flavors. If housewives will flavor a cake, pudding, custard or cream with Dr. Price's Extract of Vanilia, Lemon or Orange, and a smaller quantity gives a more natural and grateful taste than can be imparted by any other Extracts, is it not an incontestable proof of their greater excellence? In every case where Dr. Price's Flavors are used they give perfect satisfaction



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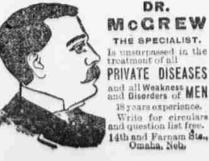
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THE delicate beauty of our Easter gifts is I probably the cause of so many presents being made this year-Easter is a week from Sunday.

> RAYMOND. PIFTEENTH AND DOUGLAS, OMAHA.



For Sale in Omaha by Sherman & McConnell, 1815 Dodge Street