

PECULIAR REFORM PRACTICES

Acts of the Fusion Chairmen Dissected Before the Public.

HOLLOWNESS OF PRETENSIONS SHOWN UP

Malodorous Records of Dahlman, Edmiston and Others Who Are Seeking Neither Place Nor Applause."

LINCOLN, Sept. 23.—(Special)—The fusion chairmen, who describe themselves on the campaign circular as "seeking neither place nor applause," have according to the state records done some peculiar things in the past two years, but they are not doing exactly the reverse of what they say.

One of the most prominent among them is J. C. Dahlman, one of the do-nothing secretaries of the State Board of Transportation. Dahlman was for four years sheriff of Dawes county and the chance to ride over the state on the pretense of delivering prisoners was a great source of revenue for the thrifty reformer. The amounts he drew from the state for these junkets exceeded his total salary as sheriff for the county and he was more than once detected "padding" his bills. One instance where he managed to draw a considerable sum on a fictitious trip is mentioned by the Mutz "sniffing committee" in its final report. This committee cost the state \$10,000 and the few truths it told of the pretended "reformers" were not worth the expense expended. Page 63 of the committee's final report says:

"Vouchers No. 69,444 and 72, J. C. Dahlman, sheriff of Dawes; amount \$36.95, paid November 28 and December 5, 1891. The receipts to these vouchers show that two children were taken to the reform school at Kearney on September 26, 1891. Voucher No. 69,444 paid for the only trip that was made, yet another voucher was made out and the state paid for two trips, the fictitious trip costing the state \$169.90."

The report goes on to say that money collected for fictitious trips by sheriffs is subject to recovery by the state.

The report has been on file with the governor for several months and up to date Dahlman has made no move to pay back the \$169.90 fraudulently collected, and the reform attorney general has made no move toward enforcing the collection.

Edmiston's Record.

Chairman Edmiston has a record in connection with the recent ballot frauds that is still fresh in the public mind. The attempt to kidnap Simons, the man who turned informer, was a virtual admission of guilt. Edmiston has a more recent record as chief oil inspector, when he padded his expense bills and charged up railroad fare when he rode all the time on passes. The official exposure of this fraud a few months ago caused a sensation in the popular camp that will not soon be forgotten.

Still another record of Edmiston's inclination to fatten himself at the public expense was in the leasing of the school lands. On the 15th of April, 1890, Edmiston leased the northeast quarter of section 12, range 21, in Dawson county, making a payment amounting to \$8.70.

In the next two years he paid \$57.60, when he quit paying, allowed the lease to be canceled, but retained possession of the land. On the 12th of June, 1898, Uncle Jake made one of his famous grand stand leasing trips to Dawson county and some individual, whose name on the record is given as "T. A. Dunn," took out a lease on the Edmiston land by making a payment of 1 cent per acre. That same day the lease was transferred to Edmiston, who all the time had held the land, and by the sharp deal the state was defrauded of the entire amount of the past due lease money. At that time he was "seeking no applause," but was seeking school lands at a cheap price.

The public record of Chairman Gaffin can be dissected to the considerable edification of the taxpayers of the state, but it hardly seems necessary now, as the popular claim is that he has successfully dumped the Gaffin property overboard.

In reading the final report of the Mutz committee some good things are found for the reform officials to explain. On page 78 attention is called to the practice of compromising claims that are due the state and the committee hints that there is much corruption among public officials in these deals. It also hints that through favoritism or political influence certain defaulters are being protected from prosecution. The report then goes on to say:

"By an examination made July 21, 1897, by State Examiner Everingham the county treasurer of Platte county was found to be short \$50,512.25. Of this there was due the state \$13,278.45. The treasurer and his bondsman paid up the total amount of the shortage due the county and at this time the state had not received a cent."

What is remembered is that the defaulter referred to is J. W. Lynch, a democrat of great local influence, and that he has a brother who is a democrat under Land Commissioner Wolfe, and that the Lynch family is related to Senator Atwater. There is no wonder that the collection of the \$13,278.45 is not enforced. It is said that negotiations have been carried on between Attorney General Smyth and the Lynch bondsmen looking to the compromise of the debt after the campaign is over.

Opinion by Smyth.

Another interesting chapter in the sniffing report is the one where Smyth decided that public officials and clerks whose salaries are specific could draw no extra compensation. The Smyth opinion, as contained on page 88 of the report, reads as follows:

"Answering your communication of this date, you are respectfully advised that in the opinion of this office no employee of the auditor's office, or any other office or department of the state, is entitled to extra compensation for services rendered out of office hours. In the case to which you call attention, if the work was done by person holding a position for which the legislature has provided a certain sum as a salary, that person cannot receive extra compensation for services rendered for the state, no matter whether performed during office hours or not. Of course this does not prevent any employee of the state from performing services for others and receiving compensation therefor, but he cannot expect the state to pay him for such services. Very truly yours,

C. J. SMYTH,
Attorney General."

In spite of this opinion, filed last winter, the state auditor, who claims to have wrought so many reforms and saved a fabulous sum of money by his extreme vigilance, has made no demand on his duty to refund the \$360 drawn as extra compensation in his office. It would seem that the auditor has only a small veneration for the attorney general when it strikes at the financial rake-off of the auditorial deputies.

Lincoln Local Notes.

The thirty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the emancipation proclamation was celebrated in this city by the colored people at Castle hall last night. Addresses were made by Mr. Slesler, W. Robert Alexander and Mr. Cozad.

Brain Workers.

Horsford's Acid Phosphate

supplies the needed nerve force.

Brain Salves—Nerve tonic in bottles.

and L. L. Lindsey. Several appropriate vocal selections were rendered by a chorus composed of colored people.

The university enrollment bids fair to reach the 2,500 mark this fall. So far there are 422 new students registered, which is 16 per cent more than at the same time last year. The highest enrollment last year was a little more than 1,900. A number of boys from the Second regiment have returned to school.

Rector H. Percy Silver of Holy Trinity church announces that next Sunday has been set apart by the diocesan council as a harvest home festival, when contributions of food and money will be received for the Clarkson Memorial hospital at Omaha.

Miss Gerrie Thompson, a young woman who acted as domestic in the home of Dr. Hart for a time this summer, has instituted an action for \$1000 damages for false imprisonment against the police officers of the city. On the 26th of August Miss Thompson was arrested on suspicion of having been with a man, who charged her with having committed adultery. She was confined in the city jail overnight, but the case was not prosecuted in any court. It is alleged that no written complaint was filed against the woman, no warrant was issued, and that the arrest was unlawful and therefore injurious to her character.

The paving injunction case of O. N. Humphrey against the city is being argued before Judge Cornish today. Messrs. Morning and Berge appeared for Mr. Humphrey and City Attorney Webster represented the city.

Over 750 tickets have been given out for the children's free excursion to the exposition tomorrow. D. E. Thompson foots the bill for this treat to the poor children of the city, and each holder of a ticket is entitled to both street car and railroad passage and admission to the exposition upon arriving at Omaha.

Mrs. Thomas Allen and Miss Lena DeWeese will go to Council Bluffs tomorrow to attend a reunion of students of the female academy at Jacksonville, Ill. Members of the class are scattered in several states, but they will all meet and be entertained by a member in Council Bluffs.

IRVING GILMORE IS ACQUITTED

Young Husband Who Shot a Man in a Charivari Party Goes Free.

HARRISON, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The jury today heard a short time acquited Irving Gilmore of the charge of murdering Frank Miller. Miller was a member of a charivari party which served Gilmore after his marriage. During the argument Mrs. Gilmore fainted and was carried from the court room. The outcome of the case is likely to put an end to charivari in this part of Nebraska. Court adjourned today.

Interstate Revision.

SUPERIOR, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The county fair is open this week and is being opened by the presence of T. J. Majors addressed the crowd. General Russell followed with a patriotic address.

Mr. Russell spoke with much feeling, especially when alluding to the lads who went into the army to fight Spain. This afternoon Judge M. L. Hayward, Paul Vandervoort, Judge Britt and Hon. R. D. Sutherland comprised the list of speakers. Judge Hayward compared the camp life of the boys to that of the boys of '98. Mr. Britt's speech was that he, too, had been a carefree student of recent history. R. D. Sutherland told of his visits to the home of General Robert E. Lee, the confederate commander.

At campfire this evening all the above mentioned speakers had stories to tell and there were many others who helped them out.

Chaplain Henry brought down the continued applause of the crowd when he said that the newspapers that today are howling because of the treatment of the boys and that some of them had died are the very papers that ten years ago were howling because the old soldiers had lived so long.

Camping at Sidney.

SIDNEY, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The county fair is open this week and is being opened by the presence of Senator W. V. Allen and Secretary of State W. F. Porter, who spoke on the grounds yesterday afternoon and in the court room last night. Hon. M. L. Hayward and Hon. W. S. Summers addressed the people today.

At campfire this evening all the above mentioned speakers had stories to tell and there were many others who helped them out.

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Stink Forger at Work.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The forger who unsuccessfully attempted to have a forged check cashed at Buchell's pharmacy made two other attempts of a similar nature, one of which proved successful. When the hour for banking arrived yesterday afternoon it was ascertained that the H. H. Glover company was had a check, ostensibly signed by J. W. Thompson of the Grand Island Banking company, to H. C. Miller, which was worthless. The paper had been sent to the store by a little boy, together with a note which purported to be from Dr. H. C. Miller, dentist, and asked the store to favor him by cashing the check. The favor was complied with and the forger got \$36.95. A similar effort was made to work Green Newayor. At the latter place the envelope with note and check was sealed and as Mr. Neumeyer was in the store the clerks told the boy he would have to come again. He never came. The forger used a different messenger boy in each instance, the lads being connected with well known families in this city and being simply innocent tools.

Prof. Skinner Laid to Rest.

CRETE, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The funeral of W. H. Skinner, superintendent of the Nebraska City schools, took place in this city this afternoon. Seven hundred school children, in company with a large concourse of the friends of the professor, received the casket at the depot. Delegations from Knights Templar of Nebraska City, Omaha, Plattsmouth and this city escorted the hearse to the High school grounds, when Chancellor MacLean, President Perry, Postmaster H. M. Wells and Harry Benedict, on the part of the alumni of the High school, delivered eloquent orations to the departed friend and teacher.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The schools here were closed yesterday and today out of respect to the memory of the late Superintendent Prof. W. H. Skinner, who died in Crete, Wednesday night. Many people from this city went to Crete to attend the funeral services. The Board of Education held a meeting last night and adopted suitable resolutions.

Charged with Adultery.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Minnie King of Kearney was arrested in this city yesterday afternoon on a telegram received from the sheriff of Dawes county. The officer arrived this morning and stated that the charge is adultery with William Frederick of Kearney, who is alleged to have assisted Mrs. King in deserting her husband and in having lived with her at Lexington for over a week. It is stated that Mr. King is principally after the child, but the effect of the sheriff to take the child back with him also proved futile, as the woman's attorney has placed the child in the care of its aunt in this city. Mrs. King denies the charges. King is reported to be a farmer of 45 years of age, while the wife is just 21. The marriage took place about three years ago.

Killed by a Train.

COZAD, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—William Wilkinson, a veteran of the civil war, was run down by a Missouri Pacific freight train here this afternoon. The train was switching in the yards. Wilkinson stepped in front of it and being deaf did not hear the warning of the trainman. He was an inmate of the Soldiers' Home at Leavenworth and was visiting relatives in this city.

Change of Preachers.

COZAD, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The Methodist Episcopal conference, just closed at Holdrege, Neb., has ordained that two very prominent citizens of Cozad shall go

elsewhere. Rev. D. D. Forsyth, who has been pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at this place for the past four years, has been appointed to the pastorate of the First Methodist Episcopal church at Kearney, Neb., for the coming year and Dr. W. A. Tyler, who has practiced medicine here for the last two years, but who recently decided to enter the ministry, has been appointed to the pastorate of Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, Kearney, Neb.

Lincoln, Sept. 23.—Several appropriate vocal selections were rendered by a chorus composed of colored people.

The university enrollment bids fair to reach the 2,500 mark this fall. So far there are 422 new students registered, which is 16 per cent more than at the same time last year. The highest enrollment last year was a little more than 1,900. A number of boys from the Second regiment have returned to school.

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS WINS.

State Auditor Directed to Examine and Audit Its Claims.

LINCOLN, Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The supreme court today gave its decision in the Home for the Friendless case, allowing the writ and holding that the state auditor was not justified in refusing to examine and audit the claims of the home against the state appropriation. It holds that every claimant has a right to have his claim examined in order that an appeal may be made from an adverse decision; that the auditor is required to keep a record of his action and that a memorandum on a voucher returned to a claimant is not such a record. The auditor, if his records by mistake are made to incorrectly state his action, may correct them.

The court does not pass upon the merits of the claims, but compels action on the part of the state auditor, that the merits may be examined in the manner provided by law. The case was brought on a prayer to compel the auditor to pass upon the claims and either allow or disallow them.

JAIL BREAKING AT Seward.

SEWARD, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Three prisoners, who were confined in the county jail awaiting trial at the coming term of district court, made their escape last night between the hours of 9 and 10 by cutting a hole in the floor and going out through the sewer box, and at this writing have not been apprehended, although the sheriff with a posse and a pack of hounds are scouring the country after them. One of them is charged with robbing chickens and the other two with robbing a shoe store at Milford.

Transfers at the Agency.

OMAHA AGENCY, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—A number of transfers have been made here at the government school. Superintendent McArthur and wife went to Arizona; the principal teacher, Miss Zoell, to Montana; Mr. and Mrs. Wright, the former industrial farmer and the latter seamstress, to Dakota. The new appointees are arriving preparatory to the winter work. This school has improved wonderfully from an educational point of view and in many other ways in the last few years.

END OF THE NEWS.

LAKE QUINNEBAUGH, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Summer campers at Lake Quinnebaugh have pulled stakes and gone home. The season is about over for hot weather sport. Fishing is fair, however, and hunting is beginning to get good. Ducks in small flocks are flying over and hovering near the lake. The few hunters are camped here and there, up and down the bank. Usually in the fall ducks and geese are very plentiful up this way.

Names Senatorial Candidate.

EMERSON, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The senatorial convention met here today and appointed John Lemon of Pender chairman and John Sides of Dakota City secretary. On the informal ballot Judge H. J. Miller of Hartington received 17 votes, Lemon of Pender 6, Wheeler of Wakefield 11 votes, after which Judge H. J. Miller of Hartington was elected by acclamation.

COUNTY FAIR.

CLAY CENTER, Neb., Sept. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—The county fair is open this week and is being opened by the presence of T. J. Majors addressed the crowd. General Russell followed with a patriotic address.

Mr. Russell spoke with much feeling, especially when alluding to the lads who went into the army to fight Spain. This afternoon Judge M. L. Hayward, Paul Vandervoort, Judge Britt and Hon. R. D. Sutherland comprised the list of speakers. Judge Hayward compared the camp life of the boys to that of the boys of '98. Mr. Britt's speech was that he, too, had been a carefree student of recent history. R. D. Sutherland told of his visits to the home of General Robert E. Lee, the confederate commander.

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