

HOLCOMB TRIES TO EXPLAIN

Ex-Governor Makes a Public Statement on the House Rent Deal.

PAYS ONLY THIRTY DOLLARS A MONTH

Excuses Himself by Asserting that He Drew Less from Rent Than Any of His Predecessors in Office.

LINCOLN, July 29.—(Special.)—Ex-Governor Holcomb today gave the press for publication the statement that he announced some time ago would show where every dollar of the house rent money was expended. In this communication he admits having paid Mrs. Gould only \$30 per month and fails to state whether the excess was expended for repairs and maintenance of the house and grounds. In this connection he says: "I furnished and refitted the house throughout and was to pay for all expenses of repairs, improvements, caring for and keeping up the grounds and buildings on the premises. This arrangement continued until December, 1897. He closes his communication by excusing himself on the grounds that he drew less per month from the house rent appropriation than any of his predecessors, notwithstanding the fact that he admits in another portion of the letter that Governor Crouse raised to account from the state for the payment of house rent.

Holcomb's Statement. Following is the statement prepared by ex-Governor Holcomb: It is said that a truth half told is worse than a lie. There is much merit in the saying, and this is the unenviable position the gentlemen known as the Front Investigating committee have placed me in. I am involved in a controversy because their actions are inspired by shameful partisan motives. They could appropriately be called the maligning committee. I have been made the special object of their venomous attacks in an unjustifiable effort to cast obliquely upon me. They have entirely ignored the objects of the resolution under which they pretend to act in order to, if possible, manufacture capital for the party they so willingly serve. The palpably false reports which they have been instrumental in giving circulation have been judged by the public with the partisanship of the state and served to their readers in every conceivable form. I shall be greatly surprised if the editors of these same papers shall, in fairness to me, give to their readers my statement regarding the matter. While I am not willing that my actions should be judged by men who are blinded by partisan prejudice to all sense of fairness or by a partisan press, I always have been, and now am, determined that the people of the state shall know my every official act while serving them as their public servant. As to the criticisms which have been made regarding the legislative appropriation for house rent, I submit the following statement: The legislature of 1889 first made an appropriation for house rent for the governor. It appropriated \$2,000 for the period of two years. The appropriation became available April 1, 1889. On the 16th of the same month the entire sum of \$2,000 was drawn by Governor Thayer, who was then chief executive of the state. This sum, for the remainder of his term, was at the rate of a little over \$35 per month. I am not personally informed whether the governor lived in rented property or occupied a residence of his own. In 1891 the legislature again appropriated \$2,000 for the biennium. This sum, except \$250, was drawn out by Governor Thayer and Governor Boyd, who each occupied the executive chair during the period covered by the appropriation. The funds appropriated were drawn quarterly at the rate of \$250 per quarter of \$31.25 per month. Governor Thayer drew \$500, 2500 May 12, 1891, and \$250 November 5, 1891. Governor Boyd drew \$1,250, \$250 being drawn on each of the following dates: April 29, 1892; March 26, 1892; April 28, 1892; July 2, 1892; and September 29, 1892. Just what disposition was made of the funds I am unable to speak from personal knowledge. The legislature of 1893 made another appropriation of \$2,000, which was disapproved by Governor Crouse. Governor Crouse did not, however, maintain a family residence in Lincoln during his term as governor. The legislature of 1895 made an appropriation for house rent, but reduced the amount from \$2,000, the sum before appropriation, to \$1,500. I was then governor. After a thorough search for a suitable residence, I selected property furnished and ready for occupancy belonging to a Mr. Crandall and situated some ten blocks from the Capitol. I resided in this property until the middle of October, 1895, and paid Mr. Crandall \$60 per month, and drew only this amount of money from the appropriation. I then found I could secure a more desirable residence property a block further away, which to me and my family seemed more suitable to our needs. The house was somewhat larger, the rooms better arranged and the grounds much more spacious. The house, however, had not been provided with modern conveniences. I arranged with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gould, to take this property for a year in the condition in which it then was and to pay them therefor \$30 per month. I furnished and refitted the house throughout and was to pay for all expenses of repairs, improvements, caring for and keeping up the grounds and buildings on the premises. This arrangement continued until December, 1897. I drew from the appropriation for two and one-half months in 1895, at the rate of \$60 per month, the same amount I had been paying Mr. Crandall. I drew from the appropriation for 1896 \$60, or a little over \$54 per month. This was unable to pay, and in 1897, how my actions in this regard could merit criticism if, by the change, I was enabled to procure a more suitable and satisfactory residence property and at a less expenditure from the appropriation than I was compelled to pay in the first instance. It did not during this time draw more of the appropriation than I was justly entitled to. In fact, I drew less than I might have done with perfect propriety and entirely within the intention and spirit of the appropriation act. In the fall of 1896 I had some changes made in the premises and made further arrangements with Mr. Gould for the continued occupancy of the premises. During the year of 1897 I paid him for the use of the premises \$450, or \$40 per month, he paying for repairs, etc. I drew this amount and no more from the appropriation for that year. At the close of 1897 we made some further changes and remodeling of the premises and I arranged for the occupancy of the same for another year for the sum of \$50 per month. During the year 1898 and until the close of the year I drew from the appropriation \$633.30. I paid to Mr. Gould as rental this entire amount, except \$115 which I paid out for necessary repairs. These appropriations were not drawn in advance, except during the year 1895, when I drew in advance from Mr. Crandall. Of the first appropriation of \$2,000, \$190 was not used by me and lapsed into the treasury. At the close of my term of office there remained unexpended of the second appropriation \$506.70, or a total unexpended sum of the two appropriations of \$696.70. I endeavored to use these appropriations as economically as was in my power, and feel that I have done so reasonably well. I have used far less per month than any other governor of the state. Had I drawn the precedent set by my predecessors and drawn all the appropriation, I presume I should have been applauded as having done a very proper act by those who are now criticizing. If the contemptible littleness that has been displayed by the gentlemen responsible for the false reports and a partisan press should prevail, it probably would have been better for me to have gone to the suburbs of the city, rented a nice cottage of five or six rooms and maintained it as the residence of the chief executive of the state. But I do not believe such is the spirit of the fair-minded people of this state, and feel that the intention of the legislature making the appropriation. LINCOLN, Neb., July 27, 1899. SILAS A. HOLCOMB.

Expenses for Rent. The following is a statement of appropriations made by the legislature of Nebraska to pay house rent for the governor: Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1889, to March 31, 1891, \$2,000.00. Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1891, to March 31, 1893, \$2,000.00. EXPENDITURES: May 12, 1891, Anna C. Crandall, warrant No. 96412, \$500.00. July 1, 1891, Anna C. Crandall, warrant No. 96386, \$250.00. September 29, 1891, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 96922, \$150.00. March 3, 1892, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 93206, \$250.00. December 29, 1892, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 97562, \$250.00. August 27, 1892, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 94481, \$120.00. \$1,750.00. Balance lapsed back into treasury \$ 150.00. Appropriation for the biennium April 1, 1895, to March 31, 1897, \$1,500.00. EXPENDITURES: December 24, 1897, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 93960, \$300.00. May 12, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 92114, \$250.00. August 8, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 92277, \$100.00. December 21, 1898, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 92446, \$200.00. January 7, 1899, Silas A. Holcomb, warrant No. 92573, \$50.00. \$900.00. Balance lapsed back into treasury \$ 600.00. State of Nebraska, Lancaster County, ss: I, C. C. Pool, deputy state auditor of Nebraska, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true statement of the appropriations made by the legislature of Nebraska to pay house rent for the governor and the expenditures made from the same as shown by the records in this office. Witness my hand and seal this 29th day of July, 1899. C. C. POOL, Deputy State Auditor.

Summary of Land Sales. Land Commissioner Wolfe has completed a tour of leasing school land under the new school law in the counties named below and gives the following statement showing the result of his efforts on this tour in behalf of the school children: In Dawes county he offered for lease 25,580 and leased 25,420 acres at an average valuation of 33 cents per acre. In Hamilton county he offered 34,100 acres and leased 32,230 acres at an average valuation of \$1.02 per acre and some of the land was leased at the present appraisal and for a cash bonus of \$2.54. In Wheeler county he offered and leased at that value—\$8,957 acres—at an average valuation of 71 cents per acre and on three pieces secured a cash bonus of \$230. In Antelope county he offered 1,640 acres and leased 1,480 acres at an average valuation of \$1.48 per acre and secured a bonus of \$19. In Pierce county he offered 2,100 acres and leased 1,700 at an average valuation of \$3.11 per acre. In Keya Paha he offered and leased all that was vacant—18,183 acres—at a valuation of 77 cents per acre and received in addition cash bonuses amounting to \$701. In Brown county he offered 28,840 acres and

leased 18,049 acres at an average valuation of 33 cents per acre. In Rock county he offered 21,120 acres and leased 5,760 acres at an average valuation of 33 cents per acre. In this tour Land Commissioner Wolfe offered for lease 139,410 acres of school lands and leased 129,919 acres of the same at an average valuation of 77 cents per acre. All school lands draw an annual rental 6 per cent of the appraised value. The lands leased at these auctions will yield to the state for the benefit of the temporary school fund an annual rental of \$5,750. These contracts run for twenty-five years, provided the rental is kept up. The lessees have been allowed the privilege, under the law, to set their own value thereon, in competition with others desiring to use the same. And the state has the right, whenever it is thought that the appraisement is lower than the true value of the land, to make a new appraisement. Expenses of Candidates. Statements showing the amount of money expended in securing nominations were filed with the secretary of state today by several candidates for judicial office in Omaha. Several of the candidates state under oath that they incurred no indebtedness and paid nothing whatever in their attempt to secure nomination. The expenses of Irving G. Baxter amounted to \$11, divided about equally and including a membership fee to a political organization, a subscription to a newspaper and live wire. Charles F. Dickenson spent \$9.75 for accommodations at hotels. L. D. Holmes itemized his expense account as follows: Cards, \$4.50; postage, \$4.25; livery, \$2.50; street car fare, \$1; admission to entertainers' ball, \$1; and \$1.00 cents. Lee S. Estelle's expenses amount to \$25.50, \$20 of which was paid W. H. Hanchett for primary expenses. W. W. Keyser entertained the Sixth ward delegation at lunch at the Commercial club at an expense of \$25.00. Judges Baker, Fawcett and Holmes are slugs, who incurred no expense by reason of their candidacy. Judges E. P. Holmes and Lincoln Frost have also filed itemized statements of their expenses, the former's being \$3.88, while the latter paid out \$44 for campaign expense.

FARMERS WELCOME THE RAIN. Recent Precipitations Will Insure One of the Finest Crops Ever Harvested in Nebraska. SUPERIOR, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—This section of Nebraska was favored with a heavy rain last night, and with the ground and crops in their present excellent condition there can hardly fail to be a heavy crop. The precipitation was in the form of a steady rain, which continued without intermission from the 15th to the 28th, a period of twelve days. This was unmarked by hot winds and the crop is now in the finest condition. Two weeks more of favorable weather will make the fair-weather crop of this year a heavy one. The indications of the rain seem to have been general over the country. FAIRMONT, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—For the last ten days it has been very hot and dry. Farmers were feeling blue about the crop until a heavy rain commenced to rain about 10 o'clock and rained steadily. Wheat is threshing out from fifteen to thirty bushels per acre, oats from twenty-five to forty and barley as high as fifty. The farmers here are feeling jubilant over the prospect.

Grand Reception to Company C. BEATRICE, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—Preparations for the reception of Company C upon the return of the First Nebraska regiment from the Philippines continue to be made. At a meeting of the executive committee last evening a committee of two ladies from each of the six wards was appointed to solicit for the banquet which is to be given to the returning company. It has also been arranged that immediately upon notice of the arrival of the transport Hancock in San Francisco bay all the steam whistles in Beatrice will be blown for ten minutes. In the Midst of the Harvest. GOTHENBURG, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—It rained here last evening and fully half an inch of water fell. With the rain during the first of the week in light showers it puts the corn crop in splendid condition and the farmers predict double the crop of one year ago. The farmers are in the midst of their wheat harvest. Irrigated corn is making a splendid growth and promises a yield of from sixty to eighty bushels per acre. The fall wheat threshed is of a much better quality than the last year's crop and is bringing the top market price. Bulletin Lodges in the Brain. FALLS CITY, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—The rain visit this section last night. The precipitation was about one inch. This insures the largest corn crop ever raised in Otoe county. YORK, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—There was a fine rain last night, which nearly assures York county one of the largest yields of corn in the history of the county. Threshing machines are threshing oats, wheat and barley, and reports of yields are good. HASTINGS, Neb., July 29.—(Special Telegram.)—A good, heavy rain soaked the corn fields of Adams county last night and this morning. This puts the corn in the best of condition and will assist in giving Adams county the largest corn crop it has ever had. OXFORD, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—One inch of water fell here last night and one of the biggest corn crops ever raised here is now assured. HARVARD, Neb., July 29.—Another fine rain of a quarter of an inch fell last night. This gives during the last three days a little more than three-quarters of an inch of water, and as it has come slowly and steadily it has done good to the growing crops, especially corn and grass, which will get full benefit and be greatly improved by this rain. MINDEN, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—A fine rain fell in this section last night, which insures the largest corn crop of the year. The farmers are in a thrush and winter wheat is turning out a good yield and fine quality. BEATRICE, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—Rain lasting an hour fell here last evening and at intervals during the night. Everybody is jubilant for this rain assures the corn crop beyond a doubt. WESTERN, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—There was a fine rain last night, which will be of great benefit to the corn crop, which from present prospects promises to be an immense crop. Wheat is being cut from ten to twenty-four bushels per acre and is testing as high as sixty-two and one-half pounds to the bushel. Oats are very good and full weight. CAMBRIDGE, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—There was a splendid rain of .91 inch last evening, making nearly three inches of rain which has fallen during the last week. This makes certain the largest corn crop in the history of western Nebraska. Conservative estimates place the yield of corn from fifty to eighty bushels per acre, and the average of corn is much greater than that of previous years. Wheat, oats and barley are yielding much better than at first expected. Alfalfa is in excellent condition, from many of the fields in the Republican Valley the owners having already cut the third crop. The yield is about 40 tons at a cutting. Although, western Nebraska never before saw such a general state of prosperity. The mortgages released last month amounted to \$142,000, as against \$80,000 in May. Money is plenty and the usual rates at which farm loans are negotiated are 6 and 8 per cent. In strong contrast to the usurious rates prevalent a few years back. EDGAR, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—A heavy thunderstorm last night, from about 10 o'clock to midnight, gave a little more than half an inch of rain. The ground is very moist. No rain had fallen here in more than two weeks, and the crops were beginning to suffer. In fact, everything began to look as though a real drought was prevailing. But the outlook now is bright for a good corn crop. CULBERTSON, Neb., July 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Crops in this vicinity were benefited by several small showers, which fell today and yesterday. Yesterday nearly an inch of rain fell. A severe windstorm accompanied yesterday's rain, carrying the large steel floor of the new school building over 100 yards, damaging it to a great extent. Lecture by F. McClure Chaffer. HARVARD, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—On Thursday evening Prof. F. McClure Chaffer, recently of Yale university, gave his lecture, "Talkers and Listeners," at the Congregational church before the teachers attending the institute and citizens of Harvard. Good Show for the Republicans. SUPERIOR, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—The democratic and populist central committees met in Nelson yesterday to devise some plan to avert coming disaster at the

polls this fall. Many of the middle-of-the-roads declare that they will no longer be a tail for the democratic kite. The pops have about 1,000 to 1,100 votes in the county, while the democrats have only about 300, yet only the seven members have a majority of the officers. With a good clean ticket, the republicans of Nekeels county will stand a good chance of riding it of the pseudo reform element with which it has so long been afflicted. INCREASED ELEVATOR CAPACITY. Several New Grain Elevators to Be Put Up at St. Edward. ST. EDWARD, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—The Shelly-Westbrook Elevator company of Omaha are trying to buy one of the elevators at this place, but it is understood that the only one they can buy is a large one right away. The Omaha Elevator company have had the sidetrack surveyed at Woodville, a flag station six miles south of St. Edward, where they will build an elevator of 10,000 bushels capacity. A store will be built on the site. The Shelly-Westbrook Elevator company have let the contract to build a 10,000 bushel capacity elevator at Boone. He has one of 20,000 capacity at this place now. The Nebraska Telephone company will in the near future connect this place with Genoa. The line will run north to Alton. The material has been ordered and the line will be in working order by Thanksgiving. The Boone County Epworth League association will hold a two-day session at this place August 26 and 27. Topics of interest will be the doctrine of the Trinity and the prospect for the largest crop in the history of the county in 1899. What harvest is about over and steam threshers are busy in many parts. The oat crop is the heaviest for many years and a portion is already in the shock. With the revival of business so noticeable throughout the state has begun in Western Nebraska. Among the more valuable additions so far this summer are a \$1,000 church by the Swedish Baptists and a \$3,000 residence by Frank Hakel, general merchandise dealer, both being now under construction. Church Choir Returns Home. BEATRICE, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—The choir of Holy Trinity church, Lincoln, after spending a ten days' vacation in camp at the Cheyenne grounds, left for home today. Their stay here was a pleasant one. While here they were several times entertained at the homes of citizens and the choir gave two or three concerts at the grounds, which were well attended. Rev. Eason of Holy Trinity church, Lincoln, was organist, choir-master, accompanied the party. The weather was pleasant during their entire stay, with the exception of the rain last night. Grand Reception to Company C. BEATRICE, Neb., July 29.—(Special.)—Preparations for the reception of Company C upon the return of the First Nebraska regiment from the Philippines continue to be made. At a meeting of the executive committee last evening a committee of two ladies from each of the six wards was appointed to solicit for the banquet which is to be given to the returning company. It has also been arranged that immediately upon notice of the arrival of the transport Hancock in San Francisco bay all the steam whistles in Beatrice will be blown for ten minutes. Rival Camps Put Aside Bitterness and Join Fortunes Under Name Chosen by Postoffice Department. NOME, Alaska, July 16, via San Francisco. —This camp is to be spared the rivalry that usually exists between the towns striving for supremacy. Anvil City, situated near the mouth of Snake river, and Nome City, at the mouth of the Nome river, are about four miles apart and from the start the former took the lead because of its proximity to the rich claims on Anvil creek, a branch of the Snake river. A towassie was staked out and several merchants sent out for stationary bearing the name Anvil City, having every assurance that the name would not be changed. In the meantime Nome City was gradually expanding and it was freely predicted that before the summer should be away the two cities would merge into one. This result was unexpectedly precipitated, however, by the Postoffice department establishing a postoffice and naming it Nome. Fearing that a contest might result in the office being named after the town of Anvil City consented to call the camp Nome. When the beach between Snake and Nome rivers is built up it will present a fine sight as a city, standing well above the level of the sea and presenting an unbroken stretch of country. Several large buildings are contemplated and will be erected as soon as lumber in large quantities arrives. CAUGHT IN A TERRIFIC GALE. Rowboat Upset in the Bay at Ashland, Wis., and Three Persons Drowned. ASHLAND, Wis., July 29.—A rowboat containing W. C. Ott, Mr. and Miss Boynton was caught in the terrific gale which prevailed for two hours on Chequamegon bay last night. All three were drowned and the bodies have not yet been recovered. Mr. Ott was a resident of Chicago and was here on a visit. FORECAST OF THE WEATHER. Threatening and Warmer in Nebraska Today, to Be Followed by Showers and Variable Winds. WASHINGTON, July 29.—Forecast for Sunday and Monday: For Nebraska—Threatening and warmer Sunday; with showers in extreme western portion; probably showers Monday; variable winds. For Iowa—Threatening Sunday; with warmer in western portion; showers Monday; variable winds, becoming southerly. For Kansas—Showers Sunday, with warmer in eastern portion; threatening Monday; southerly winds. For Wyoming—Showers and warmer Sunday; threatening Monday; variable winds. Local Record. OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU, OMAHA, July 29.—Omaha record of temperature and precipitation compared with the corresponding day of the last three years: 1899 1898 1897 1896. Maximum temperature... 71 56 55 53. Minimum temperature... 50 50 51 47. Average temperature... 62 56 56 56. Precipitation... .99 .42 .59 .39. Record of temperature and precipitation at Omaha for this day and since March 1, 1899: Normal for the day... 61.00. Excess or deficiency for the day... 7.00. Deficiency since March 1... 27.00. Normal rainfall for the day... .13 inch. Deficiency for the day... .13 inch. Total rainfall since March 1... 34.62 inches. Deficiency since March 1... 5.12 inches. Deficiency for year period 1897-1899... 6.42 inches. Deficiency for year period 1896-1899... 10.75 inches. Local Forecast Official.

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