

COWIE BECOMES DEFIANT

Refuses to Obey Behest of School Board's Investigating Committee.

METHOD OF INQUIRY IS SAID TO BE UNFAIR

Important Testimony Is Introduced at Opening Session Relative to Placing Order for Venetian Blinds.

The investigating committee of the Board of Education, whose task promised to be a perfunctory inquiry into the letting of contracts, adjourned its morning session on the brink of a session when Arthur M. Cowie, chairman of the committee, on the buildings and the left stand on the advice of his attorney and refused to return. In his official capacity Mr. Cowie has had considerable to do with the placing of important orders, and the proceedings developed into an inquiry into his personal relations with contractors. Testimony was introduced of a rather startling nature and Cowie resented the implied doubt as to the integrity of his conduct. He inquired whether any specific charges had been made against him. Chairman Barnard of the committee explained that it was simply the purpose of the board to reach the facts and that there was no intention of persecuting any witness.

Attorney Hanson responded that the proceedings were an outrage upon his client. He said that he would advise Mr. Cowie not to appear at further meetings conducted on such a basis. The witness, he said, was placed in the attitude of a defendant without any official charges, except in whisperings and in the minds of the attorneys conducting the examination.

Mission of the Committee.

The session yesterday morning was the first held by the committee which was appointed on January 1 to investigate any charges of "bribery, corruption or undue influence" which might be brought before it. The committee, appointed by President Burgess, is made up of Members Barnard, chairman; Johnson, secretary, and Smith. Its principal concern is with the contracts, relative to Venetian blinds and blackboards for the three new school buildings, and with the employment of John McDonald as official architect. The inquiry was conducted by Attorney C. C. Wright.

Mr. Cowie was first interrogated as to his connection with the McDonald contract and bond. He said that he had made every honorable effort to secure the appointment of John McDonald as official architect, not because of personal friendship and because he considered him a competent person.

"I had conversations with every member of the board on the subject," said Mr. Cowie, "and there was no doubt as to my position in the matter. The appointment did not carry with it any direct remuneration, but only 5 per cent of such contracts as might be undertaken for new buildings."

"Did McDonald offer \$400 or any other amount for your influence?" asked Mr. Wright.

"No such proposal was ever broached," answered the witness.

"Did Architect Latenser ever have any conversation with you regarding his own candidacy for the appointment?" inquired the attorney.

"Mr. Latenser called at my office four times with reference to the matter," said Cowie, "and on the first occasion I explained my position as a friend of McDonald."

"Did he ever make you any consideration?" "I don't remember," he ever did."

Heating Contract Looked Into.

The inquiry then proceeded to the heating contract for the Saunders school. Mr. Cowie said that several of his committee had gone to Kansas City to inspect the High school heating plant there, but he did not know that they had been enlisted with transportation by the American Warming and Ventilating company.

The committee then considered the purchase of blinds for the three new buildings, and a scene of excitement ensued. Mr. Cowie first described the method which had been employed in placing the order. The matter had been referred to the committee on buildings and property on December 7, following information by Superintendent of Buildings Banker that the windows should be provided with shades. No bids had been advertised for, said Mr. Cowie, as his committee had no such authority. He had looked into the matter to some extent, however, and obtained two quotations, one of 28 cents per square foot and one of 15 cents.

On inquiry of Banker and Superintendent Latenser, Cowie said that the latter price was exceedingly low. On that ground alone, he said, he advocated making the purchase of Dodge & Co., of Chicago, agents for the Wilson blinds, and the order was accordingly placed.

"Did Dodge & Co. quote you a private price of 9 cents per foot?" was asked.

"No, they did not," said Cowie.

"Did you go to Chicago with reference to the purchase," asked Wright.

"I had other business there," said Cowie, "and wrote Dodge & Co. that I should be glad to call and examine their goods."

"Did you communicate with the company further on the subject?" asked the attorney.

"I may have done so," answered Cowie.

Cowie's Telegram is read.

"Did you send them the following telegram?" said Wright, reading the words with visible excitement. "Your letter received. Looks good. Do you want me to come to Chicago, tonight?" Answered quickly:

"I may have sent a message of that sort. My purpose was to ascertain whether they would furnish me with transportation, just as I might have applied to anybody else."

"Did they send you in return the following telegram?" asked Wright. "Price quoted, rock bottom, no money allowed for expenses. Come if you like?"

"I have no recollection of such a message," replied the witness.

The subject of blackboards was then referred to and the prosecution endeavored to connect Cowie with the transaction in an unfavorable light. Mr. Wright asked whether the witness was not on excellent terms with Buckminster & Co., the successful bidders. He replied that he knew Buckminster and entertained a friendly feeling for him.

Conversation with Buckminster.

Mr. Cowie was asked to detail his movements on New Year's night after the board meeting at which the investigating committee had been appointed. He related that he had met Buckminster on the night in question and had walked with him from the sixteenth and Farnam streets to Thirtieth, where Buckminster left him to return to his hotel. Regarding the conversation which passed Cowie said it touched upon the proposed investigation, Buckminster expressing his pleasure that there was nothing in his case to investigate.

"Did you make an appointment to meet him in the rear room of a saloon and proceed to the rendezvous by different routes?" asked Wright.

"No, sir, we did not," replied Cowie.

"Did you enter a telegraph office to file a message regarding the proposed investigation?" continued the attorney.

"I decline to answer that question," said Cowie; "that is my private business."

Witness Declines to Answer.

Several other questions were asked along the same line and the witness refused to answer on the ground that such matters were not the concern of the committee. Attorney Hanson then interposed, protesting against the line of questioning. A spirited passage occurred between the attorneys,

during which the witness left the chair. Hanson said that he would instruct his client not to submit to further persecution and Chairman Barnard called Cowie back to inquire whether he would be present at the afternoon session on the demand of the committee. Cowie, however, refused to resume his seat and left the room in company with his attorney.

Cowie Refuses to Appear.

When the committee convened at 2 p. m. a statement was made by Jeffrey and Hanson, representing A. M. Cowie. Cowie's legal advisers explained that inasmuch as no charges had been filed against their client they had advised him not to appear at any further sessions of the committee. Chairman Barnard said in reply that the committee had no power to file charges, that its duty consisted simply in the investigation of such matters as might be brought to its attention. Attorney Wright, acting for the committee, will make no effort to force the witness to appear. He says that if Mr. Cowie wishes to place himself in the attitude of having something to conceal that he will allow him that option.

The afternoon was occupied with the testimony of Secretary Gillan of the Board of Education. Mr. Gillan read the proceedings of the board relative to the letting of the contracts under consideration. The history of the McDonald bond and contract was also related, and the mass of routine evidence was transcribed on the record. Mr. Gillan also threw light on a number of questions of fact relative to the solicitation of bids for blackboards and other material.

The committee adjourned until this morning at 9:30 o'clock in order that witnesses from out of the city may be secured.

HAYDEN BROS.

Grocery Bargains.

New evaporated peaches, worth 15c per pound, only 8c. New California prunes, worth 10c per pound, 5c. New California Moor park apricots, 12c. New Sultana seedless raisins, 9c. New seeded raisins, 7c. 15c pkgs, 9c. New raspberries, evaporated, 15c per pound. New cleaned green currents, 7c per pound. New 3-crown raisins, 7c per pound. Soda or oyster crackers, 4c per pound. Three fancy crackers for 10c.

BUTTER DEPARTMENT.

Fancy roll butter, better than creamery, 17c per pound. Fancy creamery butter, 22c, 24c and 25c. Fancy dairy butter, 16c, 17c and 18c. Full cream cheese, per pound, 12c. Ten pounds pure buckwheat, 27c. Pillsbury's vitals, the new food package, 10c. Clam chowder, 3-pound cans, 17c.

HAYDEN BROS.

JUDGE GROFF'S GOOD LUCK

Former Omaha Attorney and Jurist Is to Be Made Postmaster at Los Angeles.

Judge Lewis A. Groff, who was formerly a lawyer in this city, and at one time a judge of the district court, has been endorsed for postmaster at Los Angeles, Cal., by the congressman of his district, Judge Groff removed to Los Angeles in 1897, and at once became prominent there, as he was here.

Decides to Remain in Omaha.

Mr. Fred Paffenrath, manager for Nicolli The Tailor, who has been contemplating moving to St. Louis, has concluded to remain in Omaha. Mr. Paffenrath was offered the general management of the Nicolli The Tailor establishments, with headquarters at St. Louis, and recently made a trip to that point to look over the prospective situation, but after mature deliberation, decided to remain in Omaha.

Runs every day in the year.

"The Overland Limited"

You can leave Omaha on this train, after breakfast, and reach the Pacific Coast as soon as those who leave via other routes the day before.

BUFFET, SMOKING AND LIBRARY CARS, with Barber Shop, DOUBLE DRAWING ROOM PALACE SLEEPERS, DINING CARS, Meals a la Carte, PINTSCH LIGHT, STEAM HEAT, ETC.

CITY TICKET OFFICE, 1302 FARNAM STREET, TELEPHONE 316.

HYOMEI DYSPEPSIA CURE 40c

Our Price.
 1c Hyomei Inhaler, complete.....40c
 2c Hyomei Inhaler (liquid only).....40c
 25c Hyomei Balm (salve).....25c
 25c Hyomei Inhaler (Liquid Alum).....25c
 25c Hyomei Balm, special.....40c
 PLEASANTLY GIVE IT TO YOUR DRUGGISTS at WHOLESALE—send and get it—don't be misled—we are regular "people-makers" and are bound to return GOOD FOR EVIL.

Our Price.

25c Brown's Camp, Tooth Powder.....25c
 25c Graves' Tooth Paste.....25c
 25c Pozzoni's Powder.....25c
 25c Moler's Cod Liver Oil.....25c
 \$1.00 Scott's Emulsion.....75c
 25c Packer's Tar Soap.....25c
 25c Extract of Leaf.....25c
 \$1.00 Mattine Preparations.....75c
 \$1.00 Klimer's Swamp Root.....75c
 \$1.00 Yale's Preparation.....75c
 25c Morrow's Kidney Pills.....25c
 50c Doan's Kidney Pills.....50c
 Write for our Catalogue showing our CUT PRICES.

SHERMAN & M'CONNELL DRUG CO.

(Middle-of-the-Block) 1513 Dodge St. After a few days S. W. Cor. 16th and Dodge

Rats and Roaches

Since starting the furnaces you have noticed an increase in these annoying pests, especially ROACHES, around the hot water pipes. We can clear every one of them out. We have the stuff. It is non-poisonous—just lay it around the sink or on the pantry shelves and in a week the thing is done. It comes in cans at 50c and is positively guaranteed. It is

ECIFFO

Several other questions were asked along the same line and the witness refused to answer on the ground that such matters were not the concern of the committee. Attorney Hanson then interposed, protesting against the line of questioning. A spirited passage occurred between the attorneys,

J. A. FULLER & CO

14th and Douglas St.

BOSTON STORE CLEARING SALE

Still Grand Bargains in Ladies' and Children's Cloaks and Furs for Today.

LADIES' 75c CORSETS AT 29c

25c Silk Ruching to \$1.50 Ladies' Kid Gloves 25c-75c Ladies' Cashmere and Silk Gloves 15c-\$1.00 Ladies' Wrappers, 50c.

75c LADIES' CORSETS, 29c. Ladies' perfect fitting corsets, lace and silk ribbon trimmed, extra well bound, made of best quality French coutille, different lengths, all sizes, worth up to 75c, go at 29c.

25c SILK RUCHING, 10 YD. 100 pieces all styles, plain white, black, cream and fancy colored silk ruching and crepe lace ruching, worth up to 25c, go at 10c yard.

1.50 KID GLOVES, 25c. Every kid glove in our house that is slightly mussed or soiled, black and all colors, worth up to \$1.50, go in this sale at 25c pair.

50c AND 75c GLOVES, 15c PAIR. 1,000 pair Jersey gloves, including ladies' imported all wool cashmere, silk taffeta and fancy golf gloves, worth up to 75c, in this sale 15c pair.

Immense lots of ladies' Jersey-ribbed undergarments, many different styles, go at 15c each, worth 25c.

All the misses', children's and boys' natural wool and camel's hair underwear, all sizes, worth 25c, go at 10c.

\$1.50 LADIES' JACKETS, \$2.50. \$5.00, \$7.50, Ladies' jackets in blue and black kersey, fine mixtures, boucle, beaver, etc., many silk lined throughout, for this clearing sale, \$2.50.

100 ladies' fine silk lined jackets, in fancy chevrons, kersey, covert cloth, in brown, castor, tan and black, worth not less than \$10.00, go at \$7.50.

\$15.00 LADIES' JACKETS, \$5.00. Choice of 500 ladies' fine kersey jackets, also covert and fancy mixtures, in blue, castor, black, brown, etc., silk lined throughout, worth up to \$15.00, go at \$5.00.

\$5.00 CHILDREN'S AND MISSES' JACKETS, \$1.50 AND \$1.00. All the 500 children's and misses' jackets in plaids, fancy mixtures, reds, blues, etc., all sizes from 4 to 14, go at \$1.50 and \$1.00.

All the children's Gretchen's that sold up to \$5.00, made in the latest effects, on sale at \$1.98.

\$10.00 COLLARITIES, \$2.98. Ladies' fine collarities in electric seal, astrakhan and combination, worth up to \$10.00, go at \$2.98.

One lot of thibet scarfs, trimmed with fluster of talls, worth \$5.00, in this sale at 98c.

All the terehon lace and insertion, extra fine quality, new patterns, go at 15c, 35c and 5c, worth up to 25c.

Big bargains in all the fine embroidery, including Swiss, nainsook, Jaconet and cambric, worth up to 75c yard, go at 25c, 5c, 10c and 15c yard.

BARGAINS IN BASEMENT.

10 yard print dress patterns, all new spring shades, go at 30c pattern, worth 75c.

10c Turkish towels, extra large size, 5c each.

25c dresser scarfs and lunch cloths, 15c each.

95c art denim stand covers at 45c each.

15c extra large, red and white checked towels, 2c each.

All of our 2 1/2 cotton toweling at 1c yard.

20c infants' booties at 12c pair.

12-4 extra heavy crocheted bed spreads, worth \$1.00, go at 60c each.

12-4 Mitchelline Marsalled bed spreads go at 85c each, worth \$2.50.

One big lot of extra fine, all linen, full bleached napkins, worth \$1.50, go at 85c doz.

BOSTON STORE, OMAHA,

16TH & DOUGLAS STS.

UNION PACIFIC OVERLAND ROUTE

WORLD'S PICTORIAL LINE

Runs every day in the year.

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You can leave Omaha on this train, after breakfast, and reach the Pacific Coast as soon as those who leave via other routes the day before.

BUFFET, SMOKING AND LIBRARY CARS, with Barber Shop, DOUBLE DRAWING ROOM PALACE SLEEPERS, DINING CARS, Meals a la Carte, PINTSCH LIGHT, STEAM HEAT, ETC.

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 25c Hyomei Balm, special.....40c
 PLEASANTLY GIVE IT TO YOUR DRUGGISTS at WHOLESALE—send and get it—don't be misled—we are regular "people-makers" and are bound to return GOOD FOR EVIL.

HAYDEN BROS.

The Most Successful Linen Sale the Big Store Ever Held.

Is going on now. Customers leaving satisfied and are not slow in expressing their opinion about our stock and prices: \$1.75, 10-4, \$2.25, 12-4, \$2.75. These prices mean for a new line of silver bleached pattern cloths, all linen napkins to match, \$2.50 doz; \$-4, \$1.00; 10-4, \$1.25; 12-4, \$1.50; these prices for pattern cloths, 70-inch wide, with napkins to match, \$1.25 doz; \$2.50 and \$3.00 hemstitched cloths and napkins to match; 60-inch cream damask, all linen, reduced to 25c yard; 60c bleached linen damask, reduced to 47c yard; 72-inch cream damask, 58c yard; Fruit of Loom muslin and Langdon 75, only 85c yard; fine 36-inch wide long cloth, 10c yard; yard wide cambric, 5c, 6c and 7c yard; ready made shirts and pillow cases in great variety.

\$1.50 white crocheted bed spreads, 98c each, wash tags, 1c each; 6 yards cotton buck twilled for linen towels for 5c, 12 yards for 10c; big towels selling at 5c and 10c each.

DRESS GOODS SALE.

Don't forget to attend our great clearing sale dress goods, reduced from \$2.50 to 50c. Dress goods reduced from \$1.00 to 25c. Cheviots reduced from \$2.25 to 98c. Tailor suiting reduced from \$5.00 to \$2.50.

Priestly's goods are the only genuine black colors on the market; Lansdown finishes for accordion pleating.

IN OUR GREAT JANUARY CLEARING SILK SALE YOU CAN FIND UNNUMERABLE BARGAINS.

\$1.00 all silk twills, in stripes, light shades, for 40c; \$2.00 black Skimmer satin, 36-inch wide, for only \$1.00; \$2.50 black French dress taffeta, very best, only \$1.50; \$1.50 black taffeta, full 36-inch wide, very special, \$1.00; \$2.00 and \$1.50 fancy silk for waists, all styles for 75c. Three bargain blouses, for 40c; \$2.00 black Skimmer satin, 36-inch wide, for only \$1.00; \$2.50 black French dress taffeta, very best, only \$1.50; \$1.50 black taffeta, full 36-inch wide, very special, \$1.00; \$2.00 and \$1.50 fancy silk for waists, all styles for 75c. Three bargain blouses, for 40c; \$2.00 black Skimmer satin, 36-inch wide, for only \$1.00; \$2.50 black French dress taffeta, very best, only \$1.50; \$1.50 black taffeta, full 36-inch wide, very special, \$1.00; \$2.00 and \$1.50 fancy silk for waists, all styles for 75c.

SCHAEFER'S COUGH SYRUP.

20c Bottle. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Croup, Sore Throat, etc. This preparation we make ourselves and in every case when it is used and the patient is not satisfied with the result we will refund the money.

Trust Our Price.

Peruna	50c
West Brain and Nerve	50c
Circle Draft	50c
Bromo Quinine Cure	50c
Dr. Williams' Pink Pills	50c
Ayer's Hair Vigor	50c
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Packer's Tar Soap	50c
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Sassafras	50c
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Alcock's Plasters	50c
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Pears' Scented Soap	50c
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Great January clearing sale of PIANOS and ORGANS

To make room for 5 carloads of pianos bought at a great sacrifice for cash, we quote the following astonishing prices on slightly used uprights and grands, on sample pianos and instruments represented by us in the regular way.

Lyon & Healy Upright	.....	\$ 65
Bilings Upright, ebony case	.....	\$ 85
Story & Camp Upright	.....	\$105
Marshall 48 Wheel Upright	.....	\$125
Fine sample piano, new	.....	\$142
Hallet & Cumston, Kimball & Steinway, A. B. Chase, Vose, Ivers & Pond, Emerson and Peckard pianos at 20 percent discount from regular price.		

We sell new pianos on \$5 monthly payments. Rent, tune and repair pianos. Telephone 1625. Write for catalogues, prices and terms or pay us a visit of inspection and see the wonderful self playing Pianos, the world's greatest musical invention.

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We Sell the Celebrated "Setson" Shoes for Men

The "Setson" is the best shoe made for men—a custom shoe, made with extreme care, fine finish and of the best materials.

They fit with perfect comfort and keep their shape. "Setson" in every pair.

Let us show them to you.

23c for the "Dykes" Rubber Heels or Soles—worth 25c and 50c.

\$1.15 for men's satin calf Lace Shoes, with double attached soles—worth \$2.50.

\$1.38 for men's calf Lace Shoes, with double nail quilted soles, worth \$2.00.

73c for boys' fine Corduroy Leggings, sizes 4 to 10—worth \$1.25.

Bargains in Annex Shoe Department.

65c for misses' kid button and Lace Spring Heel Shoes—sizes 11 to 2—worth \$1.25.

98c for women's kid Button and Lace Shoes, new styles—worth \$2.00.

53c for women's good quality Buckle Arctics—worth \$1.00.

73c for men's good quality Buckle Arctics—worth \$1.25.

HAYDEN BROS.

14th and Douglas St.

engagement. He will return to Omaha before filling engagements in Iowa and Nebraska, which will require a few days. Mr. Debs will go south, where he has a month's work before him. He expressed the belief that labor conditions are gradually reaching a point where satisfactory adjustment will be possible.

The handsome, best built and most artistic line of English Stanhopes, phantoms and buggies ever shown in Omaha is on exhibition at 1420 Dodge until Friday noon.

Half Fare to Fort Worth and Return Via Rock Island Route.

Dates of sale, January 14 to 15. Through train leaves Omaha 5:35 p. m., Lincoln 8 p. m. and Fairbury 10 p. m., and arrives Fort Worth 7:30 p. m. following day. Several hours in time saved. Full information at Rock Island city ticket office, 1232 Farnam street, Omaha.

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—Scotfield's

We must close out all cloaks and furs before going to New York to buy spring goods. Everybody knows our stock represents only this season's goods. We will sell them quickly at these prices. You know it.

One \$9 velvet coat, \$3.00.
 One \$15.00 velvet coat, \$2.00.
 One \$20.00 velvet coat, \$1.50.
 \$30 and \$25 cloth jackets, \$10.00.
 \$10.00, \$12.00 and \$12.50 golf jackets, \$5.00.
 \$14.00, \$20.00 and \$25.00 kersey jackets, \$2.50.
 Astrakhan fur and electric seal coats very cheap. Don't wait for some one else to tell you of these bargains. Come quick and see them yourself.