

Council Bluffs.

MANY ERRORS CAUSE COMMENT

County Affairs and Management General Theme in Bluffs.

UNUSED TO BUSINESS METHODS

Statement of Overcharges Discovered Makes Long List and Discloses Usual Laziness in Handling County Business.

The errors disclosed by the checkers' reports of the irregularities in the county auditor's office was the chief theme of conversation in Council Bluffs yesterday. The action of the Board of County Supervisors in selecting two very capable men to make a full examination of the records in all of the county offices disclosed a condition that brought criticism to the board itself. The board members appear to have been unacquainted with business methods required in the larger enterprises and were guided by the advice given them. The greatest omission appears to have been neglecting to examine into the ditch digging details and not insisting upon vouchers for everything paid out. They relied upon the auditor for guidance. County Surveyor Spelman, who accomplished the remarkable feat of working 424 days in eleven months at \$4 a day and expenses, has been called upon to return pay drawn for 103 days, \$415. During the eleven months he put in 214 days for Pottawattamie county and 220 for Mills county in drainage ditch work.

Statement of Refunds.

Following is a statement made yesterday of the overcharges discovered by the checkers and refunds secured and turned back into the treasury:

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Description. Includes entries for C. H. Leuch, Bert Brown, C. F. Froom, Thomas Kennedy, J. H. Mayne, Sprague Foundry, C. H. Sternberg & Sons, J. C. Kelley, Morchouse & Co., Charlotte Dryden, R. V. Innes, J. M. Tollinger, F. D. Nieman, H. M. Brown, and various other individuals and entities.

Amount Discovered but Uncollected.

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Description. Includes entries for O. J. Larsen, E. E. Cook, Mrs. Mary Bigley, New Nonpareil company, Journal-Herald of Avoca, and various other individuals and entities.

WILLIAM LANA.

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Description. Includes entries for William Lana, L. Green, Sisters of Mercy, April 1909, August 1911, Carbon Coal Co., R. V. Innes, August Sundell, E. E. Stegman, H. A. Quinn, and various other individuals and entities.

Credits.

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Description. Includes entries for J. M. Barstow, A. T. Flickinger, H. H. Gleason, D. Maltby, Theodore Rolphs, Lou Green, Gilbert Haas, Robert Keating, William Lana, and various other individuals and entities.

Real Estate Transfers.

Real estate transfers as reported to the Bee July 14 by the Pottawattamie County Abstract company of Council Bluffs: James W. Kercheval and wife to Charles T. Kercheval, lot 16 in block 24 in Evans' Second bridge addition to Council Bluffs, Ia., w. d. \$1,100. J. R. Owens to Bernard Spitznagel, lot 13 in block 2 Wilson Terrace addition to Council Bluffs, Ia., w. d. \$1,100. Two transfers, total, \$2,200.

Osceola Newspaper Plant Burned.

CRESTON, Ia., July 15.—Fire of an unknown origin destroyed the plant of the Osceola Democrat yesterday, entailing a loss of \$3,000, with but \$2,500 insurance. The building was a perfect wreck with all fixtures, though it is thought the linotype machine may be repaired so it can be used. The paper was published by E. T. Wall.

Miner Killed by Fall of Coal.

SHERIDAN, Wyo., July 15.—(Special).—Frank Pardo, a minor at Diets, is dead as the result of a fall of coal. His skull and breast were crushed.

Boy Kills Baby Nephew.

NEWTON, Ia., July 15.—(Special).—Not knowing the gun was loaded and snapping it at the child, who was creeping on the floor, Harold Trotter, aged 9 years, shot and instantly killed his 18-month-old nephew, Leota Trotter, yesterday afternoon. The charge blew off the back of the baby's head. The child was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Trotter.

Council Bluffs

Revenue Agents Refuse to Publish Holders of Permits

Attorney General Cosson Fails in Effort to Secure Names of Licensed Persons.

There's a clash between the government revenue department and the state of Iowa. The first round of the battle has been fought and the advantage is all with the revenue collectors. Last winter, for the purpose of making the liquor laws more strenuous and far-reaching, the Iowa legislature enacted a law requiring the county attorney in all of the counties to procure from the revenue department a full list of holders of permits to sell liquors, and to keep that list posted in a conspicuous place in their offices so that it would be open at all times to public inspection. That appeared easy enough, but many of the county attorneys sought a little advice from Attorney General Cosson, who has posed as the head and front of the anti-saloon forces in the state and is the author of some very drastic legislation affecting saloon interests approved two years ago. The attorney general told them that all that was required was to write a polite request to the revenue collectors of the various districts asking for a complete list of all of the holders of government permits in the county represented by each county attorney.

Prior to this there was considerable discussion of the subject and the revenue collectors in the various parts of the state took advantage of the opportunity to consult in advance with higher authorities in the department. The advice given was reflected, apparently, in the action of Revenue Collector Weaver of Burlington, who was the first revenue official appealed to. The letter written to him asked for a full list of permit holders in Des Moines county, particularly those held by clubs, secret and fraternal organizations. Collector Weaver's reply was short, sharp and incisive. It informed the Burlington county attorney that those records were the property of the government and that he could find no warrant for their publication in the manner indicated. On the contrary, the ethics of the department were all against such a thing, and he was compelled to decline compliance with the request. Attorney General Cosson has taken the matter up with the department and the announcement was made yesterday that he had failed to secure assent of the department to comply with the state statute. He said he would have to go to Washington and see if he could not secure a modification of the decision of the collector. County Attorney Capell was one of the first to comply with the new law and wrote a respectful letter asking for the information. Local revenue men say that it is very doubtful if the heads of the department at Washington will accede to the request. They say all that is necessary is for any club or fraternal organization to post the government permit in a conspicuous place in the room where the refreshments are dispensed and permit the local collectors or government inspector to have access to it whenever desired.

GEORGE W. B. WESTERDAHL DIES OF HEART DISEASE

Immigration Agent of Union Pacific Road Expires Suddenly at His Home.

George W. B. Westerdahl, for many years immigration agent of the Union Pacific Railroad company, died suddenly yesterday morning of heart failure at his new country home on North Broadway, Council Bluffs. Mr. Westerdahl had been ill for several weeks, but his illness was not of such a character as to excite alarm, and few of his friends were apprised of it. Mr. Westerdahl had been with the Union Pacific far more than twenty years, always in the land department. For more than half that time he had been chief immigration agent. His personality and peculiar fitness for the duties of the office made him a most valuable man, and his services were fully appreciated by the management. In the discharge of his duties he came into contact with many of the prominent men of the country and counted many such as personal friends. When James A. Garfield was secretary of the Interior, he always asked to have Mr. Westerdahl assigned to his train whenever he passed over the Union Pacific lines. A similar request was made by President Roosevelt's country life commission.

Mr. Westerdahl made his home in Council Bluffs during the greater part of his life, residing for many years on North First street adjoining the girlhood home of his wife, who was Miss Edith Allen. Mrs. Westerdahl died thirteen years ago shortly after the birth of their only child, a son, Allen. A few weeks ago Mr. Westerdahl bought the Krettek place on North Broadway, just inside the city limits. Mr. Westerdahl served four years as a member of the school board and for one year was its president. He was active in Masonic circles and was a member of Bluff City lodge No. 71, and a Knight Templar and Shriner. During the last three years he was associated with J. G. Bone in handling Union Pacific lines. He was very successful in his business deal and within the last few years had accumulated \$50,000. He recently bought a tract of 1,000 acres of land in Deuel county, Nebraska. Death found Mr. Westerdahl in the prime of life. He had just completed his thirty-seventh year. He is survived by his father, C. J. Westerdahl of Omaha, and two brothers, C. C., an employe of the Omaha postoffice, and Arthur, residing in Los Angeles. Another brother, T. C., died a few weeks ago. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from St. Paul's Episcopal church. The services will be conducted by Rev. John William Jones, Excelsior lodge No. 239 and other Masonic bodies of which he was a member will have charge at the grave. He will be given a Masonic burial with full ritual of the order. The pallbearers will be selected from the membership of the Knights Templar body. Burial will be in the family plot at Fairview.

Crawford Assessment Decreases.

DENISON, Ia., July 15.—(Special).—The county auditor has completed his tabulation of the recent work of the assessors. He finds that Crawford county has twenty townships six miles square; that 44,529 acres of land was assessed at \$7,000 less than \$8,000,000 and that the total assessment of all property is \$26,177,000. This is \$200,000 less than last year. There were in feeding in January 14,000 head of cattle valued at \$457,222, and in the county 32,791 hogs valued at \$469,500.

Boy Kills Baby Nephew.

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