Council Bluffs

LAXITY GENERAL COMPLAINT

Checkers of County Offices Find Voucher System Faulty.

ERRORS AMOUNT TO SALARIES

Examination Costs About $2,500 and This Sum Discovered—System in Auditor's Office Declared to Be Defective.

Freeman L. Reed and Charles F. Paschel, the official checkers engaged by the Board of County Supervisors to examine all of the offices of the county, filed a supplemental report yesterday and were discharged, after having been nearly continuously at work since December 1. Although their salary was $5.50 a day each, the amount of errors and discrepancies discovered that called for refunds approximate about $2,500, or an amount equivalent to their salaries for the full period.

The supplemental report does not disclose any additional errors, but embraces a general complaint about the absence of vouchers for a very large amount of expenditures. The checkers say they had to rely upon the proceedings of the board which showed that the claims were allowed, and in the absence of vouchers the claims could not be audited.

The items of chief interest are the very large amounts that have been paid out for eleemosynary purposes. This includes for the period of two years $3,674.06 drawn from the soldiers' relief fund, $12,316.34 for the maintenance of the county poor farm, which is exclusive of the amounts paid for the maintenance of paupers in other parts of the county. The total amount of warrants drawn to pay claims on the poor fund for 1909 was $18,539.95, and for the year 1910 $23,845.96, a total for the two years of $42,385.91.

The Pauper Insane.

The maintenance of the pauper insane was a still heavier burden upon the taxpayers. The county insane claims for 1909 amounted to $8,297.64, and the care of the insane in state institutions reached $12,240.73, making a total for 1909 of $20,538.73. In 1910 it cost $8,933.49 to pay the care of the insane here and $15,684.70 for those in state asylums, making a total for 1910 of $24,618.19, or a grand total for the two years of $45,156.56. They were only collected during the whole period of two years from estates and those liable for the care of such unfortunates the meager sum of $1,567.11. The accountants say there appears to have been no effort made by the county auditor to collect from estates and those liable and recommend that such efforts be made in the future.

The total amount paid out for the keeping of the insane and poor during the two years reaches the huge total of $85,975.02. To this large sum must be added the amount of $3,674.06 paid for soldiers' relief, and by the taxpayers of Council Bluffs nearly $2,500 for the pension funds of the firemen and policemen.

The checkers also criticise the action of the district court judges in issuing warrants to attorneys for services rendered in criminal cases where indigent defendants are without counsel. A number of causes are noted where judges have approved such claims and issued warrants to attorneys when there is no record of the appointment of the latter. They also ask the board not to pay court reporters' claims unless the dates for services are plainly set out in the claims filed.

Lax Method Prevails.

The accountants severely criticise the lax methods that have been observed in keeping the saloon license records, and say concerning it:

We would call your attention to the great number of saloon papers of various kinds that have been filed in the auditor's office and the great importance of these papers to the parties concerned, also, to the manner in which they have been kept in the auditor's office. With the exception of the bonds filed, by saloon men, no record whatever has been made.

In case of a loss of any of these papers serious damage might result to the persons who caused them to be filed and severe criticism would be attached to the auditor's office.

These papers have been kept in a large pocket file in a place easy of access in the auditor's office, from which file any of them may be lost or easily abstracted. It has been suggested to the present county auditor, Mr. Hannan, that when any such papers are filed note of such filing should be made in a book kept especially for that purpose; that such a book should be made and kept in a safe place in the auditor's office.

Mr. Hannan has made up forms for a book in which such filings can be noted. From the rude draft of these forms we can say that it will, in our judgment, meet all requirements.

COMMISSION FORM MEETING

Attendance is Not Large at Session Held to Select Circulators for Petition.

The meeting to boost the commission form of government last evening in the office of J. K. Cooper, was but slimly attended, and only a very small proportion of the men selected to be petition circulators in the various wards was present. The meeting was very temperate and adjourned at early candle-lighting.

The plan to have two petition carriers in each of the thirteen precincts and make a rushing canvass that was expected to secure the 1,300 names required in one day, or two at the most, had to be abandoned and the gentlemen who attended the meeting last night put in the brief interval industriously selecting names of thirteen instead of twenty-six men to carry around the petition. Some of the precincts and wards were not represented at all, but men were selected to look after the interests of the movement there.

The West Council Bluffs Improvement club has set next Tuesday evening as the date for considering the matter to determine whether or not it is something desirable.

Marriage Licenses.

Marriage licenses were issued yesterday to the following named persons:

Name and Residence.	Age.
J. J. Allay, Lincoln, Neb.	27
Alice Almquist, Lincoln, Neb.	20
William Farris, Lincoln, Neb.	28
Mabel Mollberg, Lincoln, Neb.	18
Edward Johnson, South Omaha	37
Ella Starner, South Omaha	27
Roy Mackey, Omaha	31
Eva Adams, Hamburg, Ia.	30
Charlie Arminstrout, Council Bluffs	26
Bertha Zinn, Council Bluffs	24
J. C. Hansen, Council Bluffs	23
Emma Rasmussen, Council Bluffs	23

Minor Mention

The Council Bluffs Office of The Omaha Bee is at 15 Scott Street. Both Phones 43.

Davis, drugs.
Wedding silver at Leffert's.
Corrigan's undertakers. Phones 143.
For authority on watches see Leffert.
Dr. Cleaver, Bell-phone only. No. 147.
FAUST BEER AT ROGERS' BUFFET.
Lewis Cutler, funeral director, Phone 97.
Woodring Undertaking company. Tel. 369.
PURE GOLD WEDDING RINGS—LEFFERT'S.
Call 142 for a case of Gund's Peerless beer. J. J. Klein Co., ddistributors.

W. H. Kimball and family are at Spirit Lake enjoying a few days of rest and comfort.

W. C. Untbank of the postoffice clerical force has gone to Hot Springs, S. D., to spend a short time at the Soldiers' home.

City Treasurer Frank T. True has returned to Spirit Lake to resume his outing. He made the return trip with J. G. Wadsworth in the latter's automobile.

John H. Walsh yesterday began a suit against Amanda Hamblet and the unknown heirs of Samuel Hamblet to establish his title to a quarter section of farm land located in section 26, township 75, range 43.

Fred Davis, who attended the Elks' convention as one of the Council Bluffs representatives, has returned from his long eastern journey. Emmet Tinley and H. W. Binder are not expected to return until Monday night.

Lillian Smith yesterday filed her petition in a suit for divorce against her husband, Clarence T. Smith, whom she wed in Kansas City on November 11, 1903. She accuses him of deserting her in Council Bluffs three months ago and also alleges cruelty and intoxication.

Eunice DeLair filed her petition yesterday for divorce from her husband, George DeLair. They were married in St. Paul, Minn., on June 24, 1905 and separated on February 11, 1911. She charges cruelty and habitual intoxication, and asks for the custody of their 3-year-old son.

Claude Blakeley, 30 years old, was arrested last evening on a warrant issued by Justice Joseph charging him with assault and battery upon an old man named Carlson. Carlson was badly beaten up and the allegation is that the young man used metal knuckles. He was locked up in the county jail pending a hearing. The arrest was made by Constable Humphrey.

Upon evidence showing that he had broken into the chicken coop in the rear of the premises of M. Saltzman on West Broadway and stole two chickens, Walter Pollard was held to the grand jury yesterday under $30 bond. The chickens were worth about 50 cents each, but the fact that Pollard is alleged to have broken into the barn made the incident a felony.

Chauncey DeShurely, 19 years old, residing at 808 Avenue D, was placed under arrest last evening and locked up in the county jail upon a charge filed by Tina Rasmussen, a young girl with whom he has been keeping company. The information was filed in the office of Justice Joseph yesterday afternoon and the arrest was made by Constable Sherman Humphrey.

The Fifth Avenue Grocery company yesterday filed a suit and asked for a writ of attachment against the property of John Coyle and wife to secure a merchandise bill of $28.68. The allegation is made that the Coyles are now non-residents, and to secure the judgment expected the grocery company asks for an attachment on lot 2, block 17, McMahon, Cooper and Jeffries' addition to the city.

Newell George, a local grocer, began an action in the district court yesterday against the International Harvester company, asking a judgment of $1,800 for the alleged wrongful seizure of an automobile delivery wagon. He alleges that the wagon was taken from his premises in May by employes of the company. The wagon was valued at $800 and the plaintiff asks $1,000 damages on account of injury to his business by the loss of the vehicle.

Claiming that a clerical error had been made in the transcribing of the will of Thomas Pilling, John R. Pilling, Sarah J. Chapman and Nellie Walker yesterday began suit in the district court against Amos W. Leach, Christian Leach and his wife, Alexander A. Gilbert, Ann Gilbert and other heirs of Pilling asking to have quieted for them the titles to four tracts of land in section 30, township 75, range 43. The error is claimed to be the mixing of the numbers of the tracts.

Carelessness of employes engaged in burning rubbish, near the north end of the Avenue B yards of the Hafer Lumber company, started a fire there at noon yesterday that for a short time endangered the enormous quantity of lumber and building material stored there. When the firemen arrived the fire had started in three places from embers carried by the wind and was beginning to blaze fiercely. Quick and intelligent work on the part of the department arrested the progress of the fire without damage. The only damage was inflicted upon a pile of telephone poles. They were charred but not destroyed.

Dragging River Will Be Resumed Today

Mrs. H. E. Fallers Superintends Work of Search for Body of Bridge Tollman.

It was the intention yesterday to renew the work of dragging the river in the vicinity of the street railway bridge in the hope of recovering the body of H. E. Fallers, but the work had to be abandoned for the reason that the motor boat to be used in pulling the drags refused to work. An inexperienced man was placed in charge of the engine and was unable to start it. Mrs. Fallers was present and confidently expected to see the body of her murdered husband brought to view. She was bitterly disappointed when the work had to be temporarily abandoned.

There is a strong conviction in the mind of Mrs. Fallers that her husband's body lies close to the bridge and that his negro murderers weighted it by tying a piece of iron to the feet before throwing it over.

Sherman E. Humphrey, who has done all of the work that has been attempted toward the recovery of the body, has been commissioned by Mrs. Fallers to spare no expense in the work. Another attempt will be made today with an experienced man in charge of the boat. A new style drag will be used, made of a bar of angle iron to which stout steel hooks that will snap under a heavy strain, have been attached. Many carloads of slag has been dumped into the river near the bridge and the bottom is covered by huge blocks that have caused the loss of several pieces of the grappling paraphernalia for the reason that the softer metal hooks refused to give way when held by contact with the masses of slag.