

THE ASHLAND TIDINGS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1878.

Thirty-six hundred dollars not authorized by law during the last six years of this administration. These two items should be charged to him, and the committee recommend to your excellency that steps be taken to recover the said amounts of \$5,400 from ex-secretary Chadwick, for money drawn by him in violation of law, and that T. H. Cann be joined with him in the suit to recover the \$1,800 for which Cann receipted for the balance.

It must be remembered that Mr. Cann was, at the time he was receipting for his salary as assistant secretary of state, also acting as clerk of the board of school land commissioners (of which secretary Chadwick was a member), and for that service he was receiving \$1,800 per annum. While Mr. Giltry was acting as assistant secretary of state he was also acting as private secretary of Governor Grover, at a salary of \$1,200 per annum, besides a salary payment made to him of \$238.15 for copying the laws and memorials which was clearly the duty of the secretary of state to have done and paid for out of appropriations for "clerical aid."

The law of the state makes the secretary of state, the auditor of public accounts, and his duty as such auditor is defined in the code. The provision of this law appears to have been violated with impunity by the secretary. In the accounts of the various furnishing supplies for the state institutions, for the deaf mute and blind schools for articles purchased from the "incidental fund," vouchers are on file for which the secretary has issued warrants that are not certified by him, and for which neither are they receipted for as having been paid. Through this neglect of the secretary, which is a violation of law, the committee are of the opinion that thousands of dollars of the money of the state has been paid without any value being rendered therefor. This is particularly noticeable in vouchers presented of payment from the "incidental fund." The omission of the secretary has been to pay all claims presented so long as there was money applicable for payment from this fund; and when it was exhausted to report the deficiency to the legislature for appropriation for deficiency to cover these claims.

The total disregard of duty and of law upon the part of the board is still more apparent when we consider that Mr. Cann, who received and disbursed such large sums, had no lawful authority to receive public funds, much less to act as a disbursing officer. His position was that of clerk. No law was provided for his appointment; no bond was given or required. It was not necessary that he be commissioned. His relation to the state was in no way different from that of the janitor or other employes. The evidence shows that makes the secretary of state the ostensible treasurer, and under the law the treasurer is the sole custodian of the public funds, and the only authorized disbursing officer. The precedent established by the board in dealing with these funds, if allowed to go unrebuked, would soon break down all barriers between the treasury and the greed of dishonest officials and their relatives: a fact of which the past eight years furnish an innumerable example. The warrants, it is claimed by Mr. Cann, were ordered to be paid by the board, but of these orders, if any were made, there is no record for the past four years. Governor Grover certifies to the correctness of most of them, but the orders for their payment are not attached to the vouchers, nor are they elsewhere to be found.

In the report of the committee on the conduct of the deaf mute school. It shows that Mr. John Gray drew almost a year's salary and did no service, but Secretary Chadwick drew warrants for Gray's salary, well knowing that there was no service performed by him, from the fact that the secretary was a member of the board of education and knew who was and who was not employed.

In the proposals for furnishing stationery for the state department in the year 1878, it appears that J. K. Gill & Co. put in a bid for furnishing said stationery of the quality asked for in the advertisement of Secretary Chadwick. The quality asked for in said advertisement was to be first quality. The contract was awarded to Messrs. Hirstel & Co., who furnished an inferior quality of stationery to fill said contract. The evidence shows that the state could have saved from \$500 to \$800 on that one contract alone, had the secretary advertised for the class of goods he received. (See testimony of J. K. Gill and M. C. Cone.)

In the matter of the purchase from the "incidental fund" the prices paid are usually about 25 per cent. higher than the highest retail price charged individuals, and the purchases were made in small quantities of such articles as were in daily use around the department. Take the office of janitor for the state house. He is paid for his salary of about one thousand dollars per annum, yet we find he was also paid as night watchman, at the treasury department, for attendance on meetings of the teachers' institute, for washing for the department, for carrying mail from the incidental fund extra to the janitor; so much has been paid for extra services that it became a matter of doubt what his legitimate duties as janitor were. While the supreme court was in session he was also paid for services there, and one item of washing alone for that body is so large as almost to convince the people of the state that that august and eminent tribunal was not in a very presentable condition and had brought their "soiled linen" with them to be washed at the expense of the state.

In all cases Secretary Chadwick appears not to have acted in the interests of the state, as guardian and watchman of the treasury of the state, as his position as auditor of accounts made him, but merely to draw warrants without thought or care whether they were correct and just. He does not appear to have profited by the watchfulness of his predecessors in office, but to have shown an effort to surpass that officer in his liberality to persons having claims against the state. He did not forget his friends, but added the claims and drew his warrants for Cann, Giltry, Grey, Hackleman, Jackson, Gaston, Simpson, Fleischman, Walton and others, with the greatest liberality; and as a member of the board of school land commissioners, the same lavish hand was exhibited in paying whatever bills were presented by Maj. Quincy A. Brooks, Jesse N. Barker, J. N. T. Miller, J. F. Ames, Chas. Schultz, N. H. Gates, D. H. Murphy and others showing that the board was much more intent in rewarding its friends than in protecting the treasury of the state.

The same may be said of the action of the secretary in regard to accounts audited by him for the services of the state printer. Had he exercised due care the outrageous frauds perpetrated by the state printer, aided by his "expert" friend, could not have been committed.

STATE BOARD OF SCHOOL LAND COMMISSIONERS. The confusion and omissions in the records of this department can only be understood by actual examination. If the purpose had been to conceal and the pretext of exhibiting the real transactions of the land department they could not have succeeded better. From September 1870 to September 1872, no record can be found of sales of land receipts, or disbursements by the board or their clerk. The report to the legislature of 1872 contains the only data in relation to these matters, but the records or memoranda from which the report was made after diligent search and inquiry of the ex members of the board and their clerks, can nowhere be found.

Since September 1874 no record of the proceedings of the board has been kept. A mass of detached papers containing letters, certificates and what purports to be memoranda of proceedings of the board, in some instances pasted and in other folded together in bunches of half a dozen or more sheets each, and the whole in one confused file encircled by a rubber band constituted the only means of determining the action of the board from September 1874 to September 1878. The memoranda was not explained by any member of the board or other person. During the time J. H. Hackleman was paid a salary of \$1,500 per year under the title of recording clerk of the board. The duties he performed consisted in recording about 1,100 orders; according to Mr. Cann's testimony blank forms were printed in the record and Mr. Hackleman filed out the blanks, averaging less than fifty written words to the deed. For this service for which two hundred dollars would have been a fair compensation, he drew from the state treasury the sum of \$5,583.50.

From September 1st, 1872 to September 1st, 1874 David Fleischman, H. H. Giltry and T. H. Cann were each paid five dollars per day, Sundays included, making a total of \$3,650 each for two years as clerks in the land department. J. S. Walton was paid during this time \$1,553 for similar services. In addition to this, H. H. Giltry was paid for extra services performed during the same time, connected with the land department the sum of \$1,153.50 making a total paid out within this time of \$13,458.50. This does not include near a thousand dollars paid Walton for maps.

The following is a sample of liberality of the board in rewarding the employes for extra services: Mr. Giltry in December of 1872 was sent to La Grande to settle with M. Conner, the ex-prosecutor of the Grande lands office. He was employed 30 days in this service for which he was paid ten dollars per day; during this time he continued to draw his salary as private secretary to the governor and five dollars a day as recording clerk of the board, although he performed no service in either of these capacities. He was also paid 155.38 dollars for expenses, making a total amount drawn from the treasury for these 30 days of 705.38 dollars. The evident dishonesty of this transaction is too glaring to require comment, but if he who takes the money is censurable, in what terms shall we speak of the culpability of those who, entrusted with the guardianship of the public interest sworn to by the public funds, deliberately squander the same? The dishonesty of the Board still more plainly appears from the fact that this Fleischman during these two years performed the duties of State Treasurer, and Giltry that of Private Secretary to the Governor; thus these two men received liberal pay for their full time as clerks of the board, while a great part of their time must necessarily have been consumed in performing the duties of the other positions then held. The amount of time spent, judging from the meagre records to be found must necessarily have been very small, nevertheless they were paid five dollars per day, Sundays included.

The committee are of the opinion that one competent man would have performed all the clerical work done by Cann, Giltry and Fleischman at an expense of one-third of the amount paid these. But had more than one clerk been necessary, if the board had desired to deal fairly by the State they would have employed one man who could have bestowed his entire attention to the duties of the position, instead of engaging those who could spare a moiety of their time in the service and paying each of them as much or more than they could have earned in any private employment, for which they were competent, had they made it their sole business.

Another instance of the liberality of the board is exhibited in paying Mr. Giltry \$57 dollars for recording 351 deeds, a service as before stated, which consisted in filling blanks in printed forms averaging less than fifty written words to the deeds and double the rates allowed county clerks, would amount to a sum not greater than \$2.65 dollars. In some cases under some circumstances a virtue, but it is of a doubtful character, when indulged in with other people's money, under any circumstances, but when it takes the form of a lavish waste of public funds upon favorites or otherwise, by those whose sworn duty it is to guard the States from imposition and injustice it becomes an absolute crime. During the two years referred to, the sum of 15,273.84 was paid out on order of the board for "clerical aid," maps and other services with the land department to Cann, Giltry, Fleischman and Walton. And from September, 1870, to September 1873, 36,644.09 was paid for similar services to Cann, Giltry, Fleischman, Walton and Hackleman. A considerable part of this was paid without appropriation and without warrant upon the treasury and was never reported to the legislature either as receipts or disbursements.

A negro teamster in Nashville declares that he must give up driving mules or withdraw from church, the two positions being incompatible. The coat of tar and feathers, frequently worn by citizens of Reno, who have managed to get themselves disliked, is now known throughout the State as "the Reno ulcer."

The island of Cyprus at one time contained nine different kingdoms, and more than a million inhabitants. Owing to the alleged peevish temperament of its people, it was called "the home of love and beauty."

HOTELS.

ASHLAND HOUSE.

THE UNDERSIGNED WISHES TO REMIND his friends, and the traveling public generally, that he is still to be found at this LONG ESTABLISHED HOUSE, where he is ready at any time, and on all occasions to set before them the best market affords, in a style second to no other house in Oregon. Dinners and suppers for special occasions, written up in appropriate style, at short notice. JASPER HOUCK.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

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