

WHAT BOOKS SHOW

Those That Were Kept Make a Very Bad Record.

REFORM SCHOOL BUSINESS

Queer Transactions Found by the Public Examiner at Plankinton

EXTRAVAGANCE AND CARELESSNESS

Misuse of State Funds Plainly Pointed Out—The Salaries and Expenses—State Newspaper and How it Was Managed.

Plankinton, S. D., Sept. 16.—Special: The report of the public examiner on the condition of affairs at the state reform school, which has lately been made, states:

The disbursement of appropriations made for the support of the state reform school at Plankinton was found not to have been given record in books, but duplicates or copies of the vouchers representing such expenditures had been preserved as well as proper duplicates of the monthly abstracts accompanying such vouchers when submitted to the state auditor for payment, and these afforded the examiner all that he desired in determining the amount and character of the expenditures charged against the several funds.

For the year 1896, ending June 30, the appropriations were, for maintenance, \$12,575; salary of superintendent and employees, \$4,000; fuel and lights, \$1,500, all expended. Cash fund receipts—balance 1 cent; North Dakota care inmates, \$1,424.94; sale of hogs, \$416.15. Cash disbursed—pay roll, \$1,045; two horses and two ponies, \$180; repair of hoes, \$51; railroad tickets and freight, \$151.99; butter and eggs, \$198.15; organ, \$34; meats, \$71.50; miscellaneous, \$104.25. The cash balance left was \$5.01.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, the appropriations were—maintenance and other expenses, \$12,575; salaries, \$4,000; fuel and lights, \$1,500, all expended. In the cash fund it was—balance, \$5.01; hogs sold, \$391.10; two colts sold, \$50; type sold, \$25; miscellaneous, \$10; North Dakota, \$4,018.16; endowment lands, \$364.30. From this fund the cash disbursed exceeded the fund by \$1,244.79, as follows: C. W. Ainsworth, pay roll advanced, \$2,814.95; coal, \$312.30; meats, \$238.39; dry goods, \$43.99; clothing, \$56.30; groceries, \$226.43; butter and eggs, \$222.67; paper, \$139.53; two horses, \$125; four mules, \$390; three cows, \$94; repairing shoes, \$67.65; blacksmithing, \$12.75; repairing band instruments, \$58; lecture course and chapel service, \$113; keeping mares, \$20; planting corn and rent of land, \$48; drugs and medical attendance, \$48.40; oil, \$31.20; freight, railroad ticket, express and telegraph, \$108.73; postage, \$33; mileage for superintendent, 2,000, and matron 1,900 miles, \$75; C. W. Ainsworth, expense to Grand Rapids, \$66.70; C. W. A., expense to Pierre, \$31.90; C. W. A., int. on money advanced, \$400; Louisa Hunter, payment on land, \$100; Louisa Hunter, int. on note, \$100; miscellaneous bills, \$129.32. The report continues:

As seen by the above the vouchers examined showed that the disbursements for the year exceeded the appropriations and cash receipts by \$1,244.79. Looking carefully over all items of expenditures the examiner is of the opinion that such deficiency was unnecessary and if the board of charities and corrections had insisted upon proper economy in the matter of disbursing the public funds at the disposal of the institutions no such deficiency would have occurred, and no occasion, not even excuse, would have been found for paying to the superintendent \$400 on account of interest on an undefined amount for an indefinite time—a payment believed to be not only unauthorized but unlawful. The voucher shown for this payment is as follows:

"Voucher No. 1. State of South Dakota to C. W. Ainsworth, Dr.
Feb. 26th, 1897. Received of the State Reform School for interest on money used by the Supt. of said institution during the past eight years, for the benefit of the above named institution, \$400.00.
Approved Feb. 26th, '97, by W. J. Sibblson, Treas.
L. B. Laughlin, Sec."

The large cash fund of the institution is collected by the superintendent, and remains in his possession until expended. It will be seen that a considerable part of the money received for the care of those inmates sent to the school from North Dakota and of other cash receipts was devoted to the payment of salaries, so that the amount appropriated for that purpose by the legislature did not by any means circumscribe the amount used. It will also be noticed that payment was made from this fund for fuel to the amount of \$312.30.

The cash fund for the previous year was made up of \$1,424.94 received from North Dakota, and \$416.15 from the sale of hogs, total amount, \$1,841.09. The bills paid from the fund were of the same character as given

above for the following year 1896-7 and included \$1,045.00 on account of the institution pay roll.

For the year ending June 30, 1898, the accounts stand as follows: Appropriations, maintenance, \$10,000, balance, \$37.88; salaries, \$4,000; fuel and lights, \$1,500, balance 10 cents; finishing girl's building, \$1,000; repairs main building, \$500, balance 3 cents; farm improvement, \$250; chapel services and library, \$150, balance 17 cents; mortgage on land, \$2,500. The cash fund showed receipts from North Dakota, \$4,225.18; U. S. inmates, \$80.30; hogs sold, \$321.76; gang plow sold, \$25; milk sold, \$10; endowment lands, \$153.77. The disbursements exceeded the receipts by \$109.74, as follows—pay roll, \$3,248.47; gratuities, losses by fire, \$275; building materials, \$1,215.99; band instruments, \$116.19; type, \$153.90; heavy draft mare, \$60; coal, \$171.25; organ, \$38.63; miscellaneous, \$146.32.

For the period ending May 31, 1899, being eleven months of the fiscal year, the appropriations with balances left were—maintenance, \$11,000; deficiency \$3,575; balance \$456.02; salaries, \$4,000; fuel, \$1,500; fuel deficiency, \$850; farm improvement, \$250, balance 6 cents; chapel service and library, \$150; repairs on building, \$500, balance \$36.61.

The cash fund showed: cash received from North Dakota July 1, 1898 to June 1, 1899, \$3,495.96; U. S. inmates to March 31, 1899, \$846.50; hogs sold, \$372.30; hides, \$50.97; wheat, 196 bushels at \$66, \$110.04; endowment lands, \$144.75; miscellaneous, \$40.53; total, \$5,561.05. The disbursements for the eleven months amounted to—pay roll, \$2,627; seed wheat, \$656.07; hogs bought, \$190.28; freight, expense telegram, \$116.36; butter and eggs, \$162.64; meats, \$391.78; paper, \$119.02; repair of shoes, \$76.35; use of library books, \$90; pasture and barley, \$108.75; expense to Pierre, two trips, \$41.80; organ, \$68; wagons, surrey and harness, \$281.90; miscellaneous, \$103.15. The report continues:

Several sales of state property were reported to the examiner for which collections had not at the time been made, but assurance was given that the sums would be paid in a few days. The total of these uncollected sums as reported amounted to—\$1,285.90. Add unexpended appropriations June 1st 692.69 Balance in cash fund 531.49 Partial pay roll payments charged against cash funds Jan. 31st, 1899, and also against maintenance deficiency fund in above accounting 278.94 Total \$2,789.02 From the above total should be deducted:

Amount claimed to be due Superintendent Ainsworth on 1897 expenditures \$1,244.79 Amount claimed to be due Superintendent Ainsworth on 1898 expenditures 109.74 Total \$1,354.53

Net amount available and unexpended June 1st, 1899, \$1,434.49. The unpaid obligations of the institution appear to be \$309.96 on account of salaries for April, and \$648.32 on account of salaries for May, 1899, or \$958.28. The further obligations to the close of the fiscal year will be the pay roll for June and the current maintenance bills for the month. For the payment of these obligations there will become available, when collected, the amounts charged for the care of North Dakota and federal inmates to the end of the fiscal year, probably \$500, in addition to the balance above given. It is understood that since the examiner visited the institution further sales of state property have been made, the object being thus to secure sufficient funds to pay all obligations for the present fiscal year. With this expressed purpose a large amount of the institution's best property equipment—its live stock—has been sold and converted into cash, and the superintendent informing the examiner that such action was taken for the purpose named by direction of the board of charities and corrections. The institution must therefore begin the new fiscal year stripped of its cash fund and much of its most desirable equipment, which latter will doubtless have to be early replaced by new purchases.

The lack of proper inventories before complained of made it impossible for the examiner to show the full property equipment of the institution at any stated time, but in examining the vouchers he noted the following recent purchases:

The year ending June 30th, 1897: One Concord buggy, \$60; one pair work mares, \$125; one heavy draft mare, \$60; four mules, \$390; three milch cows, \$94; one Kimball organ, \$35.

For the year ending June 30th, 1898: One pair heavy farm mares, \$100; seven milch cows, \$210; thirteen young animals for beef, \$172.50; sheep, \$191.70; two plows, \$31; one hay rake, \$29.55; one bicycle, \$22.75; one lumber wagon, \$54; two sewing machines, \$47.50.

For the year ending June 30th, 1899: Three heavy draft horses, and one bob sled, \$168.15; one team hack horses, \$174.80; horses (Parsons) \$70; horses (Davlin) \$50; twenty-one cows, \$747; cows, (O. F. Auld) \$290; four yearlings \$40; pigs and stock sheep, \$190.28; 92 ewe, lambs and stock sheep, \$342; two lumber wagons, \$85; one surrey, \$140; one buggy, \$37.50; plow and mower, \$85.25; hay rake, harrow and mower, \$85.25; nine sets harness, \$23; one set harness and repairs, \$36.45; one sewing machine, \$25; and one Kimball organ, \$65.

The reform school farm comprises, with the eighty acres upon which the buildings are located, the NW 1/4 Sec. 13, Twp. 103, R. 64, known as the Williams farm, 160 acres, purchased in 1889 for \$2,025; the east half of Sec. 11, Twp. 103, R. 64, known as the Hunter farm, 80 acres, purchased at a later period for \$2,200; and two hundred acres of "Taylor land" adjoining, owned by the state and dedicated to the uses of the school. In addition lands known as the Griswald, the Bishop and the Merricle farms, embracing 420 acres, are leased.

Notwithstanding this large farm and the equipment somewhat lavishly provided for it, including a flowing artesian well, vouchers attesting the disbursements of the institution for the past two years included purchases of farm products in the following

amounts, not mentioning butter, eggs, poultry, etc.:

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1898: 649 bushels corn, \$183.60; 938 bushels oats, \$195.40; wheat and hay, \$219.60; 556 bushels potatoes, \$147.91; 43,225 pounds bran and mixed feed, \$181.70.

For the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1899: 4,670 bushels corn, \$953.93; 1,206 bushels oats, \$290; wheat, \$656.07; hay and barley, \$55.25; bran and mixed feed, \$257.70; 309 bushels potatoes, \$123.60.

From the above and kindred facts it must be seen that this is a case of the state maintaining a farm and not a farm maintaining an institution. An analysis of the vouchers paid classifying all purchases so as to show the amount and cost of each class of goods bought by the institution for a particular year, could not be made without a considerable expenditure of time, as the vouchers in many cases attested the payment of bills submitted by general merchants which included a mixed listing of many classes of goods. For example the bills submitted by A. H. Cramer paid during the eleven months of the last fiscal year, aggregating \$469.54, included items of groceries, fruit, shirts, pants, shoes, etc. Bills of Harker Bros., aggregating \$415.77, included groceries, shoes, clippers and many other articles. Bills of F. S. Stevens included drugs and druggists' sundries, medical attendance, prescriptions, books, flag, one carload of corn and other goods to the total amount of \$293.15. Bills of J. D. Bartow for the same period, aggregating \$2,909.76, included horses, harness, cows and other cattle, wagons, surrey, books, repairs, ice, corn, beef, butter, eggs, poultry, groceries (including 841 gallons of syrup at 19 from 26 cents), shoes and dress goods. Bills of E. A. Litchenstein included dry goods, groceries, potatoes, eggs, butter, candy, china and crockery, garden seeds, etc., to the total amount of \$781.57. A. C. Lyon & Son's bills included dry goods, groceries, melons, fruits, etc., to the amount of \$308.95 during the eleven months named.

Other vouchers show that during this eleven months period, ending June 1st of this year, 450 sacks of flour were bought at a total cost of \$552.25, and meats were purchased for the institution (aside from live animals above enumerated) to the amount of \$1,300.62. Also a printing outfit to replace that destroyed by fire in which was invested \$991.50. Voucher of Oct. 31st, 1898, attests the payment of \$127.10 to J. Welsh for threshing 1,540 bushels of wheat, 1,084 bushels of oats and 118 bushels of barley at five cents per bushel. This doubtless encompasses the grain products of the farm for the crop year. As \$656.07 was paid out for seed wheat at 95c per bushel earlier in the season, and as the cash fund receipts show a portion of this crop to have been sold for 55c per bushel, indicating the net worth of the whole crop less the five cents charge for threshing, to be \$785.40, it is apparent that the operation of the extensive reform school farm with its extravagant equipment does not present a shining example of thrift or profit.

The printing office outfit heretofore mentioned is used in the publication of a weekly newspaper called the "South Dakota Mail," the work being performed by inmates of the institution in pursuance of a purpose to instruct a limited number in the occupation of typesetting and printing. The subscription price of this paper is one dollar per year, and advertising is admitted at such rates as may be agreed upon. A notice carried on the head of the paper announces the purpose of its publication and among other things states: "The state furnishes the printing business outfit, and a very good and complete one it is. The paper for the Mail is paid for, not by the institution, but by subscription and advertising. When these do not meet the expense it will be met by private contribution. The Mail has been kindly received and should it more than pay expenses the profits will be devoted to the library fund or used in replenishing the office."

An examination of the institution's cash receipts for the past three years discloses no acknowledgment of the receipt of any money on account of subscriptions or advertising, but in the meantime paper bills were found to have been paid from state funds to the J. W. Butler Paper company as follows: For the year ending June 30th, 1897, \$139.58; for 1898, \$116.21; and for 1899, \$188.78, or a total of \$444.57. The office has been replenished by several purchases in small amounts during the same period, payment being made with state funds.

No money was found to have been received from the sale of hides beyond the \$50.97 stated above in the figures of cash receipts during the past eleven months. The butchering of animals at the institution for beef may be a new custom—the examiner making no inquiries and receiving no information from the superintendent concerning the matters last mentioned further than is shown by the record.

There are in the institution at this time, as the examiner was informed, ninety-one inmates—seventy boys and twenty-one girls. About twenty-two persons are usually carried on the pay rolls. The last monthly pay roll which had been fully paid at the time of my examination—that for February, 1899—was in the total amount of \$386.66 and was paid from the cash fund. The salary of the superintendent has heretofore been \$150 and the matron \$50 per month, but in February last their salaries were consolidated on the pay roll and together raised to \$250 per month, or \$3,000 per year, and so stand at this time. The managing printer is paid \$50; teachers, \$20, \$35, and \$41.66; night watch \$35, farm manager \$35, and farm hands \$20 per month respectively. In all cases "living" is provided by the state in addition to the salaries named. No accounting was made of the deficiency appropriation of \$42,500 for buildings and well, approved March 3d, 1899, the board of charities and corrections not having acted in approval of the claims against this fund at the time examination was made. These claims as listed aggregate \$43,716.86.

The Spanish organs are publishing an alleged letter from a soldier in the Philippine army who says that of the Filipino army more than 100,000 have been killed or have starved to death. And yet, we have been assured that only a handful of bandits engaged in the war to resist invasion of the territory.

ON INSANE ASYLUM

Report of the Public Examiner to the Governor.

WHAT THE BOOKS NOW SHOW

Transactions the Past Few Years at the State Hospital.

HOW THE MONEY HAS BEEN USED

Complete Report—Some Extravagances Shown—Loose Methods but No Back Salaries This Time.

Yankton, Sept. 14.—Special: The report of Public Examiner Taylor on the transactions of the state board of charities and corrections in regard to the asylum for the insane is very complete and interesting. The report commences with the examination of vouchers for the institution beginning July 1, 1896 and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1897, showing expenditures as follows: Appropriation—maintenance, \$49,000; fuel and lights, \$11,000; officers and employes, \$22,300. The expenditures in these three funds equaled the appropriations. In the cash fund there was received on cash balance \$1,033.55, and from sale of hides, \$320.64 and a cash balance of \$676.43 was left. The report continues:

The several expenditures made on account of the above cash fund for the year were for freight \$469.75, advertising \$64.85, corn \$39.35, hogs \$40, miscellaneous \$63.81—total \$677.76.

From the maintenance fund for this year (year ending June 30th, 1897) salaries or wages of employes were paid to May 1st amounting to \$2,400.78, while for May 7th employes were paid \$1,863.01, and for June 7th employes \$1,707.76, so that in addition to the regular appropriation made for the purpose of salaries \$5,971.55 was paid from other funds on that account. Notwithstanding this extra burden the maintenance fund still showed a balance of \$3,119.81 at the beginning of the last month of the year, and in exhausting this sum large purchases of staples were made in the closing days of the fiscal year—1,000 sacks of flour at 95c, (\$1.05 per sack for patent); 4,000 pounds of sugar at 5c; 1,000 pounds of coffee at 11c; 600 pounds of tea at 22c; 200 pounds of tobacco at 35c; bolts of B. B. flannel at 10c; canton flannel at 8c; gingham at 7c; amoskeag cheviot at 38c; 64 muslin at 13 1/2-10c; 3-4 muslin at 17c; lawnsdale cambric at 10c; 100 suits of jeans clothing at \$3.05, etc. Sufficient pork was evidently produced upon the 60-acre asylum farm, but beef was purchased during the year to the amount of \$5,744, the number of animals not being ascertainable, as some purchases were stated in gross weights—probably 165 head.

The farm, however, does not appear to be large enough to supply sufficient feed or vegetables for the institution, for during the year potatoes were purchased to the amount of \$476.94, corn at 38c; 64 muslin at 13 1/2-10c; 3-4 muslin at 17c; lawnsdale cambric at 10c; one cart, one buggy, one sewing machine, three-section drag were among the purchases during the year. Also fire protection apparatus costing \$568; 104 mattresses costing \$825 and two feed water purifiers for the boilers at an expense of \$360 each, or \$720.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, the following were the transactions: Appropriation—maintenance \$46,400, all used; fuel and lights, \$12,000, all used; wages of employes, \$18,000, all used; salaries of officers, \$6,000, balance of \$25.20 left. In the cash fund, receipts from sale of live stock and miscellaneous, \$7,722.85; expended employes—stone, \$498.90; wages of employes, \$831.90; W. J. Sibblson, one-half expenses attending conference charities and corrections, New York city, \$67.80; miscellaneous maintenance bills paid from this fund, \$1,113.19; balance \$2,722.86. The report continues:

It will be seen that the appropriation for wages of employes, although increased for this year, was insufficient to pay the persons employed, and \$831.90 of cash fund receipts were used for this purpose.

The purchases of cattle and sheep or beef and mutton during the year on account of the maintenance fund amounted to \$6,982.40, the number of animals not being ascertainable. No purchase of hogs for pork was made during the year. The products of the 640 acre farm were stated to be 1,328 bushels of oats, 5,500 bushels of corn, 1,500 bushels of potatoes and 55 tons of millet. Notwithstanding this, purchases on account of the maintenance fund during the year including 840 bushels of oats, \$210; 970 bushels of corn, \$1,475.52; 2,563 bushels of potatoes, \$1,115.41, and 46 tons of hay, \$162. About thirty milch cows were kept, which supplied the institution with milk, but the item of butter constitutes an important feature in maintenance bills, representing a total of about \$3,000 per annum. Large use is also made of sugar at this institution, maintenance fund vouchers showing that while two tons of C sugar had been purchased at the close of the previous fiscal year, further purchases were made to May 1st of this year amounting to 25,600 pounds, for which \$1,417.25 was paid—a part being billed at 57 cents and a part at 5 1/2-10 cents, the contract apparently permitting either the higher or the lower price to be used. March 2d, 1898, \$250 is represented as having been paid for a steam boiler of insurance on the steam boilers of the institution. Brandy, wine and beer to the amount of \$160.70 were purchased for medicinal purposes

during the year. A Yankton firm supplied the institution with two dozen coffins during the year for the total sum of \$147.60, or at the rate of \$6.15 each.

The accounting of the fuel and light appropriation for this year, amounting to \$12,000, included bills representing \$10,888.63 as having been paid for 154 cars of soft coal, a quantity of hard coal and some eight cars of wood. In the disbursement of the remaining \$1,111.37, \$250 was paid for insurance, \$600 in wages of employes and \$261.37 in payment of miscellaneous bills. Seventeen cars of coal were purchased in July and August, 1897, and 33 cars in May and June, 1898.

For the year ending June 30, 1899, expenditures for eleven months were found to be as follows: Maintenance, appropriation, \$49,800; expended, \$58,077.88; balance, \$3,626.12. Maintenance, deficiency, appropriation, \$12,503. Fuel and lights, \$8,000 appropriated and expended \$5,524.80; for coal appropriation, \$6,000; expended \$5,480; balance \$475.20. Wages of employes, appropriation, \$18,000; deficiency appropriation, \$8,497; expended \$24,692.10; balance, \$1,804.90. In the cash fund there was a balance of \$211.07; receipts from sale of hides \$295.54; hogs, \$584.95; six horses, \$107.15; 26 calves, \$145.85; harness, \$10; advances returned, \$130.36; miscellaneous, \$27.55; warrants credited on account of maintenance bills, \$2,910.91. In the cash fund the disbursements were miscellaneous items, \$670.45; bills against maintenance appropriation, \$2,910.91. The balance June 1 was \$942.38. The report continues:

The present practice is to use the cash fund in making advances for traveling expenses of attendants in bringing patients to the asylum and for the payment of small maintenance bills, the receipts being used to sustain the voucher of the steward against the maintenance appropriation, the warrant therefor going to the fund in reimbursement. The largest bills paid from this fund during the eleven months were, \$366.09 paid to W. A. Dow of Sioux Falls, on account of plumbing and materials, and \$235 on account of horses purchased.

The deficiency appropriation of \$8,000 made for the supply of fuel at the hospital for the insane for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1899, had been wholly disbursed at the time examination of the month of September and \$3,451.61 had been used to reimburse yourself (governor) for advances on bills submitted through the Clay county bank; \$3,290.38 for fuel bills subsequently rendered, and \$1,251.61 paid to Jas. B. Clow & Son on a bill for general supplies including pipe, pipe fittings, jute, etc. The legislature made this appropriation for fuel without other qualification, but the asylum authorities saw proper to submit, and the state auditor to allow, the payment of this bill from the appropriation so made. That part of the appropriation used for fuel represented the purchase of 506 tons of soft coal delivered between the month of September and May, a large part of the same being billed at the rate of \$4.40 per ton, together with fifty cords of wood and a small quantity of hard coal.

The purchase of beef and beef cattle for the eleven months of this year represented an outlay of \$7,335.11 for about 203 head. The farm products purchased during the same time included 1,982 bushels potatoes, \$774.93, shoats and pigs \$332.57, and eleven horses \$860. Other purchases included Singer sewing machine \$48.75, cart \$37.50, gang plow \$60, harrow \$8, potato planter and digger \$100, end-gate seeder \$10, one Dlo plow \$16 and one revolving stalk cutter \$35. Maintenance fund vouchers showed payments to Gillette Herwig Mfg. Co., iron work for workshop including corner iron arches, \$1,642; J. R. Sanborn & Sons, 24 coffins at \$6.15, \$147.60; Henry Peterson, one derrick and cartage, \$11.50; Chas. G. Armstrong, one-half expenses trip from Chicago inspecting boilers, \$41.13, (the other half being paid from penitentiary funds); John Callihan, rent of hay land, \$35; and Lahou Fruit Co., digging potatoes, \$36. Voucher of the Irondequoit Wine Co. for \$92.56 for port, cawaba and cherry wine and \$36.66, was a purchase, the examiner believes, strictly for medicinal uses in the institution, but he finds himself unable to maintain the same belief with respect to the frequent purchases of high priced cigars found in nearly all cases misnamed in the itemized bills of druggist's sundries and entered as "tobacco," the frequency of the item and uniformity of figures putting him on inquiry. The only justification heard to be offered in any institution for the use of state funds in the purchase of cigars was that such purchases were made for the use of the board at its monthly meetings, and for visitors. Mileage books are properly purchased for the use of attendants dispatched to county seats to accompany patients to the asylum. Some of these were seen to be 2,000-mile tickets, for which the full purchase price of \$50 each was vouched, but the examiner failed to find that any rebate on account of the return of the covers of these tickets had ever been credited back to any fund. It may be well to remind those who purchased these tickets with the state's money that a rebate of \$10 upon each ticket used is a part of the contract of purchase, as the matter appears to have been thus far overlooked. It appears that two classes of goods, namely, groceries and flour, are furnished the institution under contract at the present time.

The monthly salaries paid by the institution are: Superintendent, \$166.66; stenographer, \$40; assistant superintendent, \$100; assistant physician, \$66.66; lady assistant physician, \$66.66; matron, \$41.66; steward, \$100; clerk, \$50; supervisors, \$40; engineer, \$75; assistant engineer, \$40; fireman, \$30; plumber, \$60; carpenter, \$50; attendants and others graded from \$35 to \$15. In addition the board or "living" of these officers and employes is provided by the state. At this time there are more than ninety persons on the pay roll and the number of patients in the asylum approximates five hundred.

The Big Stone Headlight closes a column of editorial abuse of Governor Lee with the assertion that "the boys will condemn him." This is undoubtedly not only the wish but the expectation of the republican machine in this state. Perhaps the soldier boys are capable of forming their own opinions without republican advice.

AT A FILIPINO BANQUET

American Officers Tell What Happened at That Time.

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—The interview with General C. McCreve, printed in the Call, has created much comment in the South Dakota camp. The article occupied four columns on the first page and was illustrated with a three-column portrait of General Reeve. The particular section which has attracted attention is as follows:

In response to the question, "Did General Otis object to the interchange of social amenities?" the general replied: "There was no official objection, but it was well understood at headquarters that these social visits excited the displeasure of Gen. Otis. One incident I particularly recall. General Garcia, though an officer of Aguinaldo's army, invited me to a fiesta at Caloccan. Quite a number of officers accepted the invitation, among them Colonel Frost of the South Dakotas. We were entertained most hospitably. The after dinner speeches evidence many sentiments of friendship. A full account of the function was published in the Manila newspapers. The topic was discussed at headquarters and the officers who attended were not commended. Thereafter it was chilly for those who exchanged social greetings with the Filipinos."

"While I was Gen. Garcia's guest," resumed General Reeve, "I met an officer of his staff who spoke English fluently. Naturally the future of the islands was the topic of conversation, which brought forward the question, whether the natives were capable of self government. Gen. Garcia's talk was interpreted. He favored the policy of permitting the natives to test their ability to govern themselves under the protection of the United States."

The statement is made by the officers of the South Dakota regiment that Gen. Reeve, in his speech at the banquet mentioned, made several exceedingly indiscreet remarks, and the whole tenor of his speech was, in effect, that the Filipinos were to be granted unconditional independence. So impolitic was this speech, coming from General Reeve, acting as chief of police at Manila, that the impression became prevalent in the city that Gen. Reeve had, perhaps, been affected by some of the native wines served, to which he was unaccustomed. At this time, say these officers, the condition of affairs in the Philippines was most serious and an outbreak was expected at any moment. The chilliness referred to in the general's interview, if there was any, was caused by his speech at the banquet.

Colonel Frost was seen at the Presidio and described the famous banquet. For the first time since reaching the United States the colonel talked freely. Said he:

"The banquet occurred at Caloccan, about four miles from Manila. I attended at the request of General MacArthur, who thought it would be politic to have as many army officers present as possible, as conditions in the Philippines were then at the breaking point. In addition to myself, there were present, besides General Reeve, Colonel McClure and Major Schofield, paymasters; Major Deval, master of transportation, Adjutant Lien, who was subsequently killed in action, and others whom I forget. We left Manila in a special train furnished by General Garcia. When we arrived we were taken into the general's quarters where were gathered a number of native belles. By signs and one word of Spanish to ten of English, we managed to converse with them until the signal for the banquet was given. Then each of us extended an arm to our respective belles and marched to the banquet room. There an amusing contretemps occurred," said the colonel, with a smile. "Just as we reached the door of the banquet room, General Garcia met the column and informed us that it was not the custom of the country to take ladies in to dinner. Accordingly, we marched back again, left the ladies where we found them and returned to the banquet room. The banquet was an elaborate affair of sixteen courses. Two bands furnished music. One consisting of forty brass pieces, was on the ground floor, discoursing Italian opera to the time of a bass drum, while on the second floor a magnificent string band took up where the brass band left off. I managed to follow the banquet pretty close by watching General Garcia."

"On the table were many varieties of native drinks in addition to champagne. The native drinks were cognac, wine, and several liquors unknown to me. The first speech was made by Gen. Garcia in Spanish and translated into English by an officer. Then Gen. Reeve spoke. I remember that he made the statement that the United States favored unconditional independence for the Philippines. His speech was very undiplomatic. This fact was discussed by the officers afterward, but I am certain that there was no chilly feeling at headquarters."

In response to a question as to what the conditions were at that time, the colonel replied: "The whole country was under intense excitement. The Filipinos were under arms and it was toward the close of the long period of unsettled conditions before actual hostilities began. The native press was clamoring for independence and a general feeling of unrest prevailed. After General Reeve's speech, General Luna made a fiery oration in Spanish. Col. McClure responded to this, making a speech of rare diplomacy. The importance of the occasion and the motive of the banquet were fully understood by him. His speech was in a happy vein and was well received after being translated into Spanish. Yet there was nothing in it from which to derive encouragement. It was a very diplomatic speech. This was the last speech made, and after dashing off the last champagne in sight, we adjourned and the ladies were given a chance to dine. A dance followed, and then we were sent back to the city in the train accompanied by a band."

Colonel Frost, when asked if Gen. Reeve was intoxicated at the banquet, replied: "No."