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Washburne's Report on Government Contracts - The "Patriotic" Contractors of Indiana - How they do it.

We are in possession of a complete report of the WASHBURNE select committee to inquire into the contracts of the Government. It is an interesting document of 1713 pages in length, and if the Committee had had time for a full report of the matters referred to them, it could easily have been swelled to three or four times its size. The Committee says that "through the disclosures made by it and the commissions which have been instituted thereon, it is estimated that the sum of from fifteen to twenty millions of dollars will have been saved to the taxpayers of the country, and that "the exposure of glaring abuses, which have been made by the Committee have led to many important reforms, which are saving large amounts of money daily."

Certain testimony has been taken by the Committee in regard to the purchase of military supplies by the State of Indiana, and in regard to the purchase of military supplies by the State of Indiana, and in regard to the purchase of military supplies by the State of Indiana.

The Quartermaster, General J. H. VAJEN, in a letter to the committee, writes that the appointment was pressed upon him by Governor Morton, with whom he had but a slight acquaintance.

I have since often regretted acting upon that advice, inasmuch as I found the duties of the office very arduous in proportion to the salary.

Our Ohioans are put into the same prison with those from other States, and are treated in the same manner, and are not distinguished by any special consideration.

The following is the substance of Mr. J. C. GEISENDORFF's testimony in answer to the inquiries of the committee:

He was engaged in the business of manufacturing woolen goods, cassimere, satines, jeans, &c. He had a contract to supply four and a half regiments of cavalry for the State Department.

There was no comparison as to the quality of goods between the goods offered by the Glens and those furnished under the contract.

After enumerating a large amount of contracts he had both the State and the Government, Mr. Seligson, in response to the question, "State whether either yourself, or any person associated with you in your business operations, has paid, as a bonus, or by way of commission, to any officer of the State Government or of the General Government, or to any person connected with them, directly or indirectly, any sum of money whatever, either in the making of contracts or in the adjustment of contracts?"

I made about three thousand cartage boxes for the gross amount - we could have the contract. This proposal was made after the bid was filed, and Mr. Murphy said it would be awarded as upon the condition. We had no alternative but to give it or relinquish the contract.

W. S. T. Morton, at \$2 50 apiece - made according to sample, which he himself furnished me. Had difficulty in getting the goods inspected at the State Quartermaster's office in Indianapolis. It went there with my boxes, and when the boxes were examined, it was found that some of the straps were cut too short - those I took back.

Wheatley & Son, of Cincinnati, were subcontractors under W. S. T. Morton for making accoutrements. Morton's contract price was \$100,000.

JOHN MOONEY, in his testimony, gives the following information as to the manner contracts were made by the State Quartermaster.

JOHN SELIGSON, an old citizen, a saddler for thirty years, testified as follows: Flaback and myself had a contract with the State for 3,500 infantry accoutrements, for \$12 a set.

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however, that he did not want it, and I never said anything. It was pretty hard any way to take the job at \$2 50, but I thought if a man at Evansville could receive which were of bad quality. I know that I believe in Mr. Vajen in Cincinnati. I think he was trying to get them done. I told him he could not get them done. After the contract was made in Cincinnati buying stock, my impression is that Vajen spoke to me about the half dollar upon making the articles. I only agreed to make six hundred at that time (when the contract was made). There were two hundred more to let, and Vajen was in Cincinnati trying to get them made. I saw him and told him that I had commenced the job and that I would make the other hundred. This was a few days after Frank Murphy made the half dollar suggestion. I suppose Vajen understood all about this. My understanding was that Vajen had made the contract for the State at a price of \$2 50 per piece, and that he would make the other hundred at the same price.

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Arrest of J. Wesley Greene.

SUPERINTENDENT BRADLEY TELEGRAPHED FROM WASHINGTON TO HOLD IN CUSTODY THE PEACE MESSENGER - HIS EXAMINATION AND DISCHARGE.

Mr. J. Wesley Greene, who conveyed the peace propositions from Jefferson Davis to President Lincoln, and whose interview with the former at Richmond and with the administration at Washington were first published in this paper, was arrested yesterday morning in this city. He was passing along the street early in the morning, when he was stopped by a constable, who, upon being informed that he was under arrest, demanded an immediate trial. This was assented to by Superintendent Bradley, who at once went out himself to find Justice Milken. While he was absent the Magistrate came in, and Mr. Bradley returning soon afterwards the parties ranged themselves round the table in the inner room of the Central Police Station.

Mr. Coulter, the peace messenger, demanded a hearing, upon which Mr. Bradley produced the following dispatch as authority for the arrest, Mr. Coulter remarking that they would permit the dispatch to be received in evidence, subject to exceptions which might be taken:

"WASHINGTON, Dec. 11, 1862. To C. P. Bradley, Superintendent of Police: 'Arrest and hold, subject to our order, J. Wesley Greene for swindling. Will send warrant. [Signed] 'Superintendent of Police.'"

Mr. Coulter then addressed the Court as follows: "I need say but little. In the first place, this is a mere telegraphic dispatch, and telegraphic dispatches coming in this shape are not evidence. We do not know who wrote that, neither do we know that the gentleman whose name is there is guilty of any crime. There is no evidence of his guilt; and, if there were such evidence, there is nothing in the dispatch itself upon which the Court can hold this prisoner. I am of the firm of Tapping & Becker, of Indianapolis. Our firm has contracts in connection with Geisendorff & Co. for the manufacture of uniforms for the soldiers. In settling with Geisendorff he charged us, in one instance, two and a half per cent, and in another instance five per cent, as our part in paying toward obtaining these contracts. In conversation with S. C. Morgan upon the subject of making a bid for a contract, I suggested to him that I would give a commission in making his estimate for a bid, as my impression was that a commission would be paid. We could not have more testimony similar to that which we have given in reference to the subject of commission or brokerage paid for giving or obtaining contracts for furnishing supplies during the present war to officers of our State Government, but enough has been presented from responsible sources to leave the impression or conviction that such practices have prevailed. We would not willingly judge any one wrongfully. In justice to the parties who are thus arraigned, we give on next page their testimony or the substance of it before the same committee in explanation of the charges made against them."

Mr. Wright moved to amend the resolution so as to make the call upon the President instead of the Secretary of War. In a time like this he was willing to trust the President, and he wanted none of the mischievous suggestions of the Government and disloyal party, which were circulated. There was only an unconditional loyalty to the Government and the party in power at a time like this.

Mr. Lincoln's ingenious, though not original observation, that, if there had been no slavery there would have been no rebellion, has some times been compared with the equally logical suggestion, that if it were not for the high wages with money in his pockets, there would be no highwaymen. The truth is, we may begin in such a chain of reasoning just where we see fit. It is said that the rebellion was caused by various races upon it, of diverse characteristics, capacities and dispositions; if the necessities, or opinions, or prejudices of society were not such as they are, we should have had no rebellion. The Republicans were not able to elect even a Common Councilman, must be stepped to the eyes and ears in treason; ditto, New Jersey; ditto, Ohio, Illinois, and old Connecticut even, (if town elections mean anything). The Senator from Indiana takes a madman - or a - [New York Express.

Mr. Bradley stated that he had seen a letter from a police officer in Washington, to a person in Chicago, representing the fact that the person named had been in Washington of a certain date, to see him had said, "Send a clerk with me, and I will give you an order for the money." It is said that the person named had been in the War Department, even into the Secretary's office, and in the presence of Stanton himself, and on a sheet of note paper headed "War Department," drew a draft on the Secretary of the Treasury for \$175. The clerk received this, and two days afterward, it is alleged, the order was presented at the Treasury, when it was learned that the person named had been in the War Department, and had been openly about the city all the time. He had exposed himself to the view of everybody, and had been in the presence of the President, and had been seen by many of the most prominent men of the city. This, then, is the sole charge, made in the most informal and extraordinary manner, which can hardly fail to expose on its own face the attempt to suppress the narrative of Mr. Greene.

The arrest of Mr. Greene, as soon as it was known, caused a great commotion in the city. The news was spread rapidly, and the people were greatly excited. The arrest was considered a gross violation of the rights of a peace messenger, and it was expected that it would lead to a general uprising in the city. However, the people remained calm, and the city continued to function normally.

Mr. Greene then said, he would make a statement. He said that he had been in the presence of the President, and had been seen by many of the most prominent men of the city. This, then, is the sole charge, made in the most informal and extraordinary manner, which can hardly fail to expose on its own face the attempt to suppress the narrative of Mr. Greene.

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