

LEE COUNTY SUPERVISORS

Official Minutes of the Last Proceedings of the Board, Held at City of Fort Madison.

THE CLAIMS ALLOWED

Complete Digest of All the Business Which Has Been Transacted by That Body.

Table listing various claims for damages, including items like 'John Kelley, 3 lambs', 'John Klingler, 8 turkeys', etc., with corresponding amounts.

And the county auditor is hereby authorized to issue warrants for ninety per cent of the amounts above allowed, same to be paid out of the Domestic Animal Fund, as provided by law.

Monday, December 19, 1910. Board met pursuant to adjournment. All members present.

Whereas, A statement of intention to contest election for the office of Recorder of Lee county, Iowa, having been filed with the county auditor on November 23, 1910, by Joseph N. Hays, the duly nominated candidate of the democratic party in and for Lee county, at the general election held in Lee county on November 8, 1910, the proper notice of said contest having been given according to law, and this being the day set for commencing the trial of said contest, the contestant, Joseph N. Hays, having nominated in writing Fred B. Kent as an associate judge of the court of contest, and the incumbent, F. C. Chambers, having nominated in writing J. R. Fralley as an associate judge of the court of contest, and the law having been fully complied with, the board passed and adopted the following resolution, Supervisor Brinkman voting aye, and Supervisor Scheffler voting aye.

Be it Resolved, That the board of judges constituted according to law for the trial and hearing of the contest for the office of Recorder of Lee county, Iowa, elected at the general election held in said county on the eighth day of November, A. D. 1910, and consisting of the chairman of the board of supervisors of said Lee county, and of Mr. Fred B. Kent, nominated by the contestant, Joseph N. Hays, and of Mr. J. R. Fralley, nominated by the incumbent, F. C. Chambers, do now convene and proceed with the trial and hearing of said contest as provided by law and the provisions of said statement of contest.

The minutes of today's session having been read and approved the board of supervisors adjourned to meet Tuesday, December 27, 1910, at 9 o'clock a. m.

Fort Madison, Iowa, Dec. 20, 1910. Board met pursuant to adjournment, all members present.

There having been filed in the Auditor's office a written statement of general consent that intoxicating liquors might be sold and kept for sale within the limits of the following named incorporated towns, and situated in Lee county, Iowa, to-wit: Donnellsion, Franklin, Montrose, West Point and St. Paul, said statement purporting to be signed by sixty per cent of all the legal voting in Lee county, Iowa, out-

side the corporate limits of Fort Madison and Keokuk, and voting therein at the last general election as shown by the poll lists of said election, and purporting to be signed by a majority of the voters of said towns, including townships, and notice thereof having been given as by law provided, and the hearing of said petition having been set for the 20th day of December, A. D. 1910, at the District Court House at Fort Madison, Lee county, Iowa, and this being the day set therefor, the board proceeded to canvass said statement of general consent. Attorneys for petitioners offered in evidence the statement of general consent of the different townships and towns, identified as Exhibits 1 to 16, both numbers inclusive, as filed December 6, 1910, in the auditor's office, Lee county, Iowa, at Fort Madison, and also offered in evidence and introduced the poll books of the different townships outside of the cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk, and that contestants filed with-drawals, identified and marked Exhibits A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L and M, and numbered from 1 to 20, and attorneys for petitioners objected because the same were not sufficiently identified, and that the names do not appear upon the poll books and that the signatures are not the signatures purported to be filed by the persons signing the statement of consent, and for the further reason that they were not filed in time.

Objection overruled. Petitioners except. The board after canvassing the statement of general consent, and being fully advised in the premises, finds that the statement of general consent contains 2213 names, and that the votes cast at the last general election of the different precincts outside of the cities of Fort Madison and Keokuk, and the townships in which they are located, aggregate 2,200, and the board therefore passed the following resolution and findings therein set forth, Supervisor Brinkman voting aye, Supervisor Hosier voting aye, and Supervisor Scheffler voting aye, to-wit:

Resolved, That we, the board of supervisors of Lee county, Iowa, at a regular meeting commencing on December 20, 1910, of which meeting a notice was duly given as required by law at the District Court House at Fort Madison, Lee county, Iowa, have canvassed the petition and statement of general consent that intoxicating liquors might be sold in the following towns, to-wit: Donnellsion, Franklin, Montrose, West Point and St. Paul, said towns all having less than five thousand inhabitants in Lee county, Iowa, find that said statement contains the signatures of sixty-five per cent of all legal voters who voted at the last general election as shown by the poll lists of said election residing within said county of Lee and outside of the corporate limits of Fort Madison and Keokuk, these being the only cities of over five thousand inhabitants in said county, and that said petition is sufficient.

And be it resolved, That we find a majority of the voters of the township of Franklin including the towns of Franklin and Donnellsion, have signed the statement of general consent, and we further find that a majority of the voters of the township of Montrose, including the town of Montrose, have signed the said statement of general consent, and we further find that a majority of the voters of the township of Marion, including the town of St. Paul, have signed the said statement of general consent, and that a majority of the voters of each of said named towns have signed the same.

And we further find that the said towns of Donnellsion, Franklin, West Point, Montrose and St. Paul, each having less than twenty-five hundred inhabitants.

- GEO. A. BRINKMAN, Chairman. I. HOSIER, PETER SCHEFFLER, Jr.

On motion the following claims were allowed, Supervisor Brinkman voting aye, Supervisor Hosier voting aye, and Supervisor Scheffler voting aye, to-wit:

- City of Keokuk, road work, \$ 82.38 Payroll for road work, Main street extension, Keokuk, 201.47 Chisholm-Evans, coal, County Home and C. H., Keokuk, 834.16 Western Boiler Pipe Co., road material, Montrose twp, 323.50

On motion, today's minutes were read and approved, whereupon the board adjourned to meet Tuesday, December 27, 1910, at 9 o'clock a. m.

Attest: GEO. A. BRINKMAN, Chairman. W. H. SOUTH, County Auditor. (Continued on page 5.)

The Adventures of Mr. Peter Ruff

BY E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM

'Ill Blows the Wind that Profits Nobody'

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Peter Ruff, summoned by telephone from his sitting-room, slipped down the stairs like a cat—noiseless, swift. The voice which had summoned him had been the voice of his secretary—a voice almost unrecognizable—a voice shaken with fear. Fear? No, it had been terror!

On the landing below, exactly underneath the room from which he had descended, there was a door upon which his name was written upon a small brass plate—Mr. Peter Ruff. He opened and closed it behind him with a swift movement which he had practiced in his idle moments. He found himself looking in upon a curious scene.

Miss Brown, with the radiance of her hair effectually concealed, in plain black skirt and simple blouse—the ideal secretary—had risen from the seat in front of her typewriter, and was standing facing the door through which he had entered, with a small revolver—which he had given her for a birthday present only the day before—clamped in her outstretched hand.

The object of her solicitude was, it seemed to Peter Ruff, the most pitiful-looking object upon which he had ever looked. The hours had dwelt with Merries as the years with some people, and worse. He had lost his cap; his hair hung over his forehead in wild confusion; his eyes were red, blood-shot, and absolutely aflame with the terrors through which he had lived—underneath them the black marks might have been traced with a charcoal pencil. His cheeks were livid save for one burning spot. His clothes, too, were in disorder—the starch had gone from his collar, his tie hung loosely outside his waistcoat. He was covering back against the wall. And between him and the girl, stretched upon the floor, was the body of a man in a huge motor-coat, a limp, inert mass which neither moved nor seemed to have any sign of life. No wonder that Peter Ruff looked around his office, whose serenity had been so tragically disturbed, with an air of mild surprise.

"Dear me," he exclaimed, "something seems to have happened! My dear Violet, you can put that revolver away. I have secured the door." Her hand fell to her side. She gave a little shiver of relief. Peter Ruff nodded.

"That is more comfortable," he declared. "Now, perhaps, you will explain—"

"That young man," she interrupted, "or lunatic—whatever he calls himself—burst in here a few minutes ago, dragging—that—she pointed to the motionless figure upon the floor. "If I had not stopped him, he would have bolted off without a word of explanation."

Peter Ruff, with his back against the door, shook his head gravely.

"My dear Lord Merries," he said, "my office is not a mortuary." Merries gasped.

"You know me, then?" he muttered, hoarsely.

Peter Ruff moved a little further away. "I don't think I'll have anything to do with it," he declared. "I don't like your description at all."

"It'll be all right with you," Merries declared, eagerly. "It's my nerves, that's all. You see, I was there—when the accident happened. See here," he added, tearing a pocketbook from his coat. "I have three hundred and seventy pounds saved up in case I had to bolt. I'll keep seventy—three hundred for you—to dispose of it!"

Ruff leaned over the motionless body, looked into its face, and nodded.

"Masters, the bookmaker," he remarked. "H'm! I did hear that he had a lot of money coming to him over the Cambridgehire."

"Masters shuddered. "May I go?" he pleaded. "There's the three hundred on the table. For God's sake, let me go!"

Peter Ruff nodded. "I wish you'd saved a little more," he said. However—

He turned the lock and Merries rushed out of the room. Ruff looked across the room towards his secretary.

"Ring up 1535 Central," he ordered, sharply.

Peter Ruff had descended from his apartments on the top floor of the building in a new brown suit with which he was violently displeased, to meet a caller.

"I am sorry to intrude—Mr. Ruff, I believe it is?" Sir Richard Dyson said, a little irritably—but I have no great deal of time to spare—"

"Most natural," Peter Ruff declared. "Pray take a chair, Sir Richard. You want to know? Of course about Lord Merries and poor Masters."

"Sir Richard stared at his questioner, for a moment, without speech. Once more the fear which he had succeeded in banishing for a while, shone out of his eyes—revealed itself in the whiteness of his face.

"Try the easy-chair, Sir Richard," Peter Ruff continued, pleasantly. "Leave your hat and cane on the table there, and make yourself comfortable. I should like to understand exactly what you have come to me for."

Sir Richard moved his head toward Miss Brown.

"My business with you," he said, "is more than ordinarily private. I have the honor of knowing Miss—"

"Miss Brown," Peter Ruff interrupted quickly. "In these offices, this young lady's name is Miss Violet Brown."

Sir Richard shrugged his shoulders. "It is of no importance," he said, "only, as you may understand, my business with you scarcely requires the presence of a third party, even one with the discretion which I am sure Miss—Brown possesses."

"In these matters," Ruff answered, "my secretary does not exist apart from myself. Her presence is necessary, for I take down in shorthand notes of our conversation. I have a shocking memory, and there are always points which I forget. At the conclusion of our business, whatever it may be, these notes are destroyed. I could not work without them."

Sir Richard glanced a little doubtfully at the long, slim back of the girl who sat with her face turned away from him.

"Of course," he said, "if you make yourself personally responsible for her discretion."

"I am willing to do so," Ruff interrupted, brusquely. "I guarantee it. Go on, please."

"I do not know, of course, where you got your information from," Sir Richard began, "but it is perfectly true that I have come here to consult you upon a matter in which the two people whose names you have mentioned are concerned. The disappearance of Job Masters is, of course, common talk; but I cannot tell what has led you to associate with it the temporary absence of Lord Merries from this country."

"Let me ask you this question," Ruff said. "How are you affected by the disappearance of Masters?"

"Indirectly, it has caused me a great deal of inconvenience," Sir Richard declared.

"Facts, please," Ruff murmured. "It has been rumored," Sir Richard admitted, "that I owed Masters a large sum of money which I could not pay."

"Anything else?" Ruff asked.

"It has also been rumored," Sir Richard continued, "that he was seen to enter my house that day, and that he remained there until late in the afternoon."

"Did he?" Ruff asked.

"Certainly not," Sir Richard answered.

Peter Ruff yawned for a moment, but covered the indiscretion with his hand.

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Ruff, who had been making figures with a pencil on the edge of his blotting-paper, suddenly turned round. His eyes flashed with a new light as they became fixed upon his companion's.

"And are you not?" he asked calmly.

Sir Richard bore himself well. For a moment he had shrunk back. Then he half rose to his feet.

"Mr. Ruff," he said. "I must protest—"

"Stop!" Peter Ruff used no violent gesture. Only his forefinger tapped the desk in front of him. His voice was as smooth as velvet.

"Tell me as much or as little as you please, Sir Richard," he said, "but let that little or that much be the truth! On those terms only I may be able to help you. You do not go to your physician and expect him to prescribe to you whilst you conceal your symptoms, or to your lawyer for advice and tell him half the truth. I am not asking for your confidence. I simply tell you that you are wasting your time and mine if you choose to withhold it."

Sir Richard was silent. He recognized a new quality in the man—but the truth was an awful thing to tell. He hesitated—then told.

Ruff briskly asked two questions. "In alluding to your heavy settlement with Masters, you said just now that you could not have paid him—then—"

"Quite so," Sir Richard admitted. "That is the rotten part of the whole affair. Four days later a wonderful double came off—one in which we were all interested, and one which not one of us expected. We've drawn a considerable amount already from one or two bookies, and I believe even Masters owes us a bit now."

"Thank you," Ruff said. "I think that I know everything now. My fee is five hundred guineas."

Sir Richard looked at him.

"What?" he exclaimed.

"Five hundred guineas," Ruff repeated.

"For a consultation?" Sir Richard asked.

"More than that," he said. "You are a brave man in your way, Sir Richard Dyson, but you are going about now shivering under a load of fear. It sits like a devil incarnate upon your shoulders. It poisons the air wherever you go. Write your check, Sir Richard, and you can leave that little black devil in my waste-basket. You are under my protection. Nothing will happen to you."

Sir Richard sat like a man mesmerized. The little man with the amiable expression and the badly-fitting suit was leaning back in his chair, his fingertips pressed together, waiting.

"Nothing will happen!" Sir Richard repeated, incredulously.

"Certainly not," Ruff declared. "I guarantee you against any inconvenience which might arise to you from this recent unfortunate affair. Isn't that all you want?"

"It's all I want, certainly," Sir Richard declared, "but I must understand a little how you propose to secure my immunity."

Ruff shook his head.

"I have my own methods," he said, "I can help only those who trust me."

Sir Richard drew a check-book from his pocket. "I don't know why I should believe in you," he said, as he wrote the check.

"But you do," Peter Ruff said, smiling. "Fortunately for you, you do!"

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E. E. HAWKES, UNDERTAKER AND EMBALMER, LICENSED EMBALMER, 129 Main. Both Phones. R. 1 Cross Ambulance.

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