



"INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS. NEUTRAL IN NONE."

VOL. I.

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NO. 6

THEY WILL STEAL.

County Commissioners Who Knowingly Violate Rules Will Take Bribes.

Growing Impression in the Community That Many of the Present Board Are Crooked.

An Impecunious Commissioner Acknowledges That the Rules Have Been Repeatedly Violated.

If Board Members Are Crooked No Further Reason Is Needed for Favoring Squealing Nic.

Some of the Crooks. Frantic for a Divvy, Moving for a Suspension of the Rules.

"The Eagle" Has Them Spotted, and Will Camp on Their Trail Until the Crack of Doom.

The following extracts are taken from the general rules of the Board of County Commissioners:

"For the more efficient government of the several institutions and departments of Cook County, the following rules are established by the Board of Commissioners, and it is made the duty of the President of the Board to see that the same are enforced; and to that end full power and authority is hereby given him to suspend or remove any appointed officer or employe for neglect of duty or for violation of any of the following rules; and any vacancy so created shall be filled in the same manner in which the appointment was originally made.

"Rule 8. No Superintendent, Warden, or other employe or assistant appointed by the County Board, or by any officer or appointee of the Board, shall accept or receive any fees, emoluments, or perquisites other than the salary as designated by the Board."

In the face of the above plain rules the County Board willfully and knowingly voted an allowance of \$500 to one of its appointees, to wit: Nic Michels, the Board's own committee clerk. It is not known whether Michels' ability to squeal had anything to do with the Board's action or not.

It is the prevailing impression, however, that several of the members are afraid of him.

To say nothing about his record before he came to Chicago—which will be published in due time—Michels' record since his arrival is not an enviable one. He commenced as a watchman at the poor house, where the doctor in charge discovered him one day in the act of beating a poor cripple. Then he was transferred to the County Board rooms as messenger.

Here as a tattletale, spy and squealer he succeeded in winning promotion to a \$1,500 clerkship.

There are some things in connection with this fellow's career that will surprise people when they are made public.

But for the present THE EAGLE proposes to deal only with the Board of Commissioners, who so willingly vote away \$500 of the people's money in violation of their own rules.

Commissioners who will vote \$500 of the taxpayers' money to a favorite will steal.

Take bribes.

Bob the county. Complain against the people. And take all the bawls they can get. The daily press is weakened by the

enormity of this Michels affair, as the following extracts prove.

THE TIMES ON THE STEAL.

A Red-Hot Expose from the Senior Democratic Organ.

(From the Chicago Times, Nov. 1.) "There is to be a merry war in the County Board over a fat bill which slipped through that body a week or two ago. The bill in question promises to be quite a factor in the present campaign and is already creating considerable stir.

"The trouble all arises out of the thrifty disposition of 'Nic' Michels, the committee clerk of the board. Michels has been making himself useful in some of the recent cases against the county that were tried in the courts, but only in his official capacity as committee clerk. He evidently thought the county's surplus ought to be put to some good use, so he slid in a bill for \$500 for personal services rendered by himself to Cook County in the Kelling and other cases. This bill went in at the board meeting of Oct. 21, at the end of a long list of requisitions, and with several other innocent-looking items, which read as follows:

"For services rendered by N. Michels in Casselman, Kelling, and other cases... \$500.00
Bonfield Detective Agency in Kelling case... 132.30
S. D. Eisendrath, for services in Kelling case... 400.00
F. A. MacDonald, witness fees in Kelling case... 10.00

"The whole amount that the county was sued for in the Casselman case was barely \$500. So when the bill was sent to County Clerk Henry Wulff he refused to audit it and referred it to the Finance Committee for investigation. Mr. Wulff could not see what Michels had done toward earning the \$500. If he had performed detective work he wondered for what the Bonfield agency charged only \$132. If he gave expert testimony the charge of \$400 from Mr. Eisendrath was small in comparison.

"If the action of the present County Board in this matter is any indication of its action in other matters, it must have been very careless. The granting of the \$500 to 'Nic' Michels was in direct violation of rule 8 of the rules governing the Board, which reads as follows:

"8. No Superintendent, Warden, or other employe or assistant appointed by the County Board, or by any officer or appointee of the Board, shall accept or receive any fees, emoluments, or perquisites other than the salary as designated by the Board.

"This rule was shown to President Senne, who at once said that it prohibited Michels from getting a cent of his bill. He had forgotten about the existence of this rule, and he would withhold his signature from the warrant until the Board had a chance to reconsider the matter.

"Commissioners Schubert and Hayes, both of whom are candidates for re-election, called upon President Senne and pointed out rule 8 to him. To them Mr. Senne said that he would give the Board a chance to reconsider its action.

"Yesterday several of the Commissioners woke up the iniquity of the thing. One of them said: 'Nic Michels receives \$1,500 a year salary as committee clerk. The information he gave the county in the Kelling case he derived from his official position of committee clerk. He is paid a big salary of \$125 per month and he draws it regularly. Here he bobs up serenely with a bill for \$500 more for simply doing his duty. I voted for the Michels bill without thinking, but I am going to have the whole thing reconsidered next Monday. Why, if the board establishes this sort of precedent it is hard to say where the thing will end.'

"The Democrats are jubilant over the matter and say that they will make good use of it in the election. One of the members of the Campaign Committee said last evening: 'Here is Senne running for re-election on the Republican ticket, and solely upon the strength of his good record. Now, if he is not conversant with the most important rules of the board what sort of a record has he to stand on?'

"County Attorney Bliss had his attention called to Rule 8. 'Of course it makes the payment of this sum to Michels unlawful,' he said. 'It is funny that I drafted those rules myself and forgot all about this one.'

"County Clerk Wulff did not hear to be denounce the bill as a fraud, and so did many officials and one of the Judges of the Superior Court.

"The County Treasurer would probably refuse to pay the \$500 anyhow, as it is an illegal claim.

"'Nic' Michels himself was interviewed on the subject. 'I will not talk,' he declared. 'If people want to fight my bill let them go into court.'

"From present appearances, however, Michels will not have to take any tax-payers into court. The County Board will undo its mischief."

THE "HERALD" DENOUNCES THE FRAUD.

The Lively Democratic Paper Makes It Hot for Senne and Michels.

(From the Chicago Herald, Nov. 1.)

"Henry C. Senne has posed so long as the watchdog of the county treasury that a good many people are beginning to think that it is high time to call the watchdog off long enough to see if the treasury is still there. Senne has been so long in the County Board that ignorance of the Board's rules cannot justifiably be entered by him when he is caught letting Nic Michels make a sneak of \$500 out of the treasury he is supposed to be watching. Senne might as well plead the baby act as plead ignorance, yet that is just what he is going to do at to-day's meeting of the Public Service Committee, when he will find himself in the uncomfortable position of admitting that he either does not know the rules of the County Board, or that he knowingly violated them. Senne is the man through whose influence Nic Michels, committee clerk of the County Board, has been kept in position for years. In this capacity he has done some work for County Attorney Bliss in the Kelling and other 'boodle' cases, being doubly fit to gather material and prepare the case, both on account of his connection with the County Board and being an attorney. But he receives the bountiful salary of \$1,500.

"The bill of Mr. Michels was brought in, with several others, Oct. 21, and the 'official' report of the Board proceedings has the following to say on the subject:

"For services rendered by N. Michels in Casselman, Kelling, and other cases, \$5.0.
Bonfield Detective Agency in Kelling case, \$132.30.
S. D. Eisendrath, for services in Kelling case, \$400.
F. A. MacDonald, witness fees in Kelling case, \$10.

"However, the County Attorney evidently thought that this was right in line with the \$1,500 official services of Mr. Michels, and when the latter rendered a bill for \$500 for his services in the 'boodle' cases the County Attorney refused to O. K. it. This refusal was based upon Rule 8 of the general rules of the County Board:

"No Superintendent, Warden, or other employe or assistant appointed by the County Board, or by any officer or appointee of the Board, shall accept or receive any fees, emoluments, or perquisites other than the salary as designated by the Board.

"The bill was passed not only with the consent but through the instrumentality of Senne, who defends the claim on the ground that the work was done outside of the regular hours, and is therefore entitled to extra pay. Senne said, when his attention was called to this conflict with the rules of the Board, that he did not know of the existence of any such rule. He is now serving his third term as President of the Board, and he has been a member so long that he has entirely forgotten his first experience. If he really did not know of the existence of rule 8, his qualifications for the position which he now seeks again at the hands of the people would seem to be very questionable. If he did know the rule he violated it knowingly in pressing the claim. He will have an opportunity to explain his position, if he can, at to-day's meeting."

THE CROOKS AT WORK.

Flouting Themselves in a Trap They Will Suspend the Rules.

The Board at its last meeting reconsidered the vote by which the steal was allowed.

But the crooked Commissioners who have shady records and who are afraid of being "squealed" upon have a new scheme.

They propose to suspend the rules in order that their favorite may get his boodle.

THE EAGLE would call their attention to the following rule of the Board, bearing upon this subject:

"Rule 25. Those rules shall not be amended, rescinded, nor added to, except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Board.

after at least one week's notice in writing of the proposed change, to be given in open meeting, and read by the Clerk; nor shall any rule be suspended except by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members of the Board."

If the crooks and moral cowards of the Board are desirous of showing their anxiety in this matter, let them go to the great trouble of suspending the rules.

THE EAGLE will take pleasure in suspending the crooks.

FROM THE MAIL.

It Points Out the Plight of Squealer Nic.

(From the Chicago Mail, Nov. 2.)

"The Committee Clerk of the County Board is doubtless sore in spirit this day. His bill for \$500 for extra services, which the board passed in direct violation of its most important rules, has been plentifully denounced and is sure to be reconsidered by the board. With this reconsideration fades away like the mists of morn before the sun's advance all the bright visions of the \$500 and the portable property which it would buy. Therefore is Clerk Michels' cup full of nothing but dregs of the dreggiest, bitterest kind."

MARSH IS THE MAN

A Spasm of Good Sense About to Strike Mr. Cregier's Administration.

Premonitory Symptoms Which Indicate that Chicago Is to Have a Real Chief of Police.

The Present Combination of Mustache and Uniform to Have a Captaincy.

While John D. Shea, Joseph Kipley, William Ward and Ed. Laughlin Will Be Captains.

Honest Simon O'Donnell to Retire on a Good Big Pension.

The New Deal.

Chief of Police—F. H. Marsh.

Captain First Precinct—John D. Shea.

Captain Second Precinct—William Ward.

Captain Third Precinct—Edward Laughlin.

Captain Fifth Precinct—Joseph Kipley.

Mayor Cregier has at last decided upon a step which he ought to have taken six months ago.

He is going to reorganize the police force from top to bottom, and give the Democratic party a Chief of Police of bits and.

He has selected for Chief Capt. Fred H. Marsh, the present United States Marshal.

Capt. Marsh was a gallant soldier during the war, and is an upright man of courage, probity and ability.

He will bring order out of chaos and will reflect great credit on Cregier's administration.

Capt. Simon O'Donnell will retire on full pension, and Capt. William Ward, who headed the police at the Haymarket massacre, will take his place.

Lieut. John D. Shea, one of the best detectives in America, will be made Captain of the First Precinct.

Lieut. Joseph Kipley, a sterling officer of good merit, becomes Captain on the North Side.

Edward Laughlin, the present acting Captain at the Desplains Street Station, becomes full Captain. He is a good man.

The charges will go into effect about Dec. 1. It would have been well for Mr. Cregier if they had taken place six months ago.

A CROOK at Albion, Pa., wanted a telegraph operator to send his love to every operator in the world and to collect the custom deliveries of the message.

LEATHER-LUNGED LAWLER.

After Defeating Mark L. Crawford the Demagogue Rests Well.

Nine-dollar Frank played his usual sneak act at the late election.

Pretending to favor the election of Mark L. Crawford to the Recordership, Lawler and his friends quietly knifed him at the polls.

Lawler was jealous of Crawford because he was a labor leader.

Lawler wants to be the only labor leader himself. Besides, he is so good to the poor.

Did he not give \$9 worth of flour to the Streater miners?

Leather-lunged Frank, you have no picnic before you next time!

BLEEDING THE BREWERS.

Despicable Tactics of Some of the Bandy-Legged Preachers.

It is about time that some of the temperance fanatics who occupy pulpits in Chicago called a halt on themselves.

They make themselves hoarse on Sunday denouncing the brewers and their beer, and on week days call on nearly every brewery in the city, either themselves or by proxy, begging for financial aid.

Out upon such brazen hypocrisy!

If the brewers are bad enough to denounce from pulpits, they should not be asked for money.

If they do charitable works, the profession! Christians should give them credit therefor.

No set of men in Chicago do so much for charity as the brewers.

They are always helping the churches.

In return they receive wanton abuse.

ONAHAN FULL OF THOUGHT.

His Next Scheme to Be a 10 O'clock Closing Ordinance.

Onahan the great has been thinking. His forehead now looks like the dome of a cathedral.

Not only does he want to close all of the saloons on Sunday but he wants to close them up at 10 o'clock every other night in the week.

An ordinance to that effect is now being prepared.

Onahan, old boy, you have a great head.

Long may it swell!

PERSONAL.

CONGRESSMAN MASON is back from the Ohio campaign.

CONGRESSMAN ADAMS has again been seen on the North Side.

MAYOR ONAHAN will not take the stump for the Dakota prohibitionists this year.

MAYOR W. C. McCLEURE will be the next Committee Clerk of the County Board.

HON. THOMAS SWEENEY has moved into a handsome new court-room in the United block.

CONGRESSMAN FRANK LAWLER is alleged to be suffering from elephantiasis of the cranium.

MR. LOUIS ADAMS, who almost ruined his health in the spring campaign, is rapidly recovering his strength.

MR. CHARLES D. WELLS, the well-known North-Sider, has gone into the real-estate business at 116 LaSalle street.

CHIEFLY WILLIE DEVINE has returned from a game of freeze-out to his pleasant cash register, where he is once more handling the keys.

MR. MICHAEL SCHWEITZEL, the popular banker, has donated a fine building lot at Englewood Heights to be raffled for at St. Vincent's Catholic Fair.

HIS EXCELLENCY CARDINAL ONAHAN, ex-officio Mayor of Chicago, has gone to Baltimore to attend a convention. What will become of us while his nibs is gone?

MR. JOSEPH B. DUNLOP has raised the Chicago Tribune to the front rank of Democratic papers. The unscrupled are again looking toward it as they did when Mr. Storey was alive.

THE BRITISH WAR OFFICE has ordered the deputy adjutant generals of the military districts of Canada to submit reports upon all facilities for the transportation of troops from one part of the country to another. The order is unexpected and causes some excitement. It is assumed that England will strongly garrison her fortifications on the Pacific coast.

GRAND JURY HANKINS!

Such Is the Appellation by Which the Boss Gambler of Chicago Is Known.

The Charge of Judge Horton to the September Grand Jury Was Ignored.

Because Boss Hankins Had a Number of Friends on That Fine Body.

Poor Men Are Sent to the Penitentiary for Stealing Shoes or Bread for Their Children.

While Hankins and His Friends Can Defy the Courts, Control the Police, and Run Things to Suit Themselves.

How Long Will Hankins Be Permitted to Debauch Justice?

George Hankins is the gambling boss of the city of Chicago to-day.

The Democratic city administration and the Republican county administration quail before his power!

The Chief of Police is afraid to touch him.

The State's Attorney sits idly by, while Grand Juries ignore the direct charge of an upright Judge.

These same juries indict widows' sons and widows themselves for stealing bread.

Hankins is the boss! He is the boss of the legal machinery.

He controls the police department. He defies the laws.

He has one hand on the City Hall and the other on the Court House.

What are you going to do about it? Hankins employs eighty-two men in his gambling house, and their services cost him—or rather the players against the game—as follows:

Four door managers at \$50 per week	\$2,000
Eighteen dealers and lookouts at \$25 per week	4,500
Two hundred runners at \$10 per week	2,000
Eight hundred dealers at \$50 per week	40,000
Two hundred roulette croupiers at \$50 per week	10,000
Three hundred tenders at \$25 per week	7,500
Twenty "plungers" at \$20 per week	4,000
Six porters at \$15 per week	900
One "housekeeper"	30
Eight "stewards" at \$50 per week	400
Two police corrupt spies at \$25 per week	50
Incidentals, gas, etc.	150

Total cost of running house per week \$72,300

Large as this sum is, it is but a part of the expense which Hankins willingly stands for the privilege of running his house. He gave a large sum to the Democratic City Central Committee.

Large sums are daily given back to his distressed victims—not through sympathy, but to stop proceedings in police courts. His police-court spies are engaged to "fix" the wives or relatives of some victimized players who seek the aid of the law to have the money returned. A man who, under Harrison's administration, was close to Hankins, estimates that the expenses of the establishment are not less than \$5,000 per week, or \$260,000 per year.

The gross earnings of the house are estimated at \$650,000 per year, leaving a net profit of \$390,000 per year. This enormous sum comes from the pockets of the poor clerks and poorer laborers. Boys are admitted to the house without question, and their meager salaries (and doubtless some of their employers' money) fall into the already well-filled coffers of Hankins and his partners.

The "suckers" are betting against a game that enriches the proprietors at the rate of over \$1,000 per day. In such houses as Kirk Gunn's, No. 98 Randolph street, and John Condon's, No. 14 Quincy street, games are dealt only for gamblers. The bets are big, and the houses sometimes lose, but in the other dens, where "small" players are admitted, the proprietors never lose.