

# Butte Department

## THEY TAKE A WHIRL

The County Commissioners Investigate the Auditor's Office.

### WINTERS' BIG RENT ROLL

Paupers Who Were Never Visited By That Official—it is Recommended That the Attorney Look into the Matter.

The board of county commissioners, which has been engaged in investigating the affairs of the county auditor's office and the condition of county charges, completed its task Thursday and made out a report yesterday. The document is as follows:

"Butte, Mont., May 23, 1896. "We, the board of county commissioners of Silver Bow county, having investigated the manner in which the office of auditor has been conducted, report as follows:

"We find from a careful official investigation that the auditor has been guilty of gross neglect of duty and that the office has been conducted in an extravagant and negligent manner and with an evident intention to deceive the commissioners and defraud the taxpayers of the county. For proof of this we submit the following facts which were obtained by us during our investigations covering the months of April and a part of May of the present year:

"We visited the persons receiving aid from the county and the question was asked, 'Have you ever been visited by the county auditor or his deputy?' in relation to their names and the answer received has invariably been 'no.' In one instance we found a woman who has been receiving aid from the county for 11 years, from whom we obtained the statement that she has been visited but once by the present county auditor, some two years ago, and then merely for the purpose of inducing her to purchase her groceries from another firm which he desired.

"During our investigations we discovered that a firm known as the Butte Realty company has been collecting rents from the county, and that a certain house was rented at \$20 per month having two occupants in it, when in our judgment the house should receive only \$10 per month rent, and further, W. H. Winters, as agent, has been drawing rents in excess of the amount for which certain houses were listed by the owners.

"The business of the Butte Realty company was turned over to another agent some few weeks ago, but we have every reason to believe the firm mentioned was until a recent date composed of none other than W. H. Winters, the present county auditor.

"We have found that the auditor has used his official position to advance his personal interests. We learned that a few weeks ago he called on a certain firm and made a proposition to one of the members of the firm, in which he stated that if they would help him out in his insurance business he would reciprocate by giving the firm a larger share of the county patronage. The firm had been receiving orders amounting to about \$10 each month from the county, but upon the statement of the member of the firm referred to that Mr. Winters in future would get his share of the insurance of the firm, the orders in the succeeding month was increased to \$25.

"We charge Auditor Winters with an unjust distribution of the county patronage, such distribution being made contrary to the intentions of the board of county commissioners. Instead of dividing the orders pro rata among the taxpayers of the county we find that the largest taxpayers are getting the least, and the smallest taxpayers the most. There has been an unjust distribution of the county funds under the mismanagement of the auditor and we find that he has not used any judgment or discrimination in dispensing aid to the county poor. In some cases families of six or seven persons, sick or otherwise unable to provide for themselves, received but \$10 per month, while other families of a lesser number and less deserving received more.

"We have been paying the county auditor \$45 per month for horse hire, the maintenance of a horse being made necessary, he claimed, for the purpose of visiting the poor of the county. We disallowed the bill when we found that he had been neglecting his duties, and that the county was expending money to gratify the personal pleasures of the auditor. He has charged the commissioners with running around the county at an expense of \$24 per day, when in fact the commissioners were obliged to adopt this method of securing the necessary information in relation to the poor. This information the county auditor refused to furnish.

"The following is a partial list of the cases investigated by us: April 20, visited Mrs. Brobank, main alley; she said the county auditor had never called; ordered that she be sent to the poor farm. Visited Mrs. McLaughlin of South Butte; ordered aid suspended, as she was not a deserving person. Mr. Winters had collected \$10 per month house rent from the county. She said the county auditor never called. Mrs. Ketcheson of same place was ordered sent to the poor farm; county had been paying \$10 per month; the county auditor had never visited her. Mr. O'Brien, Main alley, was injured at Whitehall and was taken to Dr. Blackburn's hospital in Butte in August, 1895; ordered out in November last, since which time he has been receiving \$10 per month from county; ordered sent to poor farm.

"April 21, on investigation found that Mrs. Clarisse, supposed to occupy cabin on East Mercury street, had never occupied the cabin; food delivered there at expense of county had been removed by other parties; county auditor never investigated the case. Mrs. Bennett of Aluminum street, found to be under-servicing and county aid was ordered suspended; rent of \$10 per month was paid by county last two months.

"Mrs. Desmond, rear No. 318 South Main street, left for Helena April 11; place vacant. Mrs. Martha Jones, a colored woman, occupying Farlin house, No. 125 West Poppy street, said the county auditor had never visited her; she said she paid \$5 per month rent; the county auditor collects \$10 per month from the county for rent of premises, which are in poor condition and unfit to live in. Mrs. Goss, No. 336 South Montana street, said she had been receiving county aid since Sep-

tember, 1894; that she thought the county paid \$5 per month rent to Mr. Farlin for house; County Auditor Winters collects \$10 per month rent; warrant drawn by W. H. Winters, agent.

"We interviewed Mr. Gensberger, agent of the Farlin properties. He collected the rent up to a few months ago; for the two houses owned by Mr. Farlin he had collected \$8 per month rent, each. He said Mr. Winters kindly offered to collect the rent to save him a trip to the court house and the delay in waiting for the warrants. Mr. Winters collects \$10 from the county for each house.

April 22, Mrs. Curtis of No. 534 West Granite street, a county charge, was found under the influence of liquor. She was ordered sent to the poor farm. She said the county paid \$5 per month rent and \$10 groceries, and that the auditor never called. Mrs. Silver, wife of the owner of the building, was asked how much rent was received. She replied \$5 per month. Upon investigation it was found that W. H. Winters, agent, drew a warrant for \$10 for the month of February, and that C. L. Smith, agent for W. H. Winters, drew a warrant for \$10 for the month of March.

Visited Mrs. Scott, No. 513 West Broadway. County paid \$10 per month rent, \$10 for groceries, and about \$5 worth of wood. Family consisted of herself and 9-year-old boy, and the aid was considered excessive and ordered reduced. Mrs. Bath and Mrs. Howard said the county auditor never called. Mrs. Williams, corner Broadway and Lee, said the county paid her rent up to March 10th, at \$8 per month, of which Mr. Winters collected a commission of 50 cents. Upon investigation find that Mr. Winters draws a warrant for rent of place for \$10 per month. Mrs. Berryman and Mrs. Gallagher both say Mr. Winters never called. Mrs. Roberts, county paid rent for two years at \$10 per month. She rents the whole house for \$25, keeps three board-

ers, has married daughters, with husbands working steadily. Aid ordered suspended. Mrs. Remark, county pays \$10 per month rent. She rents the whole house for \$15; has two sons able to work; is a property owner in Butte; aid ordered suspended. Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Lecomish of South Butte, said county auditor never called. Mrs. McLaughlin of Montana street, a county charge, has an income of \$38 per month from rents of houses, and son's wages. Built one house last fall at a cost of \$400; said the county auditor never called. Ordered stricken off. Mr. and Mrs. Buheck, receive groceries, \$10; husband started to work at Parrot smelter. Mr. Winters never called. Mrs. Egan, Found husband working; auditor never called. Ordered cut off.

"Mrs. Pollard has been receiving aid from county over two years. Has a boy working; married daughter; husband working. Aid cut off. County auditor never visited her. Mrs. Lavite and Mrs. Gitts said county auditor never called. Mrs. D. Sullivan; husband working; aid suspended. Mrs. Hick and Mrs. Wick, said county auditor never called. Mrs. Peterson, a county charge, bought house on Hesperus lode for \$50, and paid \$30 on account. Rents room at \$11 per month; auditor never called. Ordered stricken off. Mrs. Old received \$15 from the county; earns \$40 per month and owns her house. Auditor never visited her. Aid ordered cut off. Mrs. Casey has two sons residing in the city of Walkerville; sons notified to support her, or she would be sent to poor farm. Mrs. Pangrafe, widow and four children; has received groceries amounting to \$10 per month; aid found to be insufficient, and, being a deserving case, aid was increased to \$15 while ill.

"Since the investigation began we have succeeded in reducing the expenditures of the poor fuel at the rate of five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars per year. This sum per annum could have been saved to the county, had he not so grossly failed in his duties as auditor of the county.

"We believe that the foregoing facts relative to the collection of rents by the county auditor as the agent of a fictitious real estate concern should be brought to the attention of the county attorney, and that he be empowered to take such official action as he may deem necessary.

David J. Charles, Chairman. John E. Lloyd, Board of County Commissioners of the County of Silver Bow, State of Montana.

### SOMEBODY'S FURNITURE.

A Man Tries to Dispose of a Load to Degenhart. A man named McCormick drove up to Degenhart's second-hand store in Park street at 3 o'clock yesterday morning with a load of furniture. There was a bed room set, a sofa and a lot of other things. Officer Balderson thought it looked very suspicious and inquired of McCormick where he had got it all. He said it was from No. 210 North Montana street. This proved to be false, for it was ascertained that he had taken the furniture from a house in the rear of No. 215 North Idaho street. The house is not occupied at present and the owner of the furniture is now in Anaconda. McCormick was arrested.

A Silver Bow Brawl. Word comes from Silver Bow that a very lively fight took place yesterday. A. Stephens of Virginia City and John Allen of Grass Valley were spending their money freely, when a man by the name of Ed Nole and Allen had some words. Nole pulled a revolver and was about to fire when Stephens got hold of him. The whole house was in an uproar in a very short time. Allen and Nole were arrested, but Stephens got out the back door and escaped.

### Let Us Reason Together.

It needs "no ghost to come and tell us" that the sooner dyspepsia is remedied the sooner we shall enjoy that right to which our ancestors laid claim in the Declaration of Independence—the pursuit of happiness. A man blessed with a good digestion—provided he has enough to eat—is happy. There are hosts of people with ample means to whom the sole consolation of a healthy pauper is denied. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a certain, prompt and thorough medicinal agent through the use of which sound digestion, and the nerve tranquility which its disturbance causes, can be recovered. Biliousness, malarial and kidney trouble, constipation and rheumatism are also remedied by this fine corrective of a disordered condition of the system. Appetite and sleep are greatly improved by it.

## FROM EVERY COUNTY

Delegates to the Christian Endeavor Convention at Livingston.

WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK

The Meeting to Be Called to Order in the Park Opera House on May 29—An Interesting Programme Arranged.

There will be a large delegation from Butte at the fifth annual convention of the State Christian Endeavor society, to be held at Livingston Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 29, 30 and 31. There will be present about 125 delegates from various parts of the state. The four previous state conventions of the society were held in Helena, Bozeman, Butte and Missoula. The convention will meet in the Park opera house. The following programme has been arranged:

Friday forenoon—Praise service; address of welcome; response by Secretary Jordan of Deer Lodge; appointment of committees; roll call of societies. "How to Get Help From the Convention," Miss Amanda Loffness; "Interdenominational Fellowship," Rev. J. G. Kline. Introduction of delegates. Two evangelistic services, Dr. D. S. McCaslin and Rev. P. B. Jackson. Friday afternoon—Reports of officers, etc.; "When Shall We Graduate?" and "What I Like About Christian Endeavor," two-minute talks by various pastors present; open parliament; "The Pledge the Backbone of the Society;" "Music, Its Place in Our Prayer Meeting," E. E. Esselstyne; "Conditions of Permanent Enthusiasm in C. E. Work," Mrs. T. Thompson; "How Can a C. E. Society Aid the Pastor?" Report of the Boston convention, C. C. Fuller; social session; song service; 10 minutes for the information committee; address by Rev. McCrory of Pittsburg, Pa.

Saturday forenoon—Sunrise prayer meeting, led by Miss F. Foster; devotional service, led by Volney B. Kagy; reports of various committees and instructions for next convention; "The Executive Committee," Mrs. A. E. Runsey; annual meeting of the Fuller Missionary league; two evangelistic services, Rev. Jackson and Dr. McCaslin. Saturday afternoon—Committee conference; address, "Christian Endeavor and Missions," Dr. McCaslin; junior rally; "Heed the Call, Seniors," Mrs. Mary P. Healy; paper on junior work, Miss L. R. Warner; "What Can Juniors Do?" Miss Jennie Fulton; "How to Vary the Junior Meetings," Mrs. H. E. Jones; denominational rallies.

Sunday forenoon—Devotional service, special prayer for church services; "The Word for Christ, What is Your Society Doing About It?" W. J. Gardner; open parliament; "The Secret of Power, the Holy Ghost," Rev. Streator; "The Next Man," Jessie E. Wolfe; "How to Interest Those Not Members," Grace Lamont; open parliament; "How to Win Associate Members," Laura Russell; regular church services. Sunday afternoon—"Some Perils of the Consecration Meeting," H. W. Beeman; "The Weakness of the Society;" open parliament; "The Consecration Meeting, Heart of the Society," Mrs. Lizzie Rae; question box, conducted by J. H. Murphy; consecration meeting; regular C. E. meeting; song service; "Christian Citizenship," Dr. Carlos of Chicago.

Mrs. Davoe's Lecture. Mrs. Emma Smith Davoe, grand lecturer of the National Woman's Suffrage association, is in the city and gave a very interesting lecture last evening at the Auditorium on the subject of "Political Equality." Mrs. Davoe will lecture at the Auditorium again this evening and on Sunday evening will speak at the Centerville M. E. church.

All the ladies of members of the Canadian Institute are requested to meet at the institute room on Monday evening for the purpose of organizing a social club.

Notice to Saloon Keepers. The entire stock of the late firm of L. J. Lachman, consisting of liquors and cigars, must be closed out regardless of cost within the next thirty days. No. 24 South Main street.

A lady from Chicago will be found in Parlor D, McDermott hotel, for a few days, with a fine display of hand-painted china and embroidered linens, for sale reasonable.

John Meek, cigars, 122 W. Park st.

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50 cents For 7 one-pound packages Cleaned Currants.

50 cents 7 packages Soda.

50 cents 5 pounds Full Cream Cheese.

50 cents 25 pounds Best Rolled Oats.

50 cents 7 cans Sweet Corn.

50 cents 5 cans Eastern Tomatoes.

50 cents 1 1/2 pounds Hoffman House Coffee.

50 cents 3 pounds Broken Java Coffee.

50 cents 2 pounds Choice Young Hyson Tea.

50 cents 3 pounds Chocolate Cream Candy.

50 cents 5 pounds English Walnuts.

50 cents 6-pound box Kingsford's Silver Gloss Starch.

50 cents 12 bars Rose Queen Soap.

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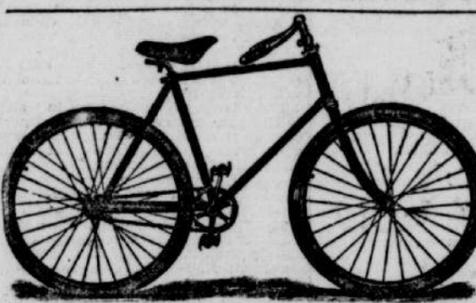
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