

The Advocate

AND TOPEKA TRIBUNE.

VOL. V. NO. 19.
\$1.00 A YEAR.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1893.

OFFICIAL STATE PAPER.

ERROR WOUNDED.

The "Boodler" Editor Scores a Failure in His Effort to Blacken Character.

Fifteen hundred dollars' worth of evidence has been used by the senate investigating committee in an effort to get at the facts concerning the alleged corrupt use of money among state officers last winter. It cost that amount to prove to the few skeptics who did not believe it before, that in an effort to make themselves appear respectable some of the men who have lately been kicked out of power and position are willing to descend to the lowest depths of sensational slander. But the investigation did prove, beyond question, that some of the same old crowd that has infested the state house for years were on hand this year with their propositions of bribery and corruption. It also brought out evidence not calculated to elevate the reputation of the member in whom the Populists of the Eleventh district had placed confidence.

On Saturday evening, after another two days' session, the committee made the following report:

To the Secretary of the State of Kansas:

Sir: Pursuant to the resolutions numbers 86 and 90 of the state senate, the committee appointed thereunder beg leave to report as follows:

As soon after the adjournment of the legislature as possible it assembled at the senate chamber of the state house in Topeka, and caused subpoenas to be issued for a large number of witnesses who were supposed to know something touching the matters which the committee were appointed to investigate. The committee found itself embarrassed by want of power to compel the attendance of witnesses and to punish contumacious witnesses for contempt; there seems to be no power for a legislative committee sitting after the close of the session from the body which it was appointed to enforce the attendance of witnesses or to compel them to testify truly. The following witnesses were duly subpoenaed by our sergeant-at-arms to appear before us but failed and refused to obey: Peter W. Kline, A. A. Burgard, C. S. McGonigal, J. A. Clarke and James Lillia. John V. Moffitt was duly subpoenaed to appear at our first meeting, but he did not come; at our last meeting as we were about to adjourn he voluntarily appeared and gave his evidence.

We beg further to report as to Governor Lewelling, his private secretary, Fred J. Close, and Attorney General Little, that we find no evidence showing that they or either of them received money for any official act or influence whatever, neither did they, or either of them, know of the use of any money to

influence their own action in any manner whatever, or to effect legislation, or the appointment or election of any officer whatsoever.

We find further that Major Hudson, the editor of the *Topeka Capital*, placed confidence in certain statements made by John V. Moffitt concerning the charges made by him against the state officers mentioned, which statements were entirely unsubstantiated by said Moffitt on the witness stand.

We beg leave further to report that from the evidence before us we believe that a sum of money not less than \$4,500 and probably equaling \$6,700 was raised by Peter W. Kline, of Kansas City, Mo., who had a policy shop in Kansas City, Kas., and paid by him to James F. Legate for the purpose of influencing and corrupting the members of the legislature. As to the exact manner in which this money was used or to be used we were unable to obtain satisfactory evidence. The witnesses who probably could have informed us fully upon the question were not before us, and some of them were beyond the boundaries of the state during our sessions.

L. P. KING, Chairman.
S. O. THACHER,
A. G. FORNEY,
J. W. PARKER,
W. P. DILLARD.

The first witness after the convening of the committee on Friday was Representative Lupfer, who gave some damaging testimony against Representative Burgard and J. K. Hudson. He said Burgard approached him with an inquiry as to whether he wanted to make \$500 on the election of state printer and senator. He said they could make that much by voting for Hudson. Burgard also made offers of money to get votes against the miner's screen bill. Mr. McAleeny had told the witness that similar offers had been made to him.

Representative McKinnie, of Mitchell county, testified that he also had been approached by Burgard with a proposition of \$1,000. Burgard said he was working under Cabbison, the republican member from Wyandotte county.

Fred J. Close testified again, repeating what he had said at a former session, that he knew of no money being paid to any person for any corrupt purpose during the session of the legislature. He had met Legate at the hotel, at the request of the latter, who wanted to ask him about the appointment of police commissioners at Kansas City. John Moffitt had proposed to the witness that the Populists make a deal to trade the state printership for the *Topeka Capital*, but nothing further was done in that matter. Witness had heard Moffitt state to the governor that the "boodler" charges in the *Capital* were not true. Attorney General Little was on the

stand, and his evidence was a simple denial of the charges made against him. His statements were accepted by the committee as the plain truth.

MOFFITT'S EVIDENCE.

John V. Moffitt, who enjoys the unenviable distinction of having been the cause of the investigation, found himself in an uncomfortable, not to say pitiable position, when placed on the stand Saturday. He had remained away until this time, but probably concluded he might as well face the music and be done with it. His story was something like that of a two-year-old boy who has been caught fibbing. To give him an unpartisan hearing the *Capital* report of his story is given below:

"The day prior to the attack of Major Hudson in the *Capital*, about 2 p. m., I was in the Copeland hotel and overheard a conversation between two gentlemen from Kansas City—one connected with the stock yards, and the other I did not know—in which they said that there was a scheme on foot by raising money in Kansas City, Kas., to control the appointment of police commissioners. I went to the governor's office and he told me of it, and he said that he had heard about it. Later in the day I talked with P. H. Coney and Judge Fitzgerald. The latter said that if the charges were true, the governor ought to expose the parties who were engaged in it and he would be the biggest man in the state. Fitzgerald and I talked with Governor Lewelling, and Fitzgerald told the governor that he ought to demand an investigation, but the governor said he had entire faith in Close and Little, and did not believe there was anything in the story. Then Coney and I went to Major Hudson's room at the Copeland. I told Major Hudson I was satisfied the governor had nothing to do with the money transaction. I gave him all the information I had and he took notes of it. I went to my hotel, and the next morning was very much surprised to find it all in the *Capital*. That part of the conversation about Lewelling was supposed to have been private. The next day at the Copeland, Captain H. D. Baker came to me and said that Nels Acres charged him with giving away the deal. Baker admitted that the money was paid to Legate, and he also mentioned the names of Close and Little in connection with it."

Questioned regarding the men who gave him the information in the Copeland hotel, Mr. Moffitt said that he did not know the names of the men; all he knew was that one of them was a stockman. The two men said that General Little was present when the money was paid to Legate and Close.

Moffitt said that he did not know he was going to see Hudson when they

started; he told Hudson that he did not want to be mentioned in connection with it. "Hudson knew I was a friend of the governor's when I came to him," said Moffitt. "After the publication of the article, I told Major Hudson that that portion of the article which said the governor acknowledged the money had been received was an error, that the governor only said he had heard it was received."

Moffitt admitted that in his conversation with Fitzgerald and Coney, he (Moffitt) suggested that there ought to be a line in the *Capital* the following morning inquiring "who got the boodler?" It was then that Coney and Moffitt went to the Copeland and found Major Hudson. Moffitt said that he went along to see that no injustice was done to his friend Governor Lewelling.

Official.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1893.

To the officers and members of the various State Farmers' Alliances:

BROTHERS:—By the unanimous action of the executive committee of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, Brother D. P. Duncan has been chosen as secretary-treasurer of the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, and all business pertaining to that office, including remittances, should be addressed to him, at Columbia, S. C.

The executive committee very respectfully but urgently request that all delayed remittances be forwarded to Brother Duncan as soon as possible, as funds are very much needed to carry on the necessary work connected with the national office.

By direction of the executive committee of the National Farmer's Alliance and Industrial Union.

Faternally yours,

H. C. DEMMING,
Secretary Executive Committee.

The Implement Trust.

The following resolutions were adopted at the April meeting of the Clay County Alliance, held in Clay Center, April 12, 1893:

Resolved, That we, the members of Clay County Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, hereby condemn the implement dealer's trust, lately formed for the purpose of controlling the prices of farm implements, and we believe it to be an unwise and an unjust move.

Resolved, That we give our patronage in the future to such dealers and manufacturers as have given us a fair and just deal in the past, and have had the manhood not to enter into the pool.

W. T. BALDWIN,
Secretary Clay County Alliance.

Secretary Morton is the best dressed man in the cabinet. The idea that a farmer must be harnessed up in such a way as to make him look like a "guy" is becoming rapidly obsolete in this country.

Dutton House, Topeka, Kas., \$1.25-\$1.50 per day