

**THAT "REPORT."**

The HERALD called on ex-Mayor Neill, yesterday, and asked him if he had read the "report." "Yes, I have just read it," he said, and in reply to the question of what he thought of it, answered:

"The Romans must have had such a report before them when some one exclaimed that 'the mountain labored and brought forth a mouse,' and that is the sum and substance of my opinion of this report."

"Did anyone ever ask you to give them information as to any of the records or where they could find them?"

No, I never talked to any of the committee or the "expert," nor did any of them talk to me on the subject.

Do you know of any reason why they did not apply to you for that information?

No.

Were any of the records lost or destroyed?

Certainly not, unless they were destroyed after I left last spring.

How about the warrants charged to be drawn without the authority of the council?

So far as the warrants charged to be issued by me when clerk, I have not examined the minutes but I am satisfied that the minutes show authority for the warrants, but if they were not so authorized it is strange that they should have been signed by the, at that time. Mayor Windus.

What is your opinion about the charges against ex-Treasurer A. White?

There is, in my opinion, absolutely nothing in the charges. It is not a question of what the footings of his books show, but what did he settle for. I personally know that Mr. White's accounts were always thoroughly investigated by a financial committee, and his reports were found correct, and I know that they were correct so far as his own charge for salary is concerned. The committee makes the charge on section 685, Hill's code, but their construction of the law is wrong. Section 666 of the code says that the council shall fix the salary of the treasurer, and section 685 says he SHALL receive one per cent. for all monies received, and one per cent. for all monies paid out, and as the council by ordinance fixed the compensation of treasurer at two per cent. for all monies received and one per cent. for all monies paid out, it follows that Mr. White retained no more than he was entitled to. Mr. DePledge's account is explainable also, and the charges against him are equally without foundation. As to the charge that Mr. White paid the state treasurer \$75 and charged \$100, the fact is that he paid the state \$75 at one time and \$100 at another time. As to his skipping certain warrants and paying others, this he did by instruction of the council for the reason that the warrants so skipped were to be taken up by bonds which had been voted and which afterwards were turned down because not legal. The present treasurer, however, holds \$13,000 in bonds, all signed, to take up these warrants when sold. As to the alleged discrepancies between the warrants and the register, the warrants show for themselves, which are still in existence.

What about the \$76 items charged against you?

The \$50 item over paid contrac-

tor on a street grade was a discount allowed contractor by the council because he was paid in general fund warrants instead of cash as was his contract. The \$25 item was allowed me by the council not for making my report as clerk as stated in the report, as I had already made my report as clerk, but it was for making an investigation for the financial committee, done by me at their request to obtain data that was not shown by the officers' reports, such as the amount of earned interest on outstanding warrants, amount of warrants not registered, etc. The result of it was to give the council a knowledge of the financial standing of the city, which the present financial committee has been trying to get for several months past. But I didn't charge "expert" wages, so only received \$25. As to the \$1.00 item, I don't remember about it, but it was all right or the warrant would not have been drawn for it. I think that perhaps the minutes will show the reason for its being drawn.

What about the charges against Mayor Squires when he was city marshal?

The report explains itself. Anything the expert did not understand, or, I should say, some of the things he did not understand, he charged to the marshal.

What about Mr. Stearns?

He is a member of the present council and has an opportunity to explain his account, but I will say that like the others it is all right. The sum and substance of the whole matter is that the report fails to show where anyone "stole" a dollar. As a criticism of the method of doing business, I think the report is true and in the main just, but it contains nothing that was not known, and which I always admitted, yet there was and is a record of every transaction, although it might not have been kept in the form required by law. For instance instead of keeping separate books for the accounts of marshal, treasurer, and city attorney, I, when clerk, kept them all in one ledger under an account with each of said officers, wherein I charged the marshal with the assessed valuation when I turned the books over to him to collect the taxes and credited him with the amount collected and the amount returned delinquent, and the same with the city attorney.

Are you satisfied on the whole with the report?

Personally I am satisfied. I could not be otherwise, as it vindicates me from having appropriated any of the city's money as has been charged, and considering the large amount of improvements and the volume of contracts let and paid for during the time covered by the report, during which we were building a town out of a hamlet, the report is on the whole to any fair minded person proof that the city officials, one and all, performed their duty honestly and by no means extravagantly, considering what we have to show for it, and also contrasted with the business record of private individuals during the same time, and I trust all future officials will do as well.

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KARL'S CLOVER ROOT, the great Blood Purifier gives freshness and clearness to the complexion and cures constipation. Sold by H. J. Jackson; price 25cts, 50cts and \$1.00.

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