

son that he told me he was not at my house Wednesday was that he heard that I was jealous of him. Told me when he came there, and said he stayed until eight or half past. Mrs. West then spoke up and said she told him better than that. I asked him if he was not upstairs all the forenoon with my wife. He then jumped to his feet, and what happened after that I do not know. Some one then told me Parks was shot. In the evening I went home, and went out to look for the children. Went back and met Mrs. West. She told me that Parks wanted to see me. That he did not want to prosecute me. I met Murlock and he told me also that Parks wanted to see me. After dark Reeves came, and Mrs. West, Newell and Reeves went into the parlor. Mrs. West again told me that Parks wanted to see me. I went. He said that his attorney wanted to prosecute. I told him to do as he pleased about the matter. He said he would study the matter over and that he would not prosecute that night. He sent for Newell, who came back and said that he would stop the matter for that night. We went to a justice's office and Newell arranged so that there would be no prosecution that night. I did not say that I was sorry that I had shot Parks when he sent for me to his room, and that I would pay the bills. Parks did not say that it was a pretty thing to shoot a man to death and then come and ask for forgiveness. There was no conversation about giving away as to any girl. In the winter of 1876 my brother and I were in business in Streator, and going home one night after 11 o'clock we were attacked; after that I have always carried a revolver. For a number of years I have had very poor health, caused by bleeding of the lungs, and have been under treatment during that time. Was in Ottawa when I first learned that Parks had died. I telegraphed from the Windsor House, Chicago, where I was. Have not cohabited with Mrs. West since this occurrence, and have sustained no relations with her as man and wife.

[The rest of the testimony is in type but crowded out for lack of space. It will appear. The rebuttal showed chiefly that West could not be believed under oath.]

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Last Session of the Board of 1885-6.

MONDAY—FIRST DAY.

The Board met on Monday afternoon pursuant to adjournment.

After the roll call, which showed all present except Supervisors Butterfield, Dresser, Graves, Griffin, Helming, Hoge, Lauf, McIntyre, Madden, Phillips and Rowe, a large number of bills were read, some of which were referred, some tabled.

The agreement of the chairman of the Board (for the county) with L. W. Brewer, as attorney defending the county in the Reddick will case, was read. In substance the agreement is this: If the suit ends on the Circuit Court trial, Brewer gets \$400; if it goes through the Appellate and Supreme Courts, he gets \$300 more.

Adjourned to Tuesday A. M. at 9 o'clock.

TUESDAY MORNING—SECOND DAY.

The Board met at 9 o'clock, with a few more members present.

The minutes were read and approved, after which McLaughlin called attention to the sharp practice of his townsmen in La Salle in defeating the payment of their taxes. The back taxes of La Salle are something over \$33,300, and very little has been collected during the past few years. On the contrary, the back taxes are constantly accumulating. How the tax payers of the "Imperial City" defeat the payment of these taxes and yet manage to pay them, or what amounts to the same thing, get a receipt in full, is illustrated by Mr. McLaughlin, citing the case of Michael Byrne. He has paid no taxes since 1869, except the taxes of 1877. On 19 lots the taxes were \$2,048.16, and on his making affidavit that the back taxes were equal to the value of the property, an order of the court was made that the property be sold. It was sold, the 1st lot bringing \$178. Byrne buying, getting rid in this way of his back taxes in a lump—paying \$3,048.19 with \$178. On his residence the taxes were \$1,019.92, which at the sale under the order of the court brought \$90. On the 4th of last March Byrne sold this property for \$4,500; it was again sold in July; and again in November last, the latter time for \$3,900. This was his residence property, on 5th and Marquette streets. Mr. McLaughlin said he had asked the County Board to prosecute these delinquents, but it has not done so. As supervisor of the town he has prosecuted several, obtaining judgments for town taxes, which the town will save; but the other taxes will be lost if claims are not prosecuted. "If," said Mr. McLaughlin, "this is the way taxes are to be paid, the anarchists are right when they say that government is simply an instrument in dishonest hands to swindle honest men out of their rights!" The sooner this law is wiped from the statute book or all men are allowed to pay their taxes in the same way the better! What Mr. McL. would like to know is whether the Board propose to take any action in the matter. Another sample of similar tax paying is the case of the Cody estate, which by a sale of the property paid back taxes of \$4,318.09 with \$300, the amount the property sold for at the sale.

Mr. Gunn said he wished the gentleman from La Salle would make a motion for a committee on the subject.

Mr. McLaughlin thereupon moved the appointment of a committee of three to examine the subject, consult the county attorney, and make a report at this session. So ordered; the chair appointing, at the suggestion of the mover, Messrs. Marsh, McMullan and Fischer.

WEDNESDAY—THIRD DAY.

One of the curiosities in the way of bills showed up from the Chicago Evening Journal. Last August the ruse of the paper came to Ottawa, and asked Chairman Lewis for authority to "write up" the county buildings—for a "consideration." Mr. Lewis said he had no power to make such an order, but he could do as he pleased, and if he did write it up he could let his bill run the gauntlet of the Board. The matter was passed for the present.

Supervisor McLaughlin asked for authority to purchase tickets to ship back to Europe certain persons who had become dissatisfied with this great and glorious country. It was decided it would be a bad precedent to establish, as the persons had not become as yet a county charge, and the aid was refused.

The Probate Clerk reported earnings for the past six months, \$1,751; and receipts, \$1,437.80; net receipts paid into the county, \$288.07.

The County Clerk reported earnings for the past six months, \$9,168.79; receipts, \$1,555.62; expenses, \$3,638.13; earnings over expenses, \$5,540.60.

The South Ottawa supervisor, Farnsworth, presented a petition from Chas. A. Chandler, who had a leg broken while at work as bridge builder on the C. B. & Q., for \$50, which with \$57 raised by subscription he expected would enable him to go to Rush Medical College to have an operation performed, which it is believed will enable him to get well and able to support his father and mother. As the family had already become in a small way a county charge, the amount was allowed.

Then followed a great raft of bills, which were read and referred.

A petition from the Highway Commissioners of La Salle was read, asking for aid for that old, old sordid the Shippingsport Bridge road—north over the river bottom from the bridge to La Salle. The work has begun, and it is expected the work will cost \$6,407.60, one-half of which, \$3,233.80, the county is asked to appropriate, since the tax levy of 80c on the \$100—full extent allowed by law—will produce but one-half the estimated cost. Referred.

Mr. Gunn presented a bill of Mr. Thomas Martin for \$60, for taking care of Mrs. McCullough, of his township, from March to October last, when she died. She was very old, and being not taken care of by her relatives, if she had any living or able, when she took her to his home and cared for her until she died. On motion of Mr. Hickok \$25 were allowed.

The treasurer's report from September session to date was read as reported by the committee to settle with treasurer. It showed receipts, \$59,148.70; expenses, \$89,910.05; balance due county, \$19,228.65.

THURSDAY—FOURTH DAY.

The matter of the M. Byrne tax case from La Salle came up on a report of the special committee. It was found the law in the case had been complied with. Byrne's affidavit showed the assessed valuation was less than the amount of back taxes, and that the taxes were greater than it was believed the property (in its then condition of title) would sell for in open market. The question is "What are you going to do about it?" The county attorney might suggest a way in which the taxes may be collected; the committee could not.

The Circuit Clerk's report showed earnings past six months, \$2,189.55; receipts, \$1,538.35; uncollected, \$750.20; expenses, \$1,790.

The report of the special committee appointed at the December term to investigate the matter of outside aid to paupers came up next, printed copies being furnished the Board. It was lengthy and, on its face, showed an extreme looseness in these accounts, luxuries being supplied without limit. It also showed that these accounts were constantly and rapidly increasing, gave sample bills audited, and a table of expenses for "necessaries" and "luxuries," town by town, as per bills paid at July session. The subject matter will be better understood when the report is published, as it will be next week. The committee close by recommending:

1. That the Board will allow no bills for outside aid except on itemized orders of supervisors.

2. That orders for provisions shall include nothing but flour, meat, fish and potatoes, except in cases of extreme age or sickness.

3. That orders given for other purposes than for provisions shall include articles of prime necessity only.

4. That orders issued by assistant supervisors shall not be recognized by the Board, except in cases where given on the written request of the supervisor.

5. That any substitution of one article for another by the party on whom the order is drawn shall render the whole order void.

6. The committee also recommended the adoption of a form of order to be used hereafter, which the County Clerk be instructed to procure in book form and supply the same to the supervisors of the several towns,—which as a stub and a main order containing items,—necessaries and blank lines for other articles,—and contemplates an itemized order, which goods alone can be furnished on the order.

The subject is a very important one, and was so looked upon by all.

Norton, Earl, moved to adopt the report.

Fisher, Mendota, said he would be ashamed to have such a report go to his town.

Gunn (chairman of committee) said they had examined some 3,000 orders and not less than 25,000 different items. He thought the recommendations should be adopted, especially the 5th, which would relieve supervisors from annoyance and at the same time limit the orders to necessities.

An animated and laudably humane discussion thereupon arose as to what were "necessaries." Fisher thought coffee, tea and even sugar in reasonable quantities were; but at the rate of \$5 a family he thought they became luxuries. He thought the order should be adopted. Ottawa, approved the report.

The difficulty supervisors have to contend with is the want of time and ability to examine into individual cases when orders are given to see that only "necessaries" are bought on orders issued, and the pauper committee having approved the claims, the members aside from that committee knew little or nothing of the character of the bills presented. He also approved of the order, but said there should be some liberty of action left supervisors in making out their itemized orders, for what would in some cases be luxuries in others would be necessary and proper articles to be supplied. Fades in a very humane speech thought the supervisor would not stick to these orders, and cited numerous cases of his own where what were nominally luxuries had been ordered, and properly so, and would be ordered by any man with a heart in him who had the cases to look after. He favored retrenchment, but didn't just see how the proposed order would help matters.

The upshot of the discussion was that the understanding is that "outside" aid is rendered to persons who partially support themselves. These persons may be assisted by orders for necessities; except that when the supervisor believes that other goods may properly be given he may so specify on his order. A motion to include tea and coffee as among the necessities was voted down, and the report then adopted as a whole, in spite of the belief of many that it would be impracticable to restrict the orders to itemized statements of goods to be furnished.

Adjourned to Friday morning.

FRIDAY—FIFTH DAY.

After approving reports of committee to settle with county officers, the Board tackled the Chicago Journal "write up" bill, and it was disallowed.

Then in came a raft of bills from the sheriff for washing, mending, &c. The bills started the committee. In fact they paralyzed them, and in self-defense they reported them back to the Board. The sheriff's bills are truly remarkable, and have been, and in spite of the fact that the Board has repeatedly "sat down" on them, they still come in. Will he never take a header? Norton moved to allow such parts of the bills as the sheriff would swear has accrued to the benefit of the county! Gracious goodness! This was withdrawn, however, to allow McLaughlin to move to recommit the bills to the committee.

In the afternoon, on motion of Fisher a resolution was adopted instructing the county attorney to have all lands and lots on which the back taxes were equal to or greater than their value sold, and Sups. Fisher, Eads and Marsh were appointed a committee to buy at the sale in such way as to protect the interests of the county.

The sheriff's washing bill came up again, as overhauled by the committee and cut down from \$145.47 to \$82.69. A comparison of the bill with the Clifton Hotel laundry price list showed that the sheriff charged the county the same prices for washing for prisoners, although, as explained by Sup. Norton, the county furnished the soap, fuel, clothes wringer, clothes line, water, hot air, building, everything! Sup. Norton maintained that in the light of a recent decision of the supreme court the Board could allow the sheriff only the actual cost of such service, as his compensation was fixed by law and no allowance beyond that was legal, and if he had received more in times past he and his bondsmen were liable to the county for the amount. "Look at the equity of the thing," said Mr. Norton. The sheriff is allowed \$3.50 a week for boarding prisoners, though the county furnished deputies to do the cooking, paid for the stoves, fuel, cutlery and crockery, furnished the beds, bedding, &c., &c., and in addition to all he wants first class laundry prices for washing! It is suggested that the county could make money by closing up its \$10,000 boarding house and letting the job of boarding the prisoners and washing for them to the Clifton Hotel!

Madden, of the committee, said they had figured out that washing for the prisoners was worth 22c per week per man and they had allowed the sheriff at that rate.

After some further discussion the question was put and the report of committee cutting down the sheriff's bill was adopted. Resolutions of respect to the memory of John P. Miner, of Eden, Dec'd, late a member of the board, after eulogistic remarks by Gun, Eads and Lewis, were adopted, and the board adjourned to this morning.

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