

ILLEGAL FEES

Collected by Republican Secretaries of State, From 1871 to 1893,

From Churches, Lodges, Grand Army of the Republic Posts.

Charity Associations, and Other Kansas Corporations the Victims.

Let Any Citizen Investigate the Statements Herein Made.

Free Charters Granted to Topeka and Wichita Social Clubs, While a Tribute Is Exacted On Places to Bury the Dead.

[LETTER NO. 4.]

The well known practices of Kansas republican state officials continue to come to light. They usually covered up their tracks deep. But at times they apparently acted as though the republican party had a perpetual lease on Kansas. In my three former letters, I showed from the records the items where the People's party has saved to the people of Kansas \$1,412,636.23 over the former republican state administration, and challenged any person to disprove my statements. Former republican officials admit by their silence that what I said is true. THEY KNOW BETTER than to attack the records.

In this letter will appear more records copied from the files of the secretary of state's office. Any person is invited and requested to call at said office and satisfy himself relative to the facts hereinafter given. By reference to the statutes, the reader will observe that the law has remained the same since 1868, in relation to the fees of the secretary of state's office, which, for a certified copy of any law, resolution, bond, record, document or paper deposited or kept in said office, is 10 cents per folio of 100 words, and for certificate and seal, 50 cents. An ordinary charter contains about 500 words, which, for making a copy is 50 cents. Add to this the cost of certificate and seal, 50 cents, makes a total cost of \$1. There is no fee allowed by the statute for filing or recording.

As I stated in a previous letter, no record fee books have been kept in this office by former secretaries of state. But when the fee accompanied the charter, sometimes the fee received was marked on the charter. This record was made on about one charter out of ten, and forms a good index of the prevailing fees charged for the nineteen years from 1871 to 1893, by the following secretaries of state: W. H. Smallwood, Thos. H. Cavanaugh, James Smith, E. B. Allen and William Higgins. Prior to that time no record of any kind appears of the fees charged.

Limited space and time forbid a full, detailed statement of all the charters filed in this office. Therefore, a part of them only, relative to churches, lodges and charitable institutions mostly, are given, from which it appears that many of them have been charged double fees and some of them three times the fee allowed by law. It should be noted that in many cases the poor, weak, struggling country churches were charged two and three times the legal fee, while the wealthy and influential churches of Topeka and Wichita received their charters complimentary!

Table with columns for 'Legal fee', 'Fee chg'd.', and 'Legal Fee chg'd.'. It lists various church charters and organizations such as Methodist Church Charters, Mennonites, Baptist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and others, with their respective locations and dates.

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