

Daily one year, mail postage paid... Weekly, one year...

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1886.

We yield all our available space to-day to the report of the board of agriculture...

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Its Management and Expenditures.

The board of agriculture publishes a full statement of the operations of the department in "The Bulletin,"...

It is objected that the commissioner, while in office, acted for a time as statistical agent for the agricultural department at Washington.

When the agency was offered to him the question of his acceptance was submitted to the board. The members held that there was no legal impediment.

The employment, as its name imports, related only to statistical matters—to the crops sown and planted, the condition at different seasons, the yield at the end of the year, and to furnishing information on all questions embraced within the wide range of statistics in this State.

It is made a matter of objection to the director of the station and the secretary of the board that they performed certain services for the New Orleans exposition and received compensation therefor.

Application was made to the chairman of the board and the secretary of the board to discharge certain duties in connection with the exposition, along with their appointed duties in connection with the exhibit of the State.

The exposition was made in the interest of the whole South, and to whatever single State could do to secure success, without prejudicing its own interests, was regarded as a high duty.

It was reasonable to suppose that important advantages would be secured for our exhibit when two of our own officers had a voice in the general management.

Actuated by these considerations the chairman of the board gave his consent—which was afterwards ratified by the board—and those gentlemen entered on the exposition work, and performed so acceptably that the managers of the exposition felt constrained to make them a compensation.

But the State was peculiarly a gainer; for while they were doing double duty their expenses were not charged to the department, but were defrayed by themselves.

The curator of the museum is also an imadvised one. The curator of the museum is thoroughly qualified for his duties. He has had a long experience, and may be said to have been trained to his duties under Prof. Kerr.

In installing the exhibit each took an active part. For the work to be done all who went from this department, and all who were engaged specially for it, possessed qualifications of a very high order.

The fact that so many of the employees of the department were in New Orleans to assist in installing the exhibit has been made a subject of comment.

There was no part of the management that, in the minds of reflecting men, is likely to secure a more hearty approval. Skilled men were needed; the department had a force trained in the work required in connection with the exhibit.

The work in hand being a part of a great public trust it was requisite that all the engagements pertaining to it should be governed by the strictest prudence—that the needed service should be obtained at the most moderate compensation; this could be done only by employing the department force, for the competition of fifty States and Territories for skilled labor to be performed in a short time would raise its price to extravagant rates.

A steady force, available at all times, was necessary when the exigencies of the case prompted constant counter-bidding; the department employees would be independent of such offers—they would, too, be stimulated by love for the State and a desire for its triumph.

It has been urged that as the director of the station and one assistant from the laboratory were in New Orleans to aid in putting up the exhibit, and one at the end of the exhibit to aid in packing it up; therefore, it is to be inferred that the services of one might be dispensed with altogether.

No inference would be less warranted. The two former were there but a short time, having returned as soon as the exhibit was installed; the latter but a few days to help in closing it up. They went down to meet a demand arising out of a great emergency—a demand, the nature of which has been explained, and which admitted of no delay.

The work of the laboratory could, under the pressing circumstances, be deferred for a time and brought up by night work, which was afterwards done.

After the exhibit was in place the permanent force there was reduced to five, viz: Mr. Wilson, the officer in charge; Mr. Bruner, Mr. Hadden, Mr. Stamps, and Mr. Clarke.

It is made matter of objection that the commissioner spent twelve days in New Orleans.

The commissioner had in charge, under the direction of the board, the organization and management of the State and New Orleans exhibits. The latter was made at the distance of nearly a thousand miles, and it was found that those of the board except the Governor could go down to inspect the exhibit in person.

The first is a night watchman. The second has the care of the State water-closet. Properly, his wages should be paid by the State, but the legislature having failed to provide a servant for this purpose, the board has done so to prevent the place from becoming an intolerable nuisance on its premises.

The servant who waits in the laboratory and has charge of the steam engine used in connection with it, receives \$25. The one who waits on the office of the commissioner and immigration agent, twenty-five dollars; the servant who has charge of the State water-closet, fifteen dollars.

It is alleged that the amount paid for carriage hire while preparing for the State exposition was large.

The exposition building was two miles from town, and the persons engaged in putting in place the vast quantity of material, which occupied one-fourth of the extensive building, had to go out in the morning and return in the evening in carriages, and, in the progress of the work, it was often necessary to dispatch messengers to town in the course of the day to fetch articles that were needed.

Another allegation, under the head of extravagance, is that \$26 03 were expended for German books for the experiment station. "Ought," asks a paper, "the State to be required to pay for such books?"

The director of the station is the State chemist; all his work is for the State. The health of a trade involving two million dollars in value depends on the accuracy of his analyses.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The cost of the North Carolina exhibit to the department of agriculture was a fraction less than \$8,000. To this is to be added the sum of \$3,333, received from the United States commissioner and expended in the exhibit. The amount, \$3,333, received from the United States commissioner by the director and secretary has been accounted for to him, and an itemized account, together with receipts covering the entire amount, have been submitted to him.

The State of Nebraska spent \$15,000, appropriated by its legislature; Wisconsin the sum of \$12,000; Mississippi the sum of \$12,000; Texas the sum of \$50,000; Minnesota the sum of \$30,000, and California the sum of \$90,000. Each of these States received in addition to the amounts named their relative part of the exposition fund.

The case in regard to the experiment station stands thus: The gentleman at the head of that branch of the department is a master of his profession, and is of the highest integrity. The fact that he has such a force at work is a declaration that the force is necessary to do the work properly.

The work of chemical analysis is one of the nicest and most delicate that can be performed. For weighing the substance to be analyzed balances are employed, so perfectly adjusted that a single hair will incline the scale. The balances themselves are kept as bright as a jeweler's wares.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The first is a night watchman. The second has the care of the State water-closet. Properly, his wages should be paid by the State, but the legislature having failed to provide a servant for this purpose, the board has done so to prevent the place from becoming an intolerable nuisance on its premises.

The servant who waits in the laboratory and has charge of the steam engine used in connection with it, receives \$25. The one who waits on the office of the commissioner and immigration agent, twenty-five dollars; the servant who has charge of the State water-closet, fifteen dollars.

It is alleged that the amount paid for carriage hire while preparing for the State exposition was large.

The exposition building was two miles from town, and the persons engaged in putting in place the vast quantity of material, which occupied one-fourth of the extensive building, had to go out in the morning and return in the evening in carriages, and, in the progress of the work, it was often necessary to dispatch messengers to town in the course of the day to fetch articles that were needed.

Another allegation, under the head of extravagance, is that \$26 03 were expended for German books for the experiment station. "Ought," asks a paper, "the State to be required to pay for such books?"

The director of the station is the State chemist; all his work is for the State. The health of a trade involving two million dollars in value depends on the accuracy of his analyses.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The first is a night watchman. The second has the care of the State water-closet. Properly, his wages should be paid by the State, but the legislature having failed to provide a servant for this purpose, the board has done so to prevent the place from becoming an intolerable nuisance on its premises.

The servant who waits in the laboratory and has charge of the steam engine used in connection with it, receives \$25. The one who waits on the office of the commissioner and immigration agent, twenty-five dollars; the servant who has charge of the State water-closet, fifteen dollars.

It is alleged that the amount paid for carriage hire while preparing for the State exposition was large.

The exposition building was two miles from town, and the persons engaged in putting in place the vast quantity of material, which occupied one-fourth of the extensive building, had to go out in the morning and return in the evening in carriages, and, in the progress of the work, it was often necessary to dispatch messengers to town in the course of the day to fetch articles that were needed.

Another allegation, under the head of extravagance, is that \$26 03 were expended for German books for the experiment station. "Ought," asks a paper, "the State to be required to pay for such books?"

The director of the station is the State chemist; all his work is for the State. The health of a trade involving two million dollars in value depends on the accuracy of his analyses.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The first is a night watchman. The second has the care of the State water-closet. Properly, his wages should be paid by the State, but the legislature having failed to provide a servant for this purpose, the board has done so to prevent the place from becoming an intolerable nuisance on its premises.

The servant who waits in the laboratory and has charge of the steam engine used in connection with it, receives \$25. The one who waits on the office of the commissioner and immigration agent, twenty-five dollars; the servant who has charge of the State water-closet, fifteen dollars.

It is alleged that the amount paid for carriage hire while preparing for the State exposition was large.

The exposition building was two miles from town, and the persons engaged in putting in place the vast quantity of material, which occupied one-fourth of the extensive building, had to go out in the morning and return in the evening in carriages, and, in the progress of the work, it was often necessary to dispatch messengers to town in the course of the day to fetch articles that were needed.

Another allegation, under the head of extravagance, is that \$26 03 were expended for German books for the experiment station. "Ought," asks a paper, "the State to be required to pay for such books?"

The director of the station is the State chemist; all his work is for the State. The health of a trade involving two million dollars in value depends on the accuracy of his analyses.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The first is a night watchman. The second has the care of the State water-closet. Properly, his wages should be paid by the State, but the legislature having failed to provide a servant for this purpose, the board has done so to prevent the place from becoming an intolerable nuisance on its premises.

The servant who waits in the laboratory and has charge of the steam engine used in connection with it, receives \$25. The one who waits on the office of the commissioner and immigration agent, twenty-five dollars; the servant who has charge of the State water-closet, fifteen dollars.

It is alleged that the amount paid for carriage hire while preparing for the State exposition was large.

The exposition building was two miles from town, and the persons engaged in putting in place the vast quantity of material, which occupied one-fourth of the extensive building, had to go out in the morning and return in the evening in carriages, and, in the progress of the work, it was often necessary to dispatch messengers to town in the course of the day to fetch articles that were needed.

Another allegation, under the head of extravagance, is that \$26 03 were expended for German books for the experiment station. "Ought," asks a paper, "the State to be required to pay for such books?"

The director of the station is the State chemist; all his work is for the State. The health of a trade involving two million dollars in value depends on the accuracy of his analyses.

The bills for postage, express, stationery and telegrams are alleged to be excessive.

The department was established in part to give information about the material interests of the State, in answer to all inquiries, from whatever quarter they may come.

There are certain specifications in which extravagance is alleged or implied. The first is for employing extra clerical aid in the commissioner's office.

Extra clerical help was employed on three occasions. The first and second instance occurred while Mr. Wilson, the secretary, was in New Orleans, and while Mr. Montgomery, the acting secretary, was on his rounds as inspector of fertilizers.

The amounts paid for clerical work in the experiment station were appropriated by the board, and for the following reasons: A record of all the work done in the laboratory, of all the figures obtained in the analyses, of all reports on the same, of all letters, &c., is written up and preserved in convenient form for reference.

Objection has been made to certain porter's fees allowed by the commissioner, director and secretary in auditing the accounts of employees of the department.

These items amounted to \$3.90. They were objected to by the finance committee of the board, and that sum was refunded to the treasury by the officers above named, as will appear by the receipt of the treasurer hereto appended:

RECEIVED OF M. McGehee, J. W. Dabney, Jr., and P. M. Wilson three dollars and ninety cents, being the amount refunded by them to cover certain expenditures accepted by these officers as accounts rendered by their assistants and paid out on their order, but not approved by the finance committee of the board of agriculture.

It is alleged that there are too many servants in the department.

The board prints in the Bulletin all the items of expenses incurred by it during the past fiscal year. These cover the monthly payment of salaries to the officers and clerks; the quarterly payment of per diem and mileage to the members of the board; the payments to the servants and little incidental expenses. It would unnecessarily occupy our space to print these items in extenso, and so we give only enough of them to insure an understanding of the matter.

The annual pay roll seems from the accounts to be as follows: Officers—M. McGehee \$2,000; P. M. Wilson \$1,500; T. A. Montgomery \$600; C. W. Dabney \$2,500; F. B. Dancy \$1,000; H. E. Battle \$1,000; F. B. Dancy \$1,000; J. A. Withers \$720; F. C. Harris \$900; E. M. Robinson \$720; L. D. Terrell \$540; W. F. Newsom \$240. Servants—John Stanford \$300; Wm. Whitaker \$300; Jesse Turner \$300; James Higgs \$180.

There was a postage account and a telegraph account, a gas account and bills for chemicals and articles necessary to be used about the "little carp," about the experiment station, etc. The pay roll is fixed by the board of agriculture, and the gentlemen on that board have doubtless kept it at reasonable figures, considering the work to be done.

The little incidentals are purchases by the officers, who are men of character and whose bills have been considered and approved by the finance committee. We assume that the little articles purchased were reasonably necessary and in the absence of anything to the contrary we likewise assume that the prices paid come fair. We give a few of them:

Jan. 25, coal for stove, \$5; March 20, filing cases, \$30.20; March 20, repairs to pump, \$5; March 30, fertilizer cans, \$11.60; April 30, wrapping and mailing papers, \$5; May 30, rubber boots, assistants at carp ponds, \$7.90; May 30, horse and buggy to carp ponds, \$1; May 30, stationary \$2; May 22, repairs to pumps, gas fixtures, etc., \$38.50; June 1, crackers for carp. \$2.34; Oct. 16, seal press and seal \$14; Nov. 1, Oct. 16, seal hammer, mortar, etc., \$1.90.

Attention was properly made by the finance committee, who examined the vouchers, to payment of porter's fees, etc., amounting to \$3.90, and these were disallowed.

The cost of making the exhibit at New Orleans was about eight thousand dollars. It must be borne in mind that the scale on which the exhibit was made

REMARKS: The board prints in the Bulletin all the items of expenses incurred by it during the past fiscal year. These cover the monthly payment of salaries to the officers and clerks; the quarterly payment of per diem and mileage to the members of the board; the payments to the servants and little incidental expenses. It would unnecessarily occupy our space to print these items in extenso, and so we give only enough of them to insure an understanding of the matter.

The annual pay roll seems from the accounts to be as follows: Officers—M. McGehee \$2,000; P. M. Wilson \$1,500; T. A. Montgomery \$600; C. W. Dabney \$2,500; F. B. Dancy \$1,000; H. E. Battle \$1,000; F. B. Dancy \$1,000; J. A. Withers \$720; F. C. Harris \$900; E. M. Robinson \$720; L. D. Terrell \$540; W. F. Newsom \$240. Servants—John Stanford \$300; Wm. Whitaker \$300; Jesse Turner \$300; James Higgs \$180.

There was a postage account and a telegraph account, a gas account and bills for chemicals and articles necessary to be used about the "little carp," about the experiment station, etc. The pay roll is fixed by the board of agriculture, and the gentlemen on that board have doubtless kept it at reasonable figures, considering the work to be done.

The little incidentals are purchases by the officers, who are men of character and whose bills have been considered and approved by the finance committee. We assume that the little articles purchased were reasonably necessary and in the absence of anything to the contrary we likewise assume that the prices paid come fair. We give a few of them:

Jan. 25, coal for stove, \$5; March 20, filing cases, \$30.20; March 20, repairs to pump, \$5; March 30, fertilizer cans, \$11.60; April 30, wrapping and mailing papers, \$5; May 30, rubber boots, assistants at carp ponds, \$7.90; May 30, horse and buggy to carp ponds, \$1; May 30, stationary \$2; May 22, repairs to pumps, gas fixtures, etc., \$38.50; June 1, crackers for carp. \$2.34; Oct. 16, seal press and seal \$14; Nov. 1, Oct. 16, seal hammer, mortar, etc., \$1.90.