

## STEVE DORSEY.

The Ex-Secretary of the Republican National Committee Makes More Interesting Revelations.

Tremendous Bribes Received by Government Star-route Counsel—Gar-  
conkling, Et Al.

"They talk about Dorsey's revelations," said the notorious ex-Secretary of the National Republican Committee to a Washington correspondent the other day; "but I have made no revelations in comparison with what I could make. However, I have perhaps said enough. Friends think I have, and perhaps they are right. The October and November campaigns of 1880 are now old stories, and I shall say no more about them for the present. The star-route trials are also rather old matters to talk about."

"But there had been new revelations about the star-route troubles recently," suggested the correspondent. "It has been stated within the last two weeks that Mr. Salisbury, one of the largest of the star-route contractors, publicly asserted here in Washington that he had secured immunity from criminal prosecution by the payment of \$100,000. Do you know anything about this?"

"The only doubt about the truth of that statement is that it was \$300,000 instead of \$100,000. In saying this I don't mean to intimate that Mr. Salisbury was any more guilty than you are. You know it is better sometimes to sell a vicious dog than to kill him. Mr. Salisbury was by far the largest of the star-route contractors, and, therefore, afforded the best subject for blackmail. Of the ninety routes that were expedited over \$5,000 each Mr. Wilson owned 18 per cent, Mr. J. L. Scott 15 per cent, Mr. Paul 10 per cent of the remainder. I owned a half interest in less than 1 per cent. I have not heard that any of these parties have been prosecuted either criminally or civilly. It is said that one of these large contracting firms agreed to pay a large sum for the appointment of a Board of Arbitrators, and after the trial was concluded refused to pay."

"Do you know anything of the details of these transactions?"

"Parties to bribery have no compunctions, and when you add bribery to cowardice they have no association. The dirty bunch of the Bissell, Brewster, and the gang with which they associate were only worthy to fertilize the garden of their infamy."

"Were you ever offered immunity by the payment of money to persons representing the Government?"

"Why, certainly. Don't you know the whole star-route business had two purposes? One was to gratify the ambition of idiots and pretenders, and the other was to fill the pockets of the blackmailers. A demand was made upon me for \$30,000 to guarantee immunity. I remembered that some man had said 'millions for defense, not one cent for tribute,' and when he commits a wrong known to him, is generally willing to atone for it. Resentment is not always wise, but as against power unlawfully used the man who would resent it is not worthy the name of man."

"Who made you this offer?"

"That I will not tell."

"Was political influence used as well as money to shield those large contractors, or any of them?"

"I had not married the relative of a Cabinet officer, nor had I contributed large sums to the personal success of ambitious people."

"Do you know whether the Government got the money paid by these men for immunity?"

"Bribie-takers never divide with anybody. The books of the Treasury Department will show whether any of this ever went into the vaults or not, and if you keen-eyed newspaper men can discover a dollar of it that ever did reach the Treasury I will give you \$10,000 for each dollar you find."

"If this money was paid, and it did not go into the Treasury, where did it go, if you know?"

"While I didn't see it paid, nor trace it after it was paid, I will make a wild guess that the bank account of George Blaine in New York shows pretty large deposits outside of his \$150 a day about the time this money was paid. And Ken (it ought to be spent with a C) account in Philadelphia—if he knows enough to keep a bank account—makes a good showing. It is more than likely that the other two parties to this fraud, Brewster and Merrick, have spent their share for whisky. These enormous sums taken from those contractors under duress were obtained by a blackmail of the lowest and vilest character, and were stolen by the men who demanded them."

"I can't say 'these enormous sums.' Was anybody besides Salisbury led off by the payment of money?"

"Well, Sanderson was indicted with me—in the very same indictment. Some of the persons I have mentioned as being heavily interested in expedited star routes were not indicted at all, and others who were indicted have not been tried, and will not be."

"You say your interest in star routes was very small as compared with those other people?"

"I had no interest except what came to me by loaning a little money, and every contract I was interested in was transferred to the late Mr. W. W. Bissell the day I came in possession of it. After three years on a settlement of the account, Mr. Bissell being in charge all the time and drawing every cent of the money, it was found that the profits of all the routes were \$11,000, which we divided."

"Was there any political reason for prosecuting you and leaving the great contractors out?"

"Well, answering that question will involve a good bit of political history. The appointment of MacVeagh from Pennsylvania as a member of the Cabinet seemed to me to be an important and vital element in the Republican party of that State, and when I tried to express my opinion to Gen. Garfield I did it with frankness and, I believe, with entire truth. There is nothing to MacVeagh except that he is the little son-in-law of a great father-in-law. The only thing he represented was cranks, and he is worthy to be Chairman of that entire class. When Gen. Garfield asked me to write him about James, of New York, I didn't know whether he referred to a letter-carrier or a policeman. I had never heard of any James that ought to represent that great State in the President's Cabinet. I made some inquiries and found out who James was, and I said as I expected, that he was a sympathizer. Feeling that he always looked the toes of power, bowed down to whatever was able to give him an office, or take one away from him. Without character, or standing, or intelligence, he wormed himself into the Cabinet as the representative of New York. Now, I will tell you a story about James, and in doing so I don't want to advertise a person so unworthy as he. I was in Gen. Garfield's rooms at the Riggs House the night before James' nomination, when Mr. James came in. Gen. Garfield, even at that early day, seemed to fear the influence of Senator Conkling, and was then consulting Mr. James about taking a place in his Cabinet, and among other things he asked Mr. James if, in the event of a break between himself and the Senator, he could rely on his support. In reply Mr. James said that if he was appointed in the Cabinet he would do everything in his power for the administration against Mr. Conkling or any other New York politician. He reiterated this statement several times in my hearing, and I heard it with amazement, as I knew all that James was he owed to Mr. Conkling. While this conversation was going on, I left the room and went to call on Senator Conkling, and while there in a room adjoining the parlor with Gen. Arthur, Mr. James came in, and Mr. Conkling expressed his disapprobation at the idea of James going into the Cabinet, and James said to him that it was better for him (Senator Conkling) to have a man in the Cabinet upon whom he could always rely, as he could upon him (James). I don't know anything that illustrates James better than this."

"Now to show the weakness of Gen. Garfield. The letters I had written to him at his request in regard to James and MacVeagh, which, it seems to me, should have been cured, he turned over to them after they had

been appointed, to show them the influence he had had to overcome to appoint them. There was enough in these letters to make these men ugly, but nothing except what feebly described their capacity and representative character. I would have said more if I had known how. Forceful facts applied to individuals are always unsatisfactory to the individuals themselves. Picturesque descriptions of men's weaknesses are never admired by the men they refer to. My urgent advice to Garfield was, that, if he wanted to appoint any member of his Cabinet outside of his own party, instead of selecting MacVeagh he should take a Democrat as a Democrat, without regard of any kind in his part. I advised him that it might be wise to make Gen. Hancock Secretary of State; that we had only carried the election by a very small majority; that the voters were nearly equally balanced; that on the theory of civil-service reform he should give the minority—that was scarcely a minority—representation in the Cabinet. I suggest to him that pretense wasn't statesmanship; that assumption always represented small things, that soldiers never accomplished much, that sailors never accomplished much, that men never accomplished much in their own tongues; that James and MacVeagh represented the pretenders and the scolds—the scoundrels and incapacity of disappointed ambition." MacVeagh and James know what I said to Garfield. Doesn't this answer the question?"

"Was there not another reason why you opposed these appointments, or at least one of them? Had not Gen. Garfield pledged Senator Platt, Mr. Crowley, Gen. Arthur, Levi P. Morton, yourself, and others that New York should have the Secretary of the Treasury, and was not that pledge made in the presence of the men named?"

"Yes, sir, and if you want to know—though I don't see any good now—its old history, I will tell you about it. When we had our so-called conference at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, a meeting was had in my room, at which the above-named persons were present. It is not worth while to go into details in regard to that meeting, or of the so-called conference. The whole matter is that the leading men of New York had been kicked around the country for four years by Hayes, and didn't want four years more of the kicking business. Mr. Conkling was in nowise responsible for the gathering of its results. I owned a half interest in less than 1 per cent, I have not heard that any of these parties have been prosecuted either criminally or civilly. It is said that one of these large contracting firms agreed to pay a large sum for the appointment of a Board of Arbitrators, and after the trial was concluded refused to pay."

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## A HORRIBLE CRIME.

The Singularly Brutal Murder of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Willson, Near Chicago.

They Warmed a Viper in the Person of a Visitor, Who First Robbed and Then Killed Them.

A double murder of the most revolting character was recently perpetrated at Winnetka, Ill., a town of 600 inhabitants, situated on the lake shore, a few miles north of Chicago, the victim being James L. Willson, an old and wealthy settler, and President of the Winnetka Village Board, and his wife, a member of another family of early Illinois settlers named Weare. He was about 70 years old, and with his wife, who was nearly ten years his senior, and crippled by paralysis, lived alone in a large, retired house. The crime was attended by circumstances of peculiar mystery, and is surrounded by a veil of mystery which defies the efforts of the detectives to penetrate. From the Chicago papers we glean the following particulars of the terrible butchery: As mentioned above, the aged couple lived alone, and the crime was not discovered until several hours after its commission. Mr. Willson's body was found lying in a crumpled condition beside the stove in the sitting-room. The right hand was clenched and beneath the head, and the left arm raised as if to ward off a blow. He had been shot twice, once in the left cheek and once in the left side of the chest. There had evidently been desperate struggle for life by the old man, as there were numerous bruises about his head, arms and legs, and the foot-fender of the stove and the back of one of the chairs had been broken. The post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the old gentleman's ribs were broken, as if his murderer had finished his deed by jumping upon his victim, as he lay writhing in the arms of death before him.

But horrible as this discovery was, another even more blood-curdling awaited the neighbors, as they searched the house further. In an upper chamber Mrs. Willson was found dead in her bed, with her head beaten so that her features were almost unrecognizable. The flesh from her entire forehead was stripped from the skull by blow after blow, and the skull beaten in. Gashed to the bone were visible on her chin and cheeks, and the only arm which she had with which to defend herself was bruised from the shoulder to the fingers. The pillows and covers of the bed in their position showed that the old lady, though almost helpless, had desperately struggled for her life, were saturated with blood. She was literally pounded to death, and about the bed and room lay the implements with which the fiend, in his murderous frenzy, had done the deed. At the foot of the bed lay broken and splintered the white-thorn cane which she was accustomed to use in moving about her room. The murderer had evidently beaten her with this first, and when he had broken it had seized a pair of iron tongs, and continued the beating with mad desperation. These, too, were broken into less than half a dozen pieces over the old lady's head. Pierced were the sides of the bed and about the room, some of them covered with blood and having gray hairs torn from the victim's head clinging to them.

Beside the bed lay a sword in its scabbard, a cherished remembrance to the old lady of her only son, who was a surgeon in the war and died of yellow fever before its close. The dents and blood on the scabbard showed how the murderer had completed his infamous work. The bedroom presented a horrible sight aside from the mangled corpse it contained. The walls at the side of the bed and beside the headboard were thickly spattered with blood, even the high ceiling and walls opposite, and some twelve or fourteen feet distant from the bed, were splashed with it as, if was doubtless the case, the murderer's weapon, as he swung it around for another blow, had thrown off the plentiful blood that had adhered to it from the previous one.

All that is known concerning the murderer is this: The village had scarcely been alarmed when Neil Kaigne, who keeps a butcher shop not far from Mr. Willson's house, furnished a partial solution of the mystery. He says that Mr. Willson came into his shop at 6 o'clock Tuesday night, and said: "Give me two pounds of your nice porter-house steak. I have a friend stopping over night at my house, and I want to send over another steak in the morning." It is next to certain that this "friend," whoever he may be, is the one who committed the murder. But no one has been found who saw any one go to the Willson house on Tuesday evening. Mr. Willson took the steak home, it is supposed, and the three (Mr. Willson, his wife, and the guest) ate it for their supper. When the house was reached the next morning no traces of the steak, or of its having been cooked, could be found. A blood-stained vest cutlet was found untouched in the pantry. To this stood in the center of the dining-room with its back turned over the dishes. Upon lifting it, it was discovered that it was set for three. There were three plates, three cups and saucers, and knives. This showed conclusively that the murderer had seized the knife and spoon to commit the crime.

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With respect to the information asked for regarding to bounties paid or the sum necessary to equalize the bounties of those who served in the Union army in the late Civil War, the Adjutant General giving the information states that there were only four sick men under his command who were sent to Siskat, and they were spared by the rebels. Before the sortie a rebel sheik approached Siskat, and summoned Tewlik Bey to surrender, saying his life would be spared. The garrison answered defiantly, repelling the rebels. During the sortie women and children followed in the rear of the soldiers. Large numbers of the rebels were killed. The rebels are now massing in the vicinity of Siskat. The Siskat contingent have joined the main body. The attack on Siskat is being made upon the rebels by the British Minister at Cairo telegraphed that after the battle the rebels entered Siskat and put every one to the sword."

Three years.....\$200,000 Six months.....\$20,439  
Two years.....44,400 Four months.....42  
One year.....391,752 One hundred days.....82,507  
Nine months.....875,881 Three months.....108,416  
Eight months.....373 Sixty days.....2,045

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First Class—Enlisted men in the regular army who entered the service between April 12, 1861, and April 19, 1865, and were honorably discharged, 48,379; average duration of service, twenty-nine months.

Second Class—Enlisted men of all classes who volunteered, including those recognized for completing the defenses of Washington between April 12, 1861, and April 19, 1865, 2,324,421; deducting substitutes, 123,150, and enlisted men from captured prisoners of war, 1,592, leaves a total of 2,098,639; average duration of service, 23.7 months.

Third Class—Enlisted men who entered for not less than three years and were discharged on account of wounds or while in the line of duty, 59,500; average duration of service, 7.3 months.

Estimated cost of equalizing bounties of the first class, \$11,208,258; second class, \$501,328; third class, \$3,619,583; total, \$159,383,189. This sum, less the amount of bounties paid and then payable under the existing laws, and applying \$332,108,004 was \$137,275,105.