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"How the Money was Spent,"  
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#### HOW THE MONEY WAS SPENT.

#### THE CHARGES WHICH LED TO THE COAST SURVEY INVESTIGATION.

A Treasury Official Outlines the Scope  
of the Inquiry--The Committee Begin  
the Work of Investigation.

The committee appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to investigate the affairs of the Coast and Geodetic Survey will inquire into the general management of the bureau as well as the methods of expending the funds and keeping the accounts. They were busy at the work all day yesterday, and they expect to be ready to report within a week. The report made by First Auditor Chenoweth, upon which Superintendent Hilgard was suspended and four of his assistants absolutely dismissed, will not be made public until the investigation by the committee has been completed. The chief officials concerned in the matter are reticent; but it is known that the charges made by Mr. Chenoweth are strong and emphatic, and that otherwise the sudden suspension of Prof. Hilgard, the superintendent, and the summary dismissal of his four assistants would not have been made so promptly. It is denied that on appealing to the Secretary of the Treasury the four gentlemen who had been dismissed had their dismissals modified into suspensions; but it is understood that old Capt. C. O. Boutelle, who, after forty-three years of service, feels his dismissal keenly, will be relieved to the extent of having the order at least temporarily changed to one of suspension. The Treasury officials, who have undertaken to reform the bureau, had come to regard it as a superfluous little aristocracy of scientists, who considered themselves an entirely self-contained and independent organization, accountable only to Congress, the appropriation committees of which they could always control by bringing the influence of the college professors to bear upon them, and representing that science would suffer if the bureau was to be crippled by common restrictions or to be ruled by any but its own scientific heads.

"This attitude has become traditional in the bureau," said a Treasury official yesterday who is familiar with the facts in the case. "The men at the head of the service are a close set of old barnacles who have always tried to have things their own way, without any checks, supervision or interference; and having succeeded so long, they are impatient under the

present movement of reform. Regarding the work of coast and geodetic survey, as a special branch of scientific work, they indignantly resisted any suggestions as to the proper expenditure of the moneys appropriated for the service. None but themselves, they thought, had wisdom enough to know how these things ought to be done or the authority to say them nay. These ideas ruled and these abuses existed years ago when other men had charge of the bureau, and when the late incumbents succeeded to their positions they continued in the old ways and claimed the wide, irresponsible freedom of their predecessors. They had ways of their own, arbitrary ways, of making appointments in the service and of treating their various classes of employes, who were drawn from the navy, the army and from civil life. When Mr. Chandler was Secretary of the Navy there was a tough controversy between him and the bureau on the question of authority to make appointments. The Secretary contended that the Navy Department was entitled to a certain quota of appointments in the survey service for its cadets; but the bureau, true to its traditions, insisted that the will of the heads of the bureau in their work of science must be supreme."

"Can you say generally what is the nature of the charges made against Prof. Hilgard and his assistant?"

"Well, in a general way," was the reply, "the charges are understood to mean a reckless misappropriation of funds. Money charged as salaries that were alleged to have been paid to men who really were not employed; extravagant allowances to men who were employed and unauthorized allowances to their families; too frequent and too liberal entries of money under the head of traveling expenses and other charges and accounts that don't bear analysis."

"Prof. Hilgard," suggested the reporter, "has the reputation and the appearance of being a very honest, simple, easy-going man."

"Well, reputation and appearance may or may not be correct," responded the Treasury official; "but evidence has come under my own notice quite recently to convince me that the Professor is far more than the simple-minded, easy-going, harmless creature that reputation and appearance would indicate."

"Yes," said he, changing the topic, "another of the charges, I think, is that work was regularly done in the Coast Survey office in business hours by the Government-paid employes of the bureau for outsiders not connected with any Government service, and for pay."

"You have seen by an interview published in THE POST that some of the men dismissed allege that the investigation and all the trouble connected with it have been instigated by a Texan sorehead, a friend of Mr. Chenoweth, who was dismissed some time ago from the Coast and Geodetic Survey Service. Do you know the alleged sorehead?"

"Yes; I think I know the man referred to. I believe it is a fact that this investigation was suggested to Mr. Chenoweth by some information about the working of the bureau, which he received from this man. But the man I think cannot fairly be called a sorehead. The information was given without malice, and only with the object of having crooked things straightened, and the information thus given had been fully justified by the knowledge which Mr. Chenoweth's examination has already developed. The investigation by the committee will probably more than confirm the report which Mr. Chenoweth's examination led to."

"I know of no 'sorehead' as the instigator of any charges," Auditor Chenoweth is quoted as saying. "This proceeding is entirely in the interest of the public service and for the benefit of the bureau. I wish it understood that it is not an assault on the bureau, but only a movement to reform the management and render it more efficient, and guiltless employes may feel no apprehension."

Mr. Thorpe, the chairman of the investigating committee, is temporary superintendent of the bureau, with Mr. Colonna, one of the officials who were not suspended or dismissed, as his assistant. Prof. Hilgard avers that the bureau has been governed all along by rules and regulations which were remodeled only a few years ago, and all the expenditures are made accordingly.