

Anonymous  
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"The Coast Survey Scandal,"  
The Washington Post (Monday 3 August), page 1, column 7.

THE COAST SURVEY SCANDAL.

How the Government Has Been  
Robbed by Officials.

After sifting the stories which have found their way into print concerning the development of the Coast Survey investigation, it is found to be true that the pay-rolls of the bureau carry the name of Rubsam, and represent him as an expert engraver receiving a salary of \$300 or \$350 a month for some special engraving that he was supposed to be doing for the Government. According to the pay-rolls this "expert" would seem to have been paid \$1,750 within the past five months.

The investigating committee called Rubsam before them and discovered that he was a mere boy, and instead of \$1,750 he had only received \$90. The remainder of the money had been distributed among the regularly paid engravers of the bureau, who had really been doing among them the special work for which an expert was supposed to have been engaged. They had been doing it, too, in the hours which they were expected to devote to their regular work, and for which they were drawing their regular pay. It is also true that a good deal of card printing and drawing has been done by the plate printers and draftsmen on private orders for their own profit in Government hours.

It is true that an officer of the bureau who was dispatched some time ago with a large sum of money (\$4,000 or thereabouts) to do some work on the Atlantic coast, instead of having the work done, disappeared for some months and spent the money in a drunken spree. It is true that he sent in a false report and false payrolls, and that he was thereafter charged with forgery, embezzlement, drunkenness and theft. The discovery of the embezzlement made restitution necessary, and to facilitate restitution the embezzler had his salary considerably increased. He is still in the service of the bureau enjoying a larger salary on account of his drunken spree.

It is true that Mr. Sagemuller, one of the officials recently removed as Chief of the Instrument Division, had the ordering of the instruments used in the service practically under his control, and that Fauth & Co., a firm of instrument makers of which he was a member, made very large profits out of Government orders.

It is true that gold chronometers purchased years ago for scientific use in the survey field, at a cost of from \$100 to \$300 apiece, have fallen into disuse of late in the bureau and have been appropriated to the private and personal service of some of the officials. Prof. Pierce, Mr. M. W. Wines, property clerk, and Prof. Hilgard himself have found them worthy of being worn in their own vest pockets.