

THE ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNTS.

The Tewksbury committee of investigation held a session on Tuesday and adjourned till to-day. The report of the session reads pretty much like that of one of the days of the prosecution. The defence brought on a Mr. Emil A. Grothusen, an accountant, who testified that he had been in that business twenty years. He said he had examined the books of the almshouse, spending 27 days in that work. Had examined and tabulated all the vouchers in the State auditor's office for 1862, the almshouse year of 1861, and submitted his table, covering from October, 1861, to September, 1862, inclusive. The comparison was significant, and damaging to the defence. It showed that in 1862 there were at the almshouse 913 inmates and 22 employes, as compared with only 892 inmates and as many as 53 employes in 1882. The amount of salaries paid to the employes in 1862 was \$7,227, while in 1882 it had got up to \$19,510. All the figures of the comparison are taken from the accounts kept by the Marshes. The expenditure for each inmate per week was in 1862, \$1.03; in 1882, \$2.09. Another striking contrast which they show is that, if the Marshes are to be believed, the 892 inmates in 1882 consumed flour to the amount of 1676 barrels, while the 912 inmates of 1862 eat only 1401 barrels. Cross-examined on this point by the Governor, the witness said that, with a proper system of book-keeping, an invoice book would be all that was necessary.

The Governor—How would you check articles?

Witness—There would be no way to check stealing. There is none on these books either.

The Governor—No, there wasn't, and so they stole like the devil.

Witness—It is impossible to check stealing by any system of books. The bills for 500 barrels of flour would not show whether it all went to the almshouse, or whether 400 went to the almshouse and 100 to the students' boarding house in Exeter.

The closing remark refers to the boarding house kept by one of Supt. Marsh's married granddaughters in New Hampshire.

The books also give 52,566 pounds of fresh beef for 1862, and 88,528 pounds for 1882. Fresh fish, 21,982 pounds eaten by 913 inmates in 1862, and 33,117 eaten by 892 inmates in 1882. Butter, 3127 pounds in 1862, and 16,460 pounds in 1882. Oatmeal, 2300 pounds in '62, and 9200 pounds in '82. Rice, 50 cents' worth in '62, and 9843 pounds in '82. Ryemeal, 600 pounds in '62, and 3600 pounds in '82. Coal, 477 tons in '62, and 2102 tons in '82. The excess of coal would make over \$22,000 in money.

The Governor—There is evidence that some of the coal went somewhere else.

Mr. Brown—Do you mean about five tons which were not paid for by the check of the superintendent?

The Governor—If we have caught you stealing two carloads, that is only a percentage of what you have taken.