

OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF M'KINLEY HOME.

SECRETARY MELICK CONFIRMS THE RECENT DISCLOSURES.

**His Semi-official Report is in Line
With What Has Been Unofficially
Published—Reorganization of Manage-
ment of the Home Recommended.**

Hon. Walter S. Melick, secretary of the State Board of Examiners, has finished his inspection of the McKinley Industrial Home, and in his paper, the Pasadena News, makes a semi-official report of his findings, which are in line with the recent disclosures made by The Times. After praising the satisfactory condition in which he found the buildings, furnishings, food, etc., and the good care generally given the boys, Mr. Melick proceeds: "This McKinley Home was opened on January 7, 1903. Philanthropic people subscribed the money with which to acquire this superb property. Previous to this the boys' home had been located at Artesia. Dr. Uriah Gregory has been the leading spirit in building up this institution. He is an old gentleman. I do not know him myself, but he has hosts of ardent friends who assert that his work in the lines of philanthropy are along lines of highest standards. Dr. Gregory, however, is charged with having falsified the records and gotten aid from the State for the boys last year that the home was not entitled to.

"As with other institutions, the children were called together and examined. They marched into the school room about 8 o'clock. There are fifty-four boys in the home. As I called the roll each boy arose, told his name, where he was born, his age, which of his parents is dead, etc. Every boy was put through a thorough questioning.

"So far as age and orphanage were concerned, the records were correct with one or perhaps two exceptions. In the one case, that of Harold Williams, \$37.50 was drawn from the State on the supposition that the boy's father is dead. But both parents are alive. In this matter The Times' article is correct; on the other hand, Dr. Gregory notified the State Board of Examiners by letter of the error on June 7, when it was called to his attention.

"In the other possible error a Spanish boy says he is 15 years of age, but the record of his birth is as yet uncertain.

"Regarding other matters about the purchase and sale of property at Artesia, the State has nothing to do with, and I did not inquire. In the building of orphans' homes, private parties form the association, elect directors and acquire money. The State only has to do with furnishing money for maintenance of these orphans and in seeing that it is properly spent.

"Now as a result of my visit and investigations what would I recommend for the McKinley Home management? Well, here is what I unofficially think:

"(1.) There should be a reorganization and a getting together all parties concerned. No institution can thrive where there is not harmony in the management.

"(2.) A superintendent competent to run the farm and to manage the boys is a prime necessity. Having selected the superintendent, no board or member ought to deal with any employé or boy except through the superintendent. To 'butt in' in the slightest degree upon the work of the superintendent is to upset discipline. Let the boys know that the board and contributors have the same respect and confidence in the superintendent as is expected of them.

"(3.) Be most vigilant and watchful over the boys at all times. Keep them healthfully busy. To display too much confidence in boys in an institution is to invite the spread of secret vicious vices.

"(4.) Change those outdoor unsanitary closets. Plant more fruit trees. Strictly hold to order and system about the barns, sheds and houses as well as in the house.

"(5.) Remember at all times that the main object is the betterment of life and that within those half hundred boys dwell limitless possibilities and power. Those who would hamper the future of this institution, by harping on alleged personal grievances or individual prejudices are enemies of society. This McKinley Home for Boys is a noble institution and should be supported in every way possible."

REMARKS.

(1.) It will be seen from the above that The Times was correctly informed in regard to the illegal drawing of State aid for the support of inmates of the home, and that "Dr. Gregory notified the State Board of Examiners by letter of the error on June 7, when it was called to his attention," that is one day after a representative of The Times visited the McKinley Home for the purpose of investigating the rumor that the orphans' roll was stuffed. The senile doctor made haste to square himself as soon as he discovered that there was danger of exposure.

(2.) Mr. Melick's investigation as to boys who have been illegally drawing State aid seems to have been confined to present inmates of the home. His report does not show how many, if any,

who have been discharged were in the same category.

(3.) In regard to the purchase of Dr. Gregory's Artesia ranch, and its reversion to him, Mr. Melick's report is silent, as it was not in his province to investigate that deal.

(4.) Mr. Melick recommends a "re-organization and getting together" of the management of the McKinley Home. That is what The Times has advocated for the good of the home, the retirement of Dr. Gregory being the first step essential to harmony.

(5.) "A superintendent competent to run the farm and to manage the boys is a prime necessity. . . . To 'butt in' in the slightest degree upon the work of the superintendent is to upset discipline," says Mr. Melick. "Butting in" and interference with the work of the superintendent seems to have been the cause of most of the trouble at the home.

(6.) In conclusion Mr. Melick deprecates the hampering of the future of the institution by "harping on alleged personal grievances or individual prejudices." The retirement of Dr. Gregory will eliminate the personal element, which seems to be the prime cause of discord.