

## REMOVAL ORDER MADE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Brown, McGregor and Croonenberghs Will Take Matter Before Court for Review.

### CASE HEARING ENDS ABRUPTLY

Illegal Collection of Per Diem, Mileage and Expense Fees Had Been Charged.

BILLING, Nov. 13.—Gov. Elmer Blevins today removed from office the three Montana highway commissioners after dramatically closing a public hearing on charges of misconduct he brought against the board.

The removal order he filed with the secretary of state against Dr. H. J. McGregor, Great Falls; Rudwick Brown, Billings; and L. J. Croonenberghs, Missoula, was made effective immediately.

The governor read his show statement after listening to objections by the commissioners caused by additional witnesses for claims of the circumstances which the governor had introduced in support of his show cause order.

Defense counsel, including John B. Brown, Helena, objected strenuously and insisted to nullify the commissioners' claims.

To every instance the objections were overruled by the governor. Objections to admitting the claims as evidence were based principally on the ground they did not show corrupt intent on the part of the commissioners, that a final admission of the claims was made when the state board of examiners, which includes the governor, approved them, and that the governor could not on this date attack the integrity of the claims.

The governor's statement, bringing the public hearing to an abrupt close, follows:

"In four respective instances, after submitting bills of the cost and recording printed thereon as specified in the charges, you have got up 500 identical so-called alternative defenses in the fiction of good faith and the safety of the citizen and present in the last alternative defense, I assume that you would think as clear as proof in support of the allegation of good faith and the allegation of such nature will present, and I will consider that such offers of proof were made by you respectively and each such offer granted by me. The other so-called defenses in the first alternative defense are irrelevant and have no place in a proceeding of this kind.

CONCERN FOR THE STATE COMMISSIONERS announced at once they would ask either the Montana supreme court or a district court to review the governor's action on his grounds of law based "arbitrarily and capriciously."

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# State Governor Removes Commission Members

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