

A board of business men, like any chamber of commerce or club, with power to function in close relation to the work, was necessary to prevent personal exploitation. The directors are scattered across the continent. When the next convention meets, principles must be worked out so that the Board of Directors and a Local Executive Committee can function together under constitutional provisions and maintain a clean administration. This Executive Committee is now installed, consisting of the same men as the investigating committee, with one change.

PRACTICES THAT MUST STOP

Three months have passed in these efforts. Now Texans must know the facts. Texans have done a great work for this Old Spanish Trail, but this is a national project of great extent and other states have done important things. To Texas has been intrusted the leadership, and now there is work to do for the good of all.

When the Managing Director appointed this investigating committee, all field men were called in. Their testimony was submitted to the auditors, and a continuance of the work under existing agreements and lack of regulation was condemned. In the period these citizens have been endeavoring to find means to assure good administration (August 17 to the date of this report, November 1) messrs. Johnston and Colp, instead of co-operating with this committee, sent these field men out again and gathered in from the people about \$5500 00 more money, and it too is gone; they exposed the West to a bad check artist and left OST friends to carry the losses; they have imposed three months neglect on the eastern states where various works were in progress and the people voluntarily offering the funds to continue the administration of the work.

Another man, collecting advertising for the travel service maps, is paid 75% commission and allowed the OST car. Since March he has collected nearly \$4500 00. None of this printing is issued. The money is gone. 10,000 booklets (an advertising curiosity, and of no real value) were printed for the San Antonio--Orange section, and were thrown away because they were such a mass of errors and stupidity their circulation was out of question. This service-map work was planned in December. The main line of the OST in Texas should have been supplied with this service for the summer travel, and its distribution throught the United States for the winter tourist. The people are complaining, of course, but this collector was put out again on a 75% basis. He is not bonded. He was allowed to indorse and convert hundreds of dollars of checks and funds to his own use. Official receipt books are in stock; machine numbered, printed in triplicate, and with protective features. These were not checked back against the solicitor at the office. The auditors made five pages of analyses of this man's accounts, and they don't yet prove up. The audit shows a hundred or more dollars over-paid on the 75% commissions, after the best possible attempt to adjust the bad checks, commission rebates, future payments, advertisements in trade, car repair trades, collections retained, etc, etc. There is no proper compilation of the intended travel information. Mr. Colp says the solicitor was to pay half the cost of printing the 30,000 maps and information; the solicitor says he wasn't. Now he says he will. Recently he was borrowing money.

For this 75% he was also to mark where still unmarked, and touch up any defective marking. The OST marking system was planned by skilled men. Careful specifications exist as to dimensions, brands of paint, methods of application, sizes of stencils, etc. The marking done by this man, where inspected, is in careless disregard of these specifications, and therefore worse than if it had not been done.

Another man, collecting advertising like the first, was given 33 1/3% commission, and allowed car mileage. In three weeks in poor territory he averaged a hundred a week for himself. This man was bonded, following the Managing Director's return. The man drawing the 75% however was sent out again, and the man drawing 33 1/3% was sent to mark the Meridian Highway, by which Mr. Colp ~~is drawing~~. Those Meridian people may be interested in these facts.

Another man was given 25% for collecting memberships, and he furnished his own car. He submits a bill for over \$600 00, claiming the office so mis-handled his work while he was in the field he lost in time, expense and opportunity, and therefore this is a just claim.

All organizations have a fixed membership period, and a fixed amount for membership dues. The OST By-Laws state "all memberships shall run according to the calendar year," and in January 1921 the minimum membership was fixed at \$10 00. But these provisions also are violated despite the fact these are constitutional regulations and necessary to the protection of all members. The travel service maps were intended as aids to members and to give value to memberships, but the booklets printed (other material not checked) is a mere advertising jumble, most of which is from non-members, and follows principles calculated to increase the 75% commission. Instead of increasing memberships and membership-values for the Association.

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