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Illinois State News
Recent Happenings of Interest in the Various Cities and Towns.

MORE GRAFT IS CHARGED.
Investigators Make Disquieting Report to Peoria Council.

Peoria.—That graft and fraud have existed for years in the purchase of feed supplies for the Peoria fire department is claimed to have been shown by the report of special auditors to the council. That a further investigation is to be made, and that an effort is to be put forth to recover the money out of which the city is said to have been defrauded is indicated by the adoption of a resolution that the treasurer proceed, with the aid of the legal department, against the purchasing agents for the last three administrations.

The report, which it showed in figures the condition of affairs in the fire department, and gave in full every doubtful transaction, was exceedingly doubtful. It did not go into the questions of the price charged for feed, nor did it refer to the charges that the weights had been juggled with. No attempt had been made by the auditors to compare the weight slips with those given by the vendors from whom Leen & Horn made their purchases.

AGED JOIN IN CELEBRATION.
Twins 80 Years Old Enjoy Birthday With Guests.

Genoa.—Twins 80 years of age celebrated their birthday in this city March 26 at one of the most unique parties in the history of the state. All of the guests were more than 60 years of age, and not one was suffering from any of the disabilities that come with age. Several were older than the twins themselves, one of them being in her ninetieth year.

The celebrants were Mrs. Mary Mettler and Mrs. Susan Churchill. Among the guests were Mrs. Martha McDowell, 85 years of age, Holvidore, Ill., and Mrs. Nancy Churchill, 90 years of age, Fairdale, Ill., sisters of the twins.

Master Horseshoers Adjourn.
Springfield.—After selecting Quincy as the place of the next annual meeting and electing officers for the ensuing year, the Illinois State Association of Master Horseshoers adjourned. Officers for the coming year are as follows: President, Frank Keyes of Peoria; first vice president, F. A. Ernst of Quincy; second vice president, G. A. Skinner of Jacksonville; secretary and treasurer, C. H. Wilson of Rockford; state organizer, J. A. Hise of Springfield. The date of the next meeting was not fixed, that matter being left with the executive committee.

Drops Dead on Street.
Bloomington.—Dr. Fred Voltz, who for the past seven or eight years has conducted a drug store at 508 East Grove street, dropped dead in front of the Dodge-Dickinson Mattress factory, a few doors east of his drug store, as he was on his way to the barber shop a block east.

Mr. Voltz was a robust man in the prime of life, being in the early forties. He was always in the best of health until a few weeks ago when a bad case of throat trouble developed. This is supposed to have been indirectly the cause of his death.

Contest Case Decided.
Jacksonville.—The contest for the office of county commissioner between C. C. Berryman, Democrat, and P. D. Megginson, Republican, which has been in the courts for some time, was dismissed by County Judge Francis R. Baldwin in favor of Megginson. Judge Baldwin had no sooner given his decision than W. N. Halgrove, attorney for Berryman filed a motion for an appeal to supreme court. The appeal bond was fixed at \$200, and 20 days was given for filing the same and 50 days for filing a bill of exceptions.

Blood Poison Is Fatal.
Bloomington.—W. H. Taylor, a well-known resident of Dalton City, died at his home in that place from blood poisoning, following the removal of a tooth. For 25 years Mr. Taylor has been in the lumber and implement business in Dalton City. He was a prominent member of both the Modern Woodmen and of the Odd Fellows.

Damage by Wind at Kewanee.
Kewanee.—In a cyclonic gale the big brick and steel tank building of the Kewanee Boiler company was wrecked and damage was done to the plants of the Standard Oil company and Hoss Manufacturing company. Many houses near by had windows broken and chimneys demolished. Sheds were blown 100 feet.

Residence Burns at Kenney.
Kenney.—The handsome \$10,000 home of C. H. Suttle in Kenney was entirely destroyed by fire. About half of the furnishings were saved. There was \$2,000 insurance on the house and \$1,000 on the furniture.

Plane Farmer Shoots Eagle.
Plano.—Louis Tate, a farmer residing north of here, shot an eagle in his farmyard. The bird measured seven feet from tip to tip and weighed 19 pounds. On its neck was a seven-circled bell.

Insane Patient Commits Suicide.
Pana.—Miss Max Ricketts, of one of the most prominent families here, committed suicide in the Jacksonville asylum by hanging herself. Miss Ricketts' mind became unbalanced about two months ago and she was taken to the asylum for treatment.

Four Tickets in Field.
Taylorville.—Taylorville will have four tickets in the field at the municipal election to be held on April 16, Democrat, Republican, Socialist and Independent.

Mayor's Pay 50 Cents a Year.
Mason City.—John A. McGreevy, secretary of the Illinois Farmers and Grain Dealers' association and anti-license candidate for mayor of Mason City, has pledged himself to accept 50 cents a year salary, if elected. Aldermen on the ticket have agreed to accept only 25 cents.

Aged Doctor Drops Dead.
Sterling.—Dr. John Teats, for 60 years a practicing physician and well-known throughout the state among the profession, dropped dead here

Joseph Lepping of Peoria Tries to Swim Illinois River.
Peoria.—Joseph Lepping, 26 years of age, was drowned in the Illinois river at the foot of Lisk street as the result of an ill-advised attempt to swim the river at that point. Lepping and a companion named Luther Bullock went down to the river in the afternoon, deciding to take a swim. They removed their clothing and plunged into the swollen stream. Both came to the surface, chilled and barely able to keep afloat. Bullock was able to make his way to shore, but when he looked around for his companion he was missing. He gave the alarm and a party soon gathered on the river bank.

COMMUNIST LEADER IS DEAD.
Founder of Swedish Colony Near Kewanee, Ill., Was 81.

Kewanee.—Swan Swanson, aged 81, last of the original seven trustees of the famous communistic colony established by Swedish emigrants at Bishop hill, west of here, 60 years ago, died. He came with the 1,000 colonists from Sweden under the leadership of Eric Jansen in 1846 and spent the rest of his life in the town then founded. For many years after Jansen's tragic murder Swanson was postmaster of the colony.

SUSPECTS ARE RELEASED.
Men Accused of Robbing Post Office Go Free.

Carlinville.—Allen P. Lange and Ellis Moody, who were held in the county jail in this city suspected of being implicated in the attempt to rob the post office here March 9, were released after a preliminary hearing held before Justice John Homer. They succeeded in proving an alibi and showed without question of doubt that they had no hand in the affair.

To Plead His Own Case.
Springfield.—"It's either the gallows or the asylum for me and I guess I'll take the latter," said Peter Clark, held for shooting Mrs. Olive Hill Gibson on an interurban car near Virden. Thus he gave an inkling of the defense he will offer. He declared he would take charge of his own defense. "I want no lawyer," he said, "and have seen none since my arrest. All I ask is a few minutes' talk before a jury of representative Macopin county men."

W. D. Fairbanks' Home Burns.
Urbana.—The fine \$20,000 residence of W. D. Fairbanks, brother of the vice president, at Mansfield was burned to the ground. The fire was caused either by spontaneous combustion from numerous cans of paint or lightning striking the dwelling. For the past two years workmen had been busy about the Fairbanks property and the house was almost completed.

Depot Robbed at Pana.
Pana.—The B. & O. S. W. railroad depot office at Pana was robbed of \$25 in money some time during the noon hour March 26. There is no clue to the robbery. The money drawer, although locked, was entered apparently with ease, as the lock did not seem to be disturbed when Agent R. F. Russell returned from dinner. The police are working on the case.

Revival at Murphysboro.
Murphysboro.—Ten hundred and sixty conversions in four weeks is the result of the "Bible Sunday revival" in Murphysboro. Among the converts are Judge Andrews, Attorney Fred Blier, Drs. Roth Cox and Elbert Schade, Police Judge Deacon, Meyer Adams, Supervisor League, Druggist Dean West and a thousand others from all walks of life.

Deneen Appoints Miner.
Spring Valley.—Gov. Deneen appointed Martin Holt of this city secretary of the state mining board. The salary is \$1,500 per annum. Mr. Holt is now serving his third term as assistant secretary of the U. M. W. A. for District No. 2, having been recently reelected to the position by vote of the miners of La Salle, Bureau, Marshall and Putnam counties.

Fraternal Orders Head Out.
Springfield.—Louis K. Cleveland of Moline resigned as head of the fraternal societies department. He has been employed in the state insurance department for nine years. His successor has not been named, but he will probably be some one now employed in the insurance department and who is acquainted with the duties.

Plan to Win Carnegie Gift.
Bloomington.—Presiding elders of the Methodist church from all parts of Illinois met here to devise plans to secure \$50,000 for the Illinois Wesleyan university from Andrew Carnegie.

Noted Chicagoan Dead.
Chicago.—Alexander Heubach, said to be the first white child born in Chicago, died after a long illness. Heubach was born at Fort Dearborn, which was at that time the name of Chicago, January 28, 1822.

Jumped to Death Under Train.
Belleville.—A well-dressed, middle-aged man committed suicide by throwing himself in front of an Illinois Central freight train. The only thing upon him by which he may be identified was a button marked "Advance Club."

Fall from Car Kills Baggageman.
Bloomington.—Arthur Morris, for 38 years a baggageman on the Illinois Central between Freeport and Centralia, died at his home in Freeport as the result of a recent fall from a car.

Governor Issues Requisition.
Springfield.—Gov. Deneen has issued a requisition on the governor of Michigan for the return to Chicago of Thomas Polaron on a charge of larceny. Polaron is under arrest at Detroit charged with the theft of \$75,000 the property of one Max Eberhardt of Chicago.

Lightning Kills Farmer.
Bloomington.—While plowing in his field during a terrific storm, Frank Sigler, a young farmer of near Leroy, was killed by lightning.

SENATE WANTS BILL
IS EXPECTED TO PASS OWN ROAD LEGISLATION.
ACTION EXPECTED SOON

This Week or Next, It Is Believed, Will See the Matter Disposed of—Senator Hurlbush in Readiness.

Springfield.—Railroad legislation has been before the senate proper for some time, the house maximum two-cent fare bill being on second reading, as is the senate committee bill which classifies fares according to the gross earnings per mile of the roads. Definite action on this matter is expected either this week or next, and it is understood to be the plan of the senate organization to pass the committee bill instead of the house measure. Senator Hurlbush, who introduced the bill that was used by the committee, has in anticipation of action on the bill, gathered figures and statistics for use in his argument for the classified bill when it is called up for passage.

House Acts on Fee Scandals.
One more concrete result of the scandals in the county fee offices in Chicago, was the passage by the house of a bill to provide for the regular auditing of such offices. The necessity for this measure was evidenced by the 108 votes cast in its favor and no vote was recorded against it. The bill passed is that prepared by the revenue committee. It establishes the position of county auditor in Cook county. He is to be appointed by the president of the county board, who may also appoint assistants. The new county auditor may have access at all times to the books of any county official. An equally important duty of the county auditor is that he must install in all county offices a uniform system of books of account, forms, reports and records.

Salary for State's Attorney.
Representative Louis Pierson of Willmet delivered a long eulogy of Gov. Deneen and a defense of Mr. Deneen's retention of his state's attorney's fees, prior to the passage of the Mills bill to put the state's attorney of Cook county on a salary of \$10,000. Incidentally he stirred up "Charley" Allen of Vermilion and "Al" Glade of Cook by a reference to the Allen bill which was not generally understood.

The bills compelling the state's attorney of Cook to turn over his salary to the county and fixing his salary passed unanimously.

Report on Pure Food Bill.
Chairman Glade of the committee on manufactures probably will report in the new pure food bill this week as a committee bill, and the subcommittee of the house appointed to investigate conditions at Highwood will report.

The house calendar is becoming congested. It is probable Speaker Shurtliff will insist that the Friday session be graced by the presence of at least a quorum hereafter and that that day be devoted to something besides advancing bills on the calendar.

Reform Bill Passes Senate.
A reform bill passed by the senate was Jones' measure establishing a legislative reference bureau in connection with the state library. A similar law has been in operation in Wisconsin with good results. The purpose of the bill is to create a department wherein proposed legislation may be carefully prepared to minimize the possibility of unconstitutional laws getting on the state books.

Bills in the Senate.
The senate during the short session this week is expected to pass another batch of bills, including a few insurance reform measures. Action will be sought on the bill creating the office of state fire marshal, an administration measure, it reported back by the enrolling and engrossing committee. Senator Chafee has two bills in this committee which have not yet been reported.

City Beautiful Advanced.
Representative Troyer secured the advancement to third reading of the Chicago beautiful bills providing for a bond issue for the boulevard link and authorizing municipalities to construct and maintain surface or elevated ways and to turn them over to park boards. All city beautiful bills in the house are now on third reading, and will come up for passage next week.

For Better Milk Inspection.
A comprehensive measure on the inspection of milk and regulating its sale was offered by Mr. Chafee. Under its terms a state inspector is provided, and the office of state fire marshal is reported back by the enrolling and engrossing committee, where, it is said, it is being delayed.

Senator Chafee has two bills in this committee which have not yet been reported. If they are not sent into the senate this week he intends to have them forced in.

House Gets to Work.
The rush in the house has commenced, and will not let up until final adjournment. With the municipal elections out of the way, and especially the election in Chicago, the road is clear for straight, hard work, and the house has lots of it to do. The Chicago charter committee will hold at least one session a day, perhaps two, take up the charter section by section and continue this until that important measure is in shape for presentation to the house.

Browne Will Push Bill.
Representative Browne may make another attempt to bring his local option bill to a vote this week and express the greatest confidence that the measure will pass, once the municipal elections are out of the way. The measure will continue to be opposed by the Anti-saloon league forces, and it is rather doubtful if Mr. Browne can secure the necessary two-thirds vote to bring up the bill out of its regular order. He will at least make the attempt.

Commission Visits Highwood.
After an extremely warm debate on the floor a legislative commission of three members of the house was appointed by Speaker Edward D. Shurtliff to investigate the saloons and dives of Highwood. It is expected that the report of the committee will be followed at once by the passage of the bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of liquor within a mile and one-eighth of an army post or a naval training school. The effect of the proposed law on the saloons at North Chicago also will be considered by the commission.

The action of representatives of the liquor interests when they were here a week ago in failing to face the committee on license and in hurrying back to Chicago when they thought they had the committee lined up to put the Highwood measure over because of no quorum, followed by fresh petitions from "residents of Highwood" against the passage of the bill which the committee voted to report out, are the causes of the formal investigation.

The speaker himself introduced the resolution for the investigation. He appointed as commissioners Frank H. Covey, who comes from the district including Highwood; Dennis Gibbons, minority member from that district, who has been urging the claims of the saloon interests; and Mr. An Madoc, who introduced the bill in the house.

Favor Direct Vote for Senators.
The election hereafter of United States senators by direct vote of the people instead of by the members of the senate by the senate by a vote of 35 to 3. The test came on the adoption of the resolution offered last week by W. Clyde Jones, of Chicago, asking congress to call a constitutional convention for the purpose of changing the present plan. The three who voted against the resolution were Chafee, Galpin and Mr. Jones made a brief talk in favor of the change, declaring that the people of the state had, through the medium of the "little ballot" expressed themselves in favor of the direct election of their United States senators. He explained that if two-thirds of the states ask for a constitutional convention congress will have to act. Thus far, Mr. Jones stated, that about 19 commonwealths have joined in the movement.

Mr. Chafee, of Shelbyville, opposed the resolution, contending that the new primary law which provides for a "sentimental" vote on the senatorship is all that is needed. The resolution now goes to the house for concurrence by that branch of the general assembly.

Chafee Raises a Storm.
A hornet's nest was stirred in the senate when Mr. Chafee took up the movement to reduce the cost of reports of the supreme and appellate courts. The Shelbyville senator, who has a way of his own of doing things, introduced two bills similar to the house measures which have lain dormant in the senate committee on appropriations since last month. Under the bills the cost of supreme and appellate court reports is reduced from \$2.25 to \$1.50 a volume.

Mr. Chafee asked that the bills be referred to the committee on fees and salaries, to which Mr. Gardner of La Salle, chairman of the committee on appropriations, objected. In speaking in favor of his request Mr. Chafee declared that the present cost was "gratuitous." He did not charge that Mr. Gardner's committee was purposely holding up the bills, but declared in a vein of sarcasm that committee "appeared to be overworked," and that he did not believe in "working to death a good horse." Mr. Chafee was defeated, as both measures were sent to the committee on appropriations, where the Province measure on the same subject is resting.

Look to Senate for Action.
The failure of the house so far to dispose of the local option question has caused a number of the members of the legislature in favor of an option bill and representatives of the anti-saloon league to look to the senate for favorable consideration of a measure that would meet their ideas as far as local option is concerned. It is not unlikely that several of the leaders in the senate will have reported out a bill similar to that which was reported out by the house committee on judiciary, but for which the Browne bill was substituted on second reading. Whatever measure is decided upon in the senate, no delay in passing it is anticipated, as the house would continue to be confronted with the troublesome problem.

Urges Honor to Lincoln.
Gov. Deneen sent to the house and senate a message suggesting that the citizens of the state join in a general celebration and observance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln February 12, 1909. He suggested that a commission be created to formulate plans for the participation of the state in what is intended to be a national celebration.

For Safety of Workmen.
The sub-committee of the committee on labor and industrial affairs, which has had in hand the bill requiring the guarding of all dangerous machinery and containing general provisions for the safety of workmen, will report the measure to the full committee this week, and a favorable recommendation will immediately be made by that body. The bill has been modified in a great many particulars, Chairman Hope saying the bill "had its stingers taken out of it."

Major Generalship Bill Dead.
The major generalship bill is dead. It was sent back to the house committee on military affairs last week, ostensibly for the purpose of making some unimportant amendments, but in reality because the brigadier generals of the state national guard could not agree on the officer on whom the honor should fall, creating what may be termed a "somewhat embarrassing" situation. The contest for the major generalship is said to have narrowed down to Brig. Gen. E. C. Young and Brig. Gen. Moulton.

Provides Pension System.
A bill passed by the senate of especial interest to Chicago provides a pension plan for municipal employees. It was introduced by Mr. Glackin. The measure applies to all city employees except those of the police, fire and water departments, who have separate pension funds. It seeks to create a pension fund of municipal employees under civil service. Beneficiaries of the fund are to pay not to exceed two per cent of their salary toward the fund during the year.

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