

COMMISSION TO TACKLE BIG JOB

Joint Board Authorized by Legislature Elects Officers.

MEETS WITH GOV. DUNNE

Consolidation of Many of the Departments by the State Government Is One of the Matters to Be Considered.

Springfield.—Initial steps looking toward first a comprehensive knowledge of state departments and their workings, and later toward steps toward their economical conduct, were taken by the joint legislative commission created by the last general assembly to consider the consolidation of departments. The meetings at which the plans of the commission were launched were held at Camp Lincoln with Governor Dunne and others of the state regime present.

In the organization of the commission Senator Walter J. Manny of Mt. Sterling was elected chairman. Senator Logan Hay of this city secretary.

The commission plans first to gain exact information as to the number of state boards and institutions and the purposes for which they exist. It is with the view that some of the departments may be found to be superfluous that the commission will investigate conditions with a view, possibly, of recommending to the next legislature certain eliminations.

The commission will also report upon the results of the findings in its report to the Forty-ninth general assembly.

All members of the commission were present at the conference. The membership includes the following: Senators—W. Duff Piercy, M. Vernon, Walter J. Manny, Mt. Sterling; Charles F. Harbush, Galesburg; Logan Hay, Springfield.

Representatives—R. J. Smelkin, Chicago; Charles F. Gage, Aurora; John M. Rapp, Fairfield; Speaker William McKinley, Chicago.

State is short. Illinois is not broke, but is badly bent, according to information that came out of the state treasurer's office. It is a foregone conclusion that state bills will go unpaid for several months and politicians are skirmishing about to find some good reason for the present condition of finances.

Each of the leading parties in the state blames the other for the lack of funds.

Regardless of which party or which set of officers is to blame, the result is that Illinois is financially embarrassed, at least for several months.

The tax rate for the state is unlimited; that is not extra by the state process of the July law. It is fixed by the governor, state treasurer and state auditor. The report is that next year it will be 60 cents in \$100 of valuation. The rate this year was 38 cents. This, the officials say, is made necessary on account of the serious condition of the state finances.

Some of the appropriations made by the Forty-seventh general assembly, which convened in January, 1911, remain unpaid. Those of the Forty-eighth general assembly, which adjourned little more than a month ago, are hardly touched.

A balance sheet of State Treasurer William Ryan Jr., of July 1, this year, shows an actual balance in the treasury of \$118,000.34. Against this balance are appropriations of more than \$37,000,000 made by the last legislature, which the state must meet.

The available assets as of July were computed by State Auditor Brady from the cash statement of June 30, when there was \$2,291,092 credited to the revenue fund. The estimated receipts in the following ten days were set down at \$10,000, and \$1,732,460 more was received from taxes.

Room for 15,000 Farmers. Chicago.—The Farmers' Convention hall, in course of construction at the University of Illinois, will be large enough to house the Coliseum of Chicago or the Madison Square Garden of New York, with room enough left for a running track around the building and an asphalt right to the ceiling, according to A. A. James of the University of Illinois.

The building will seat 10,000 on the main floor and 5,000 in the galleries, said he. "It will be a big exhibition hall for agricultural and stock shows and will provide facilities in connection with the agricultural experiment station at the university."

Expect Record Crops. Despite bare news of crop failures in all parts of the country, leading hill country farmers hold to their opinion of June 1 that this year's growth will be record breaking.

Appoints Physician for Chester. The State Board of Administration announced the appointment of Dr. Joseph Cooperstein of Chicago as assistant physician at the Chester State hospital, vice Dr. William Herold. Dr. N. McNeil, physician at the Peoria State hospital, has been transferred to the Jacksonville State hospital, where he succeeds Dr. Walter Treasdale. Dr. Treasdale enters the marine hospital service. He will be assigned to the board of immigration at Ellis Island.

Illinois Women Cannot Sit on Juries

Women in Illinois cannot legally serve on juries. At least, this is the construction of the state laws placed in an opinion made public by Attorney General P. J. Lacey.

In view of the fact that in several counties, women in the last few days have not only been enlisted in jury venues, but have actually served, the opinion of the attorney general, which was written by Assistant Attorney General Roy of is of particular interest.

The opinion was addressed to Justice of the Peace Alex Robinson of Virginia. The question asked was whether women, by virtue of the additional franchise powers given them, can legally sit on juries in civil and criminal cases. The attorney general's office article 10, paragraph five of the state constitution of 1870 which provides that the right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate as in common law. The law provides only for the membership of men on juries.

In civil cases, the jury, according to the law, must be composed of twelve men, with a lesser number than twelve is provided for by statute. In the case of George vs. the People of Illinois, passed on some years ago by the state supreme court, the court held that the right of trial by jury as guaranteed under the constitution is the same as under common law, which specifically provides for men as jurors.

The attorney general declares the recent additional franchise rights have not empowered women to serve on juries. He says that the school election franchise given women in 1891. He declares the suffrage act has no bearing upon jury composition.

State Bureau Holds Meeting. The last meeting of the present members of the state bureau of labor statistics was held in the office of David Ross, secretary of the commission.

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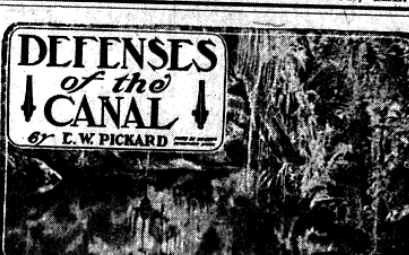
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DEFENSES of the CANAL

By E. W. PICKARD

IT IS THE MARCH 1912

Culebra, C. Z.—The strongest defense of the Panama Canal, in my opinion, is the fact that a hostile vessel must come into a 500-foot channel before it is within striking distance of the vital points of the canal, the locks, and in doing so must pass within easy range of the forts that are being built to guard the entrance.

How strong a land force is to be kept in the zone by the United States I believe has not yet been determined. It is generally admitted that the great danger to the canal in time of war lies in attacks by forces that might have succeeded in landing on the isthmus. As a defense against this it may be that a small army must be maintained in the zone, and it has been suggested that the town of Empress, Culebra, instead of being destroyed because they are on the "wrong side" of the isthmus, be kept as a headquarters for the soldiers. This would necessitate connecting them with the other side of the canal, where the Panama railroad tunnel, now under construction, by ferry, bridge or cable, would be necessary.

No decision on this matter has been reached yet by the authorities. Meanwhile the army has not been meant its part of the defensive work. For some time the United States has been encamped in the zone and its men, in small detachments, have been "biking" all over that part of the isthmus. The possibilities of landing a hostile force on the shores of both the Atlantic and the Pacific have been investigated, and also the

two forts protect the Atlantic entrance of the canal. One is on Two Point, at the land end of the long breakwater that shields Colon harbor, and is on a considerable elevation. The other is on Margarita Island, a low-lying little island close to the shore about a mile northeast of Colon. Both these fortifications are shielded from observation by the palms and other tropic vegetation.

At the Pacific end of the canal, a little more than three miles out in the ocean and close to the eastern side of the deep water channel, lie the four little islands of Naso, Perico, Culebra and Flamenco. These the United States acquired with the Canal Zone. On Culebra is the quarantine station for that end of the canal. On the others are being built strong fortifications.

The same one of the Panama Railroad, W. H. Anderson, Henry Chauceur, and John L. Stevens, in the grounds of the Washington Hotel, Colon.

Thous. The rounded tops of the rocky islands have been cut off and a little army of men busy blasting and shoveling and preparing the highways by which will be mounted long cannon and immense mortars. The four islands are all being connected with each other, and the mainland, is joined to the mainland at Tallo by a breakwater about 17,000 feet long, which has been constructed a railway line.

Some eight miles away, nearly due south, lie the larger islands of Taboga, and timid souls have suggested that it would form a safe shelter and recuperation point for a hostile fleet. It is hills rise to a considerable elevation and on its south side there is plenty of good water. But it is not a good place for a hostile fleet. It should be destroyed. Need not cause Uncle Sam any anxiety.

The mortars to be installed in the Pacific fortifications, said he, "will be

able to drop shells with accuracy close behind Taboga Island, making that side untenable for an enemy. Besides that, there is nothing on the island that a hostile fleet would want. The United States might have acquired Taboga, but we didn't need it."

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N.A.M. LETTERS READ

HOUSE INVESTIGATORS LISTEN TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM FILES OF ASSOCIATION.

FEUD WITH LABOR SHOWN

Correspondence Tells of Political Work From Legislative Districts to the White House—Forker Defends Late Vice-President.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Details of legislative activities of the widest range, extending from the home districts of members of congress to the White House and capital were revealed on Tuesday when the letter files of the National Association of Manufacturers were read by the house lobby probers.

Discussing the recent sundry civil bill, with its various provisions prohibiting the expenditure of certain funds for the prosecution of farmers' and labor unions under the Sherman law, Emery wrote to John Kirby, president of the association, on March 7, 1912, after President Taft had vetoed the bill.

"I want to emphasize as hard as I can the importance of lining up for a tremendous demonstration when this bill reaches President Wilson, as it undoubtedly will, with the same provision in it. You will then have an early opportunity to decide whether the glorifying Democratic motto, 'Equal rights for all special privileges for none,' means anything, or whether the administration has surrendered completely or will merely turn over the department of labor."

"I note, by the way, your reference to a letter from C. W. (Post) to the question of a protest over the appointment of Wilson (secretary of labor). As you know, this subject is a mere water of breath, and on the whole, I am inclined to think that the whole purpose of this department will be shown up quicker with the unions in control of it than in any other way."

"Gompers will run it characteristically with a high hand, and if the whole thing does not smell to heaven within a year, shall be very much astonished."

In this same letter Emery advised Kirby: "If you have any idea that Taft would have vetoed this bill of his own motion, get over it. A list of public men who had 'piped' in this \$112,000 appropriation bill included many prominent men in both houses."

Kirby forwarded to Emery a series of letters between William de Hertburg, Washington of New York and A. B. Farquhar, manufacturer of T. P. Pa., and a director of the National Association of Manufacturers. Washington told Farquhar in a letter dated January 5, 1912, that he "has recently spent three days on a trip to Virginia with the president-elect," and was satisfied that the tariff would be taken up at an extra session.

He proposed that currency reform be coupled with the tariff at the present session of congress and asked the support of the National Association of Manufacturers for that proposition. Both Farquhar and Kirby in letters endorsed his proposition.

In a letter to Daniel Davenport of Bridgeport, Conn., in March, 1911, Emery told of interviewing with Mr. Kirby, majority leader underwood on the organization of the committees of the new Democratic house.

"We have kept the south pretty busy pounding the committee on committee for the past two weeks," he wrote. "Mr. Kirby was here Thursday and we had a long and frank talk with On that day. I really believe now that the Democratic party conservative judiciary committee, as good as we could expect from your Democratic going to have a labor labor committee. Underwood has frankly told me that it does not please him and undoubtedly would not please us. He says it is the result of compromise that have been made necessary by internal dissension, and when he is frank enough to say that it won't please him I can imagine how it will please the committee."

The letters contained illuminating details of the methods of the National Association of Manufacturers' agents in their opposition to anti-injunction bills, the bill creating the present department of labor, bills providing for jury trial of contempt cases and other legislative measures favored by organized labor.

The Mulhall letters presented related to Colonel Mulhall's activities in the campaign of Representative Joseph C. Mulhall for re-election in 1908.

Former Senator Forker took the stand in the senate hearing to defend the case of his dead friend, James Schoolcraft Sherman, late vice-president of the United States.

Kille Wife and Four Children. Whitman, Mass., Aug. 7.—The police received a telephone message that Charles Leach, a shoe-maker living on the East Bridge street, had killed his wife and four children and fed an armed posse set out for the scene.

Castro Felled All His Foes. Berlin, Germany, Aug. 7.—Veneziano Castro, former dictator of Venezuela, planned his present invasion while he was in Dresden a few months ago. He lived there for some time quietly with a German friend, Herman Wolfram.

Daguer Trial Is Begun. San Francisco, Aug. 7.—Selection of a jury to try Mary L. Daguer, former state architect, on a charge of violating the laws of the state, was begun before Federal Judge Van Fleet. Daguer is accused with Drew Canfield

Shelbyville.—Nearly a hundred men, women and children in a score of automobiles departed to tour Shelby, Christian, Macon and Monticounty, boasting the Shelbyville Chaunt, which opens Sunday. The automobiles were decorated and the party, included a bugler, two male quartettes and Capt. F. B. Wendling of Springfield.

Aurora.—A wedding present of \$100,000 was given Miss Mary E. the daughter of her grandfather, John Stewart, Aurora multi-millionaire lumberman, when she was married at her home here to Archibald the former intercollegiate champion sprinter and captain of the University of Wisconsin track team. She is the first grandchild of the intercollegiate to be married. He is declared second only to Wernhauser in timber land holdings. The groom is a son of R. C. Richards of Geneva, charter agent for the Northwestern railroad.

Cairo.—Miss May Copeland and her fiance, Cecil Turk, of Bardwell, Ky., twenty-five miles south of Cairo, are under arrest on the charge of killing Hugh Atchison, Miss Copeland's brother-in-law. Miss Copeland declared that she fired the shot that killed Atchison, but Turk also is being held. The shooting occurred after Turk and the girl had returned to the latter's home from a ride. Miss Copeland said Atchison started a row, as the result of which she shot him.

Bloomington.—Miss Marguerite Trainor of Ottawa, aged sixteen years, who registered at a hotel in Clinton July 14, later being stricken with peritonitis, died. The authorities are investigating some suspicious circumstances in connection with her death.

Sciota Mills.—Harold Allen, aged four years, was burned to death in a fire following the explosion of a can of kerosene from which he had been pouring oil into a cook stove.

Rockford.—Pill of a poisonous nature thrown into an alley came very near causing the death of a two-and-a-half-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Atchison.

Rockford.—Miss Beth Griggs, Mrs. Howell and Jennie Swanson, asked the National Association of Manufacturers to before a justice of the peace, to which the interested parties were women, advised service on the ground that they had not been voted.

Champaign.—The city council here passed an ordinance commanding policemen and street car employees to go without pay after September 1. "Indecent manner accepted."

Galesburg.—Donald Mills, twelve years old, son of Rev. T. R. Mills of Napoleon, was instantly killed by a Chicago-bound Burlington passenger train, which struck him as he was crossing the tracks near Neponset station on a bicycle.

Peoria.—Mrs. Oscar Addington, who shot and instantly killed her husband, appeared voluntarily before a coroner's jury after resting a story of indignities to which she had been subjected by her husband, was rewarded by a verdict in her favor. The jury instructed that she be released from the charge of murder. According to her story, she had been suffering indignities more horrible than ever, she decided to kill herself and procured a revolver for that purpose. When her husband begged more abuse, she shot and he died.

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