

## Two Years' History

### Laws Passed by Legislature.

- A compulsory primary law.
- A civil service law covering 2,200 employes in seventeen state charitable institutions.
- An act empowering the city of Chicago to frame its own charter.
- A gas regulation act under which 85 cent gas was procured for the city of Chicago.
- A municipal court bill for Chicago which abolishes all justice shops.
- An act providing for straight vote in electing sanitary district trustees in Chicago, instead of a bi-partisan cumulative vote, as under old system.
- An act creating a state highway commission for the improvement of public roads.
- An act creating a state geological survey, under which the different sections of the state are examined, properly classified, and maps prepared.
- An act creating an internal improvement commission for the investigation of deep waterway.

### Work of Administration.

- Appropriations amounting to \$1,108,000 were vetoed.
- A reduction of 20 per cent. on first five classes of freight rates.
- Tax rate reduced from 55 cents on \$100 to 50 cents.
- Law places 2,168 positions under civil service. Commission organized Nov. 1, 1905, has made 1,023 appointments; held 114 examinations and received 2,745 applications.
- Training schools for nurses have been established in hospitals for the insane.
- Normal training schools have been established in Pontiac reformatory and St. Charles School for Boys, and an overall factory established at Pontiac in which 200 boys are employed.
- State highway commission organized. Experimental roads constructed at Salem, Greenville, Springfield, McLean and DeKalb. One hundred and twenty applications for 250,000 cubic yards of crushed stone received from forty-five counties.
- State board of prison industries has disposed of \$456,432.97 worth of products since organization, July 1, 1904. Prisoners are manufacturing clothing and overalls, brooms, brushes, school and office furniture, mattresses, bed springs, crushing stone and doing state printing.
- Payments to state by Illinois Central railway investigated. Settlement is now pending.
- Pure food commission reorganized with technical experts in charge of departments.
- Demand upon former state treasurers for \$287,915, believed to be due state.
- Demand upon former state auditors for \$154,193 fees, believed to be due the state.
- Chicago charter commission appointed to aid in framing of new Chicago charter.
- Internal improvement commission investigated deep waterway, and prepared recommendations for completion.
- State grain inspection improved, and shipments through Chicago office increased.

Uniform system of books installed in institutions and businesslike methods followed.

In the platform of its state convention in 1904, the Republican party declared in favor of the amendment to the constitution granting to Chicago the right of home rule through its own charter. It urged the passage of a compulsory primary election law and a comprehensive civil service act. When the people adopted the constitutional amendment, the Republican members of the Forty-Fourth General Assembly gave their support to an enabling act authorizing the Chicago charter convention, in which legislation the city of Chicago has been seeking for years will be provided for. That convention has framed a charter and will present it at the next legislature for adoption.

The Forty-Fourth General Assembly also passed a compulsory primary election law which was later declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The day following the finding Governor Deneen called an extraordinary session of the legislature and as a result of that session a second law was passed under which the primaries of all parties were held Aug. 4th. This law makes the election precinct a primary district and requires all parties to hold primaries on the same day and in the same polling place. It gives the voter the rights to express his wishes on state officers and United States senators.

The civil service law, passed by the Forty-Fourth General Assembly, covers seventeen state charitable institutions, including 2,200 employes. The law has been enforced since Nov. 1, 1905 and all appointments, 1,023 in number, have been made under the direction of the commission. It has abolished the assessment of employes and in no instance has the political affiliation of the applicant been requested by the commission.

### Party Keeps Pledges.

With the passage of these measures the Republican party has kept every pledge made in its platform of 1904. In its platform of 1906 the party declares for an extension of the civil service law and it is expected that the next legislature will amend the present act to include the penal and reformatory institutions, which will place about 500 more employes under civil service.

The administration of Governor Deneen has been marked by its economy, business-like methods and the appointment of men of the highest reputation who have given their services freely to the state without receiving any compensation in return. The administration's enforcement of the law has resulted in great saving to the state through contracts in the state institutions and in the state house.

The state highway commission has been organized and experimental roads have been constructed. Applications for crushed stone have been received from forty-five counties and the commission has given its advice to many local organizations on the construction of bridges, more than \$7,000 having been saved to local communities on four bridges upon which the commission was consulted.

The state geological survey was appointed, this survey and state highway commission having been provided for by measures passed by the Forty-Fourth General Assembly. Under the

geological survey oil and gas fields have been studied, the elevation of 24,446 points have been determined, surveying having been started in twenty-two counties. One map has been printed and five others are now being engraved. The federal government is bearing half of the expenses of this commission.

### Training Schools Established.

In the campaign of 1904 Governor Deneen pledged himself to carry out the party platform and further to provide for the establishment of training schools in the state reformatories and to raise the institution to the highest efficiency. He has kept his first pledge, providing a manual training school at the Pontiac Reformatory, where Professor Drew, a former teacher in the University of Chicago, is giving 300 boys practical training. A manual training building is being erected at the St. Charles School for Boys which will be completed in December. The training school will be established then and the 200 boys in that institution will enjoy the advantages accorded.

### Legislation Enacted.

The work of the Forty-Fourth General Assembly was sweeping in character, and covered every pledge upon which the party had given utterance. It passed a compulsory primary law, a civil service law, and an act empowering the city of Chicago to frame its own charter. It enacted a gas regulation law under which the city of Chicago has since obtained a reduction in the price of its gas from \$1.00 per thousand to 85 cents,—a saving of thousands of dollars to the gas consumers of the city, annually. It passed a municipal court bill, giving the city of Chicago the right to organize a court with a chief justice, and twenty-seven municipal court judges. This act abolishes the evils of the justice courts, and is expected to be a protection to the citizens of Chicago from vicious legal actions in future. It passed an act changing the cumulative voting system in vogue in the election of trustees of the sanitary district of Chicago, to a straight vote for each candidate. Under this system, instead of having a bi-partisan board, the Republican party elected nine trustees and assumed the responsibility for the district, which, in time past, had been divided between the two parties.

Governor Deneen's message at the opening of the general assembly recommended that the legislature pass a law providing for the creation of a state geological survey, and a state highway, or hard-roads commission. His recommendation was carried out, and both the commissions created, although the hard-roads bill was not as extensive as had been recommended. The only measure, which the administration supported, that the legislature failed to pass, was a bill providing for the reform of the court practice act. While this measure failed of passage, it is the purpose of the governor to press again in his message to the Forty-Fifth General Assembly.

The Forty-Fifth General Assembly will be called upon to elect a United States senator, and pass measures in fulfillment of the party pledge in the platform of 1906, which calls for an extension of the civil service act. This extension is expected to cover the penal and reformatory institutions, and possibly the state house, at Springfield.

## WORK OF HIGHWAY COMMISSION

### Experimental Roads Are Constructed and Crushed Stone Furnished to Forty-Five Counties.

In the few months the state highway commission has been at work much interest has been aroused in road improvement. Accurate information has been secured concerning the amount spent upon the roads and bridges throughout the state, which will be tabulated and put in accessible form. The commission has enlisted the aid of the postoffice department for sending a list of questions to over 2,000 carriers for information concerning their routes.

For the first time in this country an exact census of road traffic has been undertaken and an actual count of vehicles passing over some forty different roads in various parts of the state is made periodically. The results of this census will show among other things exactly how the condition of the road affects its use.

Special attention has been given to the maintenance of earth roads by road drags. The commission has been dragging a piece of road east of Springfield to ascertain what the effect is and what the costs. Twenty-five thousand copies of a bulletin on dragging roads have been distributed the past season and there are at present many hundreds of road drags in use in different parts of the state.

There have been 120 applications for crushed stone from forty-five counties, and it will require upwards of 250,000 cubic yards of material to fill these applications. As directed by law, the commission has made arrangements with the railroads for rates, which it was necessary to do before this material could be successfully distributed. It has now secured from nearly all roads a ½ cent per ton mile rate and on some roads a 3 mill per ton mile rate. It is probable as this work goes on and becomes more systematized, lower rates will be granted.

One crusher has been in operation at the Southern penitentiary, having a capacity of about 300 cubic yards a day; a new crusher has been installed at Joliet, which has been in operation since the middle of August, having a capacity of about 500 yards a day. Another crusher is being installed at the Southern penitentiary which will be in operation by next season. The combined capacity of the three crushers will be approximately 1,300 cubic yards a day.

Experimental roads have been constructed at Salem, Greenville, Springfield, McLean and DeKalb. If time permits, construction will begin on experimental roads at Lockport and Rock Island.

One of the chief phases of the work of the commission is the preparing of specifications and estimates for bridges of all kinds. In the past three months plans have been drawn for over sixteen bridges and applications for a number more are on file; on the first four bridges which were constructed under the plans of the highway commission, approximately \$7,000 was saved to the local communities. It will be the endeavor of the commission to raise the standard of bridges and encourage the adoption of more suitable and permanent forms of construction, particularly the construction of concrete bridges for all short