

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.

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.

Step Like a Horse's.

General Horace Porter was talking about a French artist.

"The man is talented, and a good conversationalist," he said, "but he is too gushing. He is over-sympathetic. In his desire to be agreeable, he goes too far.

"Perhaps I can best explain what I mean by a little story—the story of a young girl.

"This young girl's sweetheart said to her one evening:

"Were you aware that I passed your house last night?"

"She gave him a glance full of reproach.

"Of course, I was," she said. "Do you think I would not know your step?"

"But he at this grew grave and distant for he had passed in a cab."

Nearly 70,000 tons of cork are needed for the bottled beer and aerated waters consumed annually in Britain.

The first meerschaum pipe was made by Karol Howater in 1723. This pipe is still in the Pesh museum.

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