

FIRE LOSS LARGE DURING PAST YEAR

Property Damage Is Big at State Institutions—None Hurt.

SINCE JANUARY 1, 1910

Absence of Insurance Due to Fact That Year's Premiums Would Exceed Value of Equipment Destroyed.

Springfield.—Though fires in the 17 state charitable institutions since January 1, 1910, have aggregated an approximate \$100,000 in damage, not an inmate or attendant has suffered injury. This item is included in the first report which the state board of administration has made to Governor Deneen and which was placed in the governor's hands by President Lawrence Y. Sherman of the board.

The report, which is made in pursuance of one of the provisions of the charity act, covers the period from the date of the board's birth, January 1, of this year, to the date on which it was turned over to the governor. President Sherman makes a general report for the board and supervises subsidiary reports of the board's finances of Fiscal Supervisor Frank Whipp, and of the medical interests by the board's alienist, Dr. J. L. Greene. Fiscal Supervisor Whipp's report covers the period from January 1 to October 1. The latter date was chosen because of the policy the board has adopted in accounting by quarters, the period from October 1 to the end of the year constituting the last quarter of the year.

The state carries no insurance on any of the charitable institution property. On its face the system may appear to many as faulty because it would be expected the losses would be total, with no opportunity to reimburse. It has been found, however, the annual premiums on the property would average more than the annual loss of property through all causes, hence the noninsurance plan is preferable.

State Miners Board Legal.

The state miners examining board statute, which provides that a person must have a state certificate of competency and qualification, before he can engage in the work of a miner was declared constitutional, when the supreme court handed down a decision in the test case of the People of the state of Illinois vs. Harry Evans, which came up as a result of information filed at the May term, 1910, of the county court of Saline county.

This information charged that Harry Evans had violated the statute known as the "miners' examining board statute." It was alleged that Evans, a mine manager and foreman of the Waason Coal company of Saline county, had suffered and permitted Mason Dunning to be employed to work in the mine as a miner, and that he had no certificate of competency and qualification from the state miners' examining board and was therefore not working as a certified miner. Evans, in the county court of Saline county, entered a plea of not guilty, but lost the case and was fined \$100. He made a motion for a new trial. This was overruled and a writ of error was prosecuted to reverse that judgment. The only question raised was the constitutionality of the statute. The judgment of the lower court was affirmed.

It was contended that the state miners' board was unconstitutional, as they are state officers and are appointed by the governor of the state, and their authority is limited to the performance of their official duties in the county where they are appointed.

Sustain State Primary Law.

The supreme court held the legislative primary act providing for the nomination of members valid in a decision handed down in the case of Espey vs. McInerney and others. Three opinions were handed down by the court, as the members are divided as to the interpretation of the act. The opinion follows the decision of the court rendered verbally shortly before the election, November 8.

When the order was handed down denying Espey a writ of mandamus compelling the state board of canvassers to place three names on the ballot in each senatorial district as candidates for nomination for the lower house, Justices Cartwright, Carter, Hand and Dunn were against granting the writ. Justices Vickers, Cooke and Farmer have handed down an opinion that the law is unconstitutional because it delegates power to the senatorial committee to fix and determine the number of candidates to be nominated by a political party.

Final Effort to Save McCann. Another attempt was made in the

supreme court to save former Police Inspector Edward McCann of Chicago from the penitentiary. The latest effort on the part of McCann, through his attorney, James Hamilton Lewis, was the filing by Lewis of a motion in the court for an order to hold the mandate in the case and return the case to the lower court in Cook county, with directions from the supreme court to enter upon an investigation of the matters of fact as a basis for a new trial.

Interest Less on State Funds.

The report of State Treasurer Andrew Russel for the two years ended October 1, which has been submitted to Governor Deneen, shows that while there is over a million dollars more in the state treasury this year than there was in 1908, not half as much interest has been turned into the treasury on public funds as was by Treasurer John F. Smulski for the two years of his term.

Interest on public funds to September 30, 1910, received by Mr. Russel amounted to \$72,279.14. During the two years ended September 30, 1908, Treasurer Smulski received \$153,583.55. The balance of all funds in the state treasury on October 1, 1910, was \$4,424,610.41. On October 1, 1908, there was but \$2,820,233.44 in the treasury.

The remarkable falling off in the amount of interest shown in the report is accounted for by the state treasurer by the fact that much of the accrued interest has not been called in. Treasurer Smulski required banks to turn in the interest every three months, but Mr. Russel has called in the interest money only as it was needed, and for that reason, it is said, much interest that has been earned will not appear in the report of the treasurer until later.

Treasurer Smulski was the first treasurer to pay into the public funds interest earned by the state money. Mr. Russel continued the policy.

The total amount of cash on hand this year, although larger than it was two years ago, is not the largest the state has had at the end of a treasurer's term of office. In 1906 there was a balance on hand of \$5,549,226.65. This big increase was due largely to the action of the governor in calling in public funds which had been retained until this year, by the departments collecting them. Over a million dollars was brought into the general treasury in that way from the insurance department, the secretary of state, the railroad and warehouse commission and other state departments.

In the period covered in Mr. Russel's report the state has collected a total of \$1,112,514.32 in inheritance taxes. The largest amount of money collected under the inheritance tax law by any one county of course was collected in Cook county. The total for two years from that county is \$765,615.61. Madison county, with a total of \$26,651.37, is second in inheritance tax receipts, and Greene county, with a total of \$20,104.79, is third.

Almost all of the counties show larger receipts from this fund than they did two years ago. According to Mr. Smulski's report for the year ended in 1908, Cook county, for instance, collected only \$38,393.13.

To Safeguard Interurbans.

Officials of interurban roads in all parts of the state of Illinois attended the meeting called by the state board of railroad and warehouse commissioners, which was held in the office of the commission at the statehouse. The meeting was one of the results of which may have a distinct influence upon the operation of interurban roads in the state. It was called by the commission to discuss the proper operation of these roads, and the call for the meeting was prompted by the frequent recent occurrence of fatal accidents upon these roads. The outcome of the discussion, which was a free and full one, was the agreement that a committee of interurban operatives will be appointed to report to the railroad and warehouse commission the names of a committee to recommend suitable legislation and to co-operate with the state board of railroad and warehouse commissioners in securing from the legislature such laws as will safeguard the lives of the traveling public, which to such a large extent patronize the interurban roads.

In discussing the motormen employed, Vice-President Chubbuck of the Illinois Traction system made the statement that he would not employ steam railroad men because they are careless and indifferent and do not make good electric men.

\$3,982.35 Fines Settled.

State's Attorney Edmund Burke filed with Judge James A. Creighton in the circuit court an account of the fines and forfeitures collected by him as state's attorney from March 1, 1910, to December 14, 1910, as follows: Fees, \$2,466.05. Fines, \$3,982.35. Total, \$6,448.40.

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Will Meet in Joliet.

Officers and the executive board of the Illinois Police association decided to hold the next annual meeting in Joliet in June and adopted a resolution to change the pension fund law, placing cities of 7,000 and over under the act.

The present law fixes the minimum at 20,000. Members from fifty-eight cities were present.

Illinois Supreme Court.

Proceedings in the supreme court were as follows:

Vaughn, admrx., vs. Chicago Junction Railway company; motion by plaintiff in error to strike defendant in error's briefs from files denied.

Adler vs. Hucko; petition for writ of certiorari denied.

South Park Commissioners vs. Edwards; motion by defendants in error to dismiss allowed; writ dismissed.

South Park Commissioners vs. Cooke; motion by defendants in error to dismiss allowed; writ dismissed.

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