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STATE FACING BIG PROBLEM OF PAROLE
INCREASE OF BOARD ASKED

Larger Appropriation Needed, Says Supervisor, Because of Increasing Number of Cases

Illinois faces the alternative of appropriating approximately \$3,000,000 for the intelligent handling of the criminals eligible to parole during the coming biennium, or the spending of an amount equal to or double this for the enlargement of the penal institutions of the state.

This is the warning sounded by Hinton G. Clabaugh, supervisor of paroles to the Illinois state legislature. The supervisor backs his declaration with statistical data showing that with a capacity of 7,174 the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet, the Southern Illinois Penitentiary at Chester, the Illinois State Reformatory at Pontiac, the St. Charles School for Boys and the State Training School for Girls at Geneva, are housing 7,575 inmates. This is the greatest number in the history of the state.

Increased Board Asked
Supervisor Clabaugh is asking the personnel of the Division of Pardons and Paroles be increased to twelve members. In the past it has consisted of the supervisor, who has three assistants in an advisory capacity. He declares life and liberty of human beings is too sacred for one man to sit in judgment.

The duties of the board are too arduous for the supervisor and his assistants, he points out, and as proof of this he offers statistics showing an average of 3,000 cases a year heard at Joliet, Chester and Pontiac. A membership of twelve for the Division of Pardons and Paroles is favored, in that it will then have the same membership as a jury, and such decisions as are handed down would be the result of a majority vote.

Square Deal Is Sought
A square deal for the general public and an equally square deal for the man, boy, woman or girl who has transgressed the laws is the aim of Supervisor Clabaugh. In addition to the information furnished by the committing authorities, he plans a corps of investigators who will delve into each individual case, collecting all of the facts possible for the use of the division in passing judgment, whether favorable or unfavorable to the prisoner.

Mr. Clabaugh declares that with the present board called upon to hear an average of 3,000 cases a year at Joliet, Chester and Pontiac, only passing attention can be given. As a result there is danger of a parolee being granted too early. There is equal danger it will be too long delayed. In the one case release comes without reformation and the parolee returns to a life of crime. In the latter case the convict goes out with revenge in his heart, becoming a confirmed criminal.

Mostly First Termers
Backed with the result of a survey just completed Supervisor Clabaugh declares there is promising leaven to work with, in that of 11,868 received at Joliet, Chester, Pontiac, St. Charles and Geneva between 1921 and 1926, inclusive, but 2,044 were guilty of previous offenses, or more than 85 per cent are first termers. This is a refutation of the oft repeated assertion that a larger part of the crime in Illinois is traceable to paroled convicts.

With the increase in the membership of the Division of Pardons and Paroles recommended by Supervisor Clabaugh five bills are introduced for the consideration of the members of the legislature. Among these proposed measures is that changing the present penalty for armed robbery of ten years to life, to one year to life; changing the present minimum sentence of strong arm robbery from three to one year; providing penalty for assisting a prisoner to escape equal to that of the prisoner aided, with the exception of the death sentence, in which cases a sentence of life imprisonment is provided.

It is recommended a maximum penalty of five years be imposed for burglary while armed.

Under the proposed law all hearings of the Division of Pardons and Paroles shall be public, except where the ends of justice will be best served in secrecy. The division is also given power to subpoena witnesses and take evidence under oath.

THIS BANK DOES NOT DEPEND ON "FRONT"
First National of New York Is Not Bedecked With Costly Furniture

Every time the annual financial statement of the First National bank of New York is published and tremendous profits are revealed, the office equipment vendors must writhe in pain, comments the Nation's Business.

The First National violates all the superficial rules of business success. Marble fronts and gorgeous mahogany interiors are not for it. The bank does not even avail itself of a street entrance. Patrons, who wish to visit the bank, must walk up a flight of stairs.

Entering the bank, which is at the corner of Wall street and Broadway, opposite Trinity church, the visitor

finds no prepossessing surroundings. The stranger might decide that he wants a more progressive looking bank. The furniture in the First National is of the mid-Victoria period. Physically, the bank is sombre and old fashioned. Yet the bank pays 100 per cent dividends on its stock, which at this writing sells for about \$2,900 a share.

There are a thousand banks in the United States with fancier physical accoutrements, but none which consistently shows so high a rate of earnings on its capital.

George F. Baker, octogenarian head of the First National, once heard a rumor that another bank wished to buy control of his institution. He met the president of the bank at luncheon, and asked him why he wanted the First National. "To find out how you make so blamed much money," was the answer.

A financial institution must be judged by its financial reports, not by its furnishings. The bank shops have traditionally been the largest splurgers in Oriental rugs and furniture of the finest woods.

OLD AGE PENSION BILL IS DEFEATED
Illinois Legislature Fails to Pass It; Opposition Shows Its Defects

Falling short by twelve of the required seventy-seven votes necessary for enactment, House Bill No. 48, known as the "Old Age Pension" law, suffered defeat in the House of Representatives. Votes favoring passage of the proposed measure numbered 65, with 60 opposing.

The proposed measure was fathered by Representative R. C. Soderstrom of Streator. Under its provisions a tax of one-half of one mill would be spread, starting in 1928, for the payment of pensions to those reaching the age of 70 years who were unable to care for themselves in their declining years. It was estimated this levy would produce approximately \$2,000,000 annually.

Eligibility
Eligibility to participate in the pension was based on twenty years residence in the state, with administration of the law falling to the Industrial commission. The county judge of each county was made the pension agent of his jurisdiction.

Proponents of the measure declared the plan was not a new one, but similar to that which had been carried out in the leading countries of Europe for a number of years. They appealed principally from a sympathetic point of view.

Those opposed to the bill offered statistics to show that if enacted into law the measure would fall far short in the humanitarian work intended; that instead of \$2,000,000 being sufficient to provide a pension fund of \$260 a year for those entitled to come under the provisions, from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000 would be necessary. They alleged that instead of all of those over 70 years of age being properly cared for by the state, but one in eight would receive the pension provided, and a chaotic condition would result.

GOVERNMENT BULLETIN TELLS ABOUT FROGS
Merle Thorpe in Nation's Business Magazine writes: The other day our attention was called to a publication issuing from the Department of Commerce dealing with frogs. We started to read and learn, if possible, why the government of the United States should undertake to educate its public as to frogs.

We read the introduction with its literary reference to Owen Wister's "Virginian and the frog business"; we assimilated the figures in frog production; we learned how to catch frogs both by hand and by machine methods; we classified frogs into commercial, possibly marketable, and undesirable.

All was well. Then we came to the chapter on mating frogs, and we hesitated. All we knew of the love affair of frogs was written by Mother Goose (if it were she) who wrote "The Frog he would a wooing go Whether his mother would let him or no."

But we read on. We learned that the gentleman frog sings or rather croaks when in love. We learned, too, that he does not hesitate to die in battle in an effort to win his lady.

We started to quote from the pamphlet but hesitated when we recalled the fate that befell the producers of certain plays produced on Broadway. And having hesitated, we were lost. We felt that Nation's Business was no place for sex.

Then we calmed our nerves by re-reading "The Principles of Window Curtaining" issued by the Department of Agriculture.

FRESH FRUIT EXPORT BY U. S. IS EXTENSIVE
The United States exported \$53,000,000 worth of fresh fruit in 1926, as against \$42,000,000 in 1925. In 1922 its exports of fruit were valued at \$22,000,000. A total of \$30,000,000 was received for the apple crop exported and \$11,500,000 for the oranges. In both cases the United States exported about ten per cent, the other 90 per cent being consumed in the United States.

Prohibition agents raided a wealthy lawyer's estate in the east and found \$50,000 worth of liquor. The tip was given by a discharged butler. The moral of this is—don't tell your butler everything.

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