

OUTLINE OF LAWS RECENTLY PASSED

BY STATE LEGISLATURE

Summary of More of the Statutes Enacted at Last Session of Illinois General Assembly

(This is a continuation of the list of bills that were passed by the 55th General Assembly and have received the signature of Governor Small, or have been allowed to become laws without his signature.)

House Bill 473 (Browne). Amends the title of an Act relating to school districts and school sites, approved June 26, 1923, and adds section 2a thereto. Relates to authority of school districts to purchase interests in sites or buildings in other school districts, the addition to an enlargement of same and the expenses of such purchase. Provides for two districts holding title to school premises as tenants in common, the mutual improvements of same and the protection of individual interest therein.

House Bill 482 (Reeves). Validates the organization and acts of sanitary districts organized prior to June 1, 1927, under "An Act to create sanitary districts and to provide for sewerage disposal," of June 22, 1927, in all respects legal, except that petition and record in County Court do not show that the area of the district is so situated that the construction of sewerage disposal plans will conduce to the preservation of public health nor that such area contains municipalities benefited thereby.

House Bill 493 (Fekete). Amends sections 22, 31, and 35 of Park District Act of June 24, 1895, to permit special elections to authorize an increase of tax above 3 mills on the dollar for general purposes, an increase of park district indebtedness above 3 per cent of taxable property, and the annexation of additional territory to the park district upon petition of 100 voters of the territory to be annexed or a majority thereof, if less than 100.

House Bill 498 (Committee on Judiciary). Amends the title and section 1 of an Act to prevent fraudulent advertising, approved June 29, 1915, so as to include deceptive and misleading advertisement published with intent to sell or dispose of merchandise or to acquire title thereto. Penalties.

House Bill 499 (Arnold). Imposes a license tax of two cents on the sale and use of motor fuel used for the purpose of operating motor vehicles upon the public highways of the State. Defines motor fuel, distributor and motor vehicles. Provisions relate to distributors of motor fuels; inventories of fuels possessed on August 1, 1927; distributors' monthly reports to Department of Finance of motor fuels handled; payment of licensee's tax on motor fuel of two cents per gallon to Department of Finance; depositing of such tax money in the special road fund; keeping of records by licensees and inspection thereof by Department of Finance; refunds in the case of motor fuel used for purposes other than in motor vehicles; enforcement of Act by Department of Finance. Penalties. Provides for revocation of distributors' licenses. Purpose of Act to impose such tax once on each gallon of fuel used for motor purposes. The several counties of the State shall each receive its proportionate share of 50 per cent of the net amount collected from such tax and shall use such money for road purposes as provided in Act. Such proportionate share shall be based upon the amount of motor vehicle license fees collected in each county.

House Bill 500 (Peppers). Amends sections 46, 52 and 54 of the School Law of 1909. Provides that the trustees of schools may, not only at the regular meeting in April, but also at any semi-annual meeting in October, or at any special meeting held for the purpose, not sooner than 20 days after the filing of a petition therefor, change the boundaries of school districts.

House Bill 503 (Faby). Amends sections 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 and the title of the Act relating to community buildings in towns of fewer than 5,000 inhabitants so as to allow such towns to purchase and acquire community buildings as well as establish, erect and maintain such buildings. Tax to pay off bonded indebtedness contracted for such purpose shall not exceed two mills on the dollar.

House Bill 505 (Curran). Appropriates \$11,750.49 to the Department of Purchases and Construction to pay the State's proportionate share of special assessments for local improvements to its property in Chicago.

House Bill 508 (Kasserman). An Act to validate certain proceedings to lay out a road under order of county superintendent of highways in aid upon appeal under provisions of Road and Bridge Law of 1913.

House Bill 510 (McCarthy). Provides for the incorporation of fire protection districts. Provisions relate to formation of proposed districts, boundaries thereof, hearings, and voting on the propositions, addition of contiguous territory to districts, control of affairs and business

of district, filling of vacancies in board of trustees, prescribing of ordinances relating to district, acquisition of fire protection apparatus, acquisition of water supplies, regulations preventing fires, borrowing money for corporate purposes and taxation for payment of debts. Limit of taxation is set at five mills on the dollar of taxable property within corporate limits.

House Bill 511 (Arnolds). Establishes the Illinois Valley Flood Control Commission, whose duties are to study the cause of floods and control of same in the Illinois River Valley and report the status of its work and make recommendation relative to flood control to the Fifty-sixth General Assembly. Commission to consist of the Director of Agriculture, Superintendent of Waterways and one Senator, one Representative and one citizen residing in the Illinois River Valley to be appointed by the Governor. Appropriates \$10,000 to said commission to carry out the provisions of this Act.

FIFTH ANNUAL MEAT STORY CONTEST PLANS

Chance for High School Girls to Tell What They Know of Home Economics

Knowledge of cookery, food values, selection as to quality, or other phases of the subject of meat, may bring local high school girls within reach of a university scholarship or cash award if they can transfer this knowledge to paper.

High school home economics teachers have just received formal announcement of the Fifth National Meat Story contest. The contest is held annually in high schools of the United States under the sponsorship of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. It has the indorsement of college home economics heads and other leaders in the field who look upon it as a valuable educational project.

Interest in the contest has increased each year, it is said. Last year approximately 14,000 girls from high schools in every state of the union competed and the Board expects that even a larger number will be enrolled in the present contest. As in the past, the distribution of prizes is arranged so that girls in every state will be among the winners. Miss Rose Gertrude Schmidt of Moorestown, N. J. won the national championship last year.

The present contest will close on March 15, according to the announcement. Judging of the stories will be in the hands of a committee which is to be selected from college directors of home economics and other authorities on the subject.

It is explained that the purpose of the contest is to stimulate more interest in the study of home economics. The scholarships offered are for home economics courses. These and the cash prizes furnish an incentive for the future housewife to take part in the event which, it is hoped, will better fit her to assume the responsibilities of home manager.

HOW PLANTS MAKE SUGAR FROM THE AIR

Commenting on a recent news dispatch from Frankfort-on-Main, Germany, that German chemists are working on the synthetic production of sugar, by taking from the air its component parts, such as the elements carbon, oxygen and hydrogen and combining them chemically, Dr. James B. McNair, assistant curator of economic botany at Field Museum of Natural History, declares:

"While it may seem a remarkable thing to make sugar synthetically from the air, it becomes less startling when it is considered that that is exactly nature's process in making the sugar we use every day in our dining rooms and kitchens. The ordinary sugar we use, obtained from sugar-cane, beets and other vegetable matter, is manufactured by plants for their own use from the air. It is formed in the green parts of the plants from carbon dioxide of the air and the water of the sap. Under the influence of sunlight filtered by the green coloring matter of the plant, the gas from the air and the water combine to form formaldehyde which is later converted into glucose and other sugars. The plan of the German scientists seems technically possible, but it is doubtful if it could be done profitably on a commercial basis, as it is probable the costs are less by the present method of letting nature perform the first steps of manufacture through the medium of plants."

Dr. McNair is the author of a leaflet recently published by Field Museum, entitled "Sugar and Sugar-Making."

In mentioning editorially a recent debate of the tariff in the Senate, the New York Times infers that "the poor devil of a consumer had no friends as usual." And the poor devil of a consumer was so busy down on automobile row trying to choose between a straight eight and a silent six that he didn't have time even to read the Senate debate.

FEAR INTERVENTION IN CARIBBEAN LANDS

REASON OF U. S. ACTIVITY

Does Not Want Europe Nations to Have Excuses to Take Charge of Nicaragua or Others

The fear of intervention in Central America by Germany, Japan or other foreign powers in protecting their investments, a spectre which haunted the dreams of American financiers and statesmen for the decade following the Spanish-American war, is the real reason for marines now being in Nicaragua, according to Dr. Isaac Joslin Cox, of Northwestern university, who has just completed an exhaustive study of documents affecting the two countries since 1909.

Dr. Cox raises the question of whether the United States would have a finger in Nicaraguan internal affairs if the world war, with its consequent weakening of European nations, could have been foreseen.

"The recent fighting in Nicaragua cannot be considered merely as a result of the Coolidge policy," says Dr. Cox, "but rather as the latest development which dates back to the Roosevelt administration."

How It Started
"American interest in Nicaragua was whetted in 1909 when President Zelaya proposed selling canal rights to Japan. Vague rumors of Italy or Germany sending an armed force to the Caribbean region to insure the security of loans, made America fear for the safety of the recently acquired Panama canal zone."

American bankers in 1911 offered to lend Nicaragua money to displace the foreign capital, notes Dr. Cox, but the senate refused to guarantee its security. The solution came when

the conservative Nicaraguan faction asked the United States to help in straightening out Nicaraguan finances.

Further Steps
"This meant not only doing the bookkeeping for Nicaraguan customs," says Dr. Cox, "but peace. And, maintaining peace meant taking a hand in the political strife out of which revolutions grow. A further interest in Nicaragua was taken by America, when, for \$3,000,000, a 100-year option was given on a new canal right, the right to fortify some small Caribbean islands, and permission to establish a naval base."

Historically, Dr. Cox points out, the present trouble in Nicaragua has grown out of the United States taking sides in the perennial dispute between liberals and conservatives in 1925 and 1926. The conservative Chamorro, formerly supported by the United States, lost out in the elections, and by a coup d'etat, secured the resignation of President Solorzano.

Chamorro failed to obtain recognition from the United States, and the Nicaraguan congress chose a president to fill out the unexpired term of President Solorzano. Diaz, a conservative who had long been popular with the American state department was chosen. Sacasa, vice-president under the Solorzano re-

gime, claimed that the constitution provided for his succession upon the president vacating office, and set up a rival government.

Present Situation
Warring between the two, the liberals headed by Sacasa, and the conservatives, led by Diaz, brought about the intervention of United States marines last year. Henry L. Stimson, special U. S. agent, succeeded in getting both sides to consent to cessation of hostilities and abide by results of a new election. All liberal leaders agreed to the plan

except General Sandino, a comparatively obscure figure. He, supported by malcontent remnants of the old forces, still opposes the Stimson compromise, and harrasses the American marines.

Some British newspapers are indignant because an English woman preacher who had an engagement to speak in Chicago had it cancelled on her because she smokes cigarettes. And we suppose eventually they will get around to the point of blaming this on to Bill Thompson.

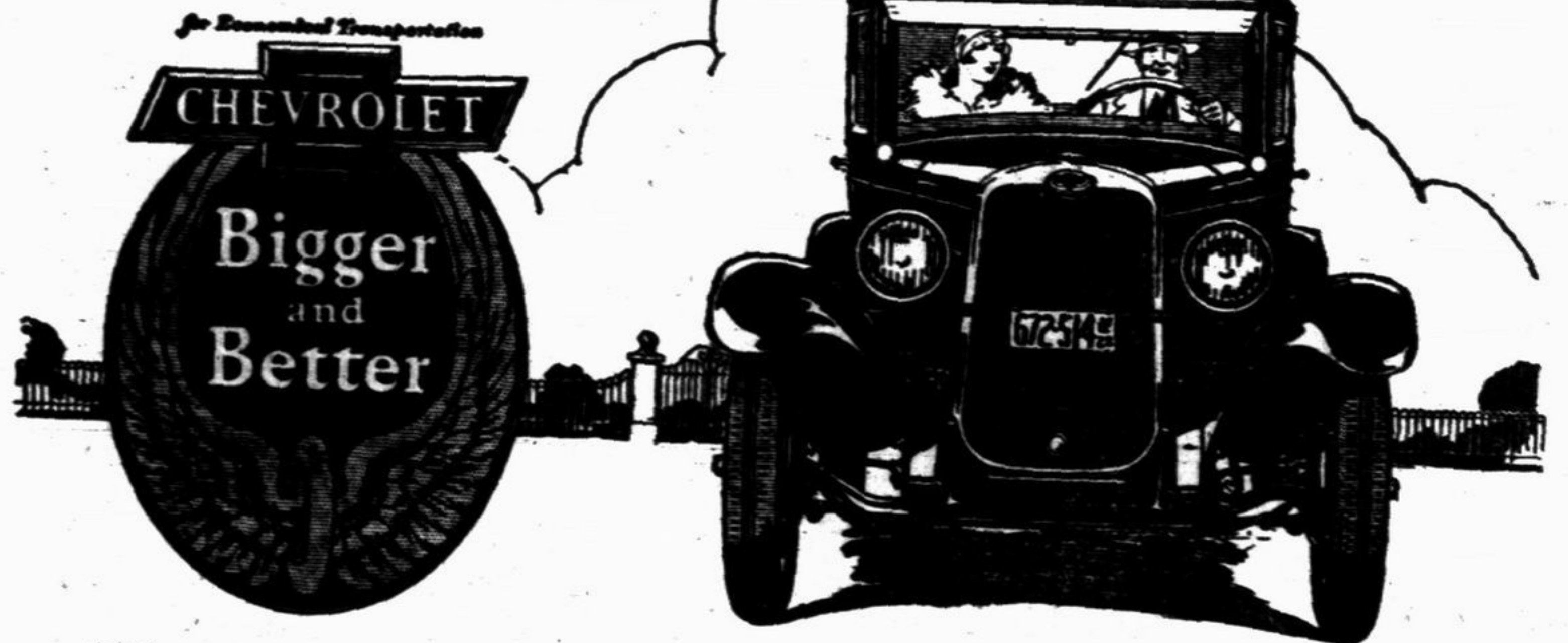
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