

STATE TO PAY LARGE MOTHER'S AID FUND

More than \$160,000 to Be Distributed Among 28 of Illinois 102 Counties

Mothers' aid funds totalling \$161,365.07 have been paid or are to be paid by the state in the near future to 28 of Illinois' 102 counties.

That information was made public today in a communication sent to Gov. Louis L. Emmerson by Director Rodney H. Brandon of the department of public welfare. Director Brandon's report covered the fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1929 and ending June 30, 1930.

The funds disbursed to the counties were taken from a \$500,000 appropriation passed by the last regular general assembly for the biennium beginning July 1, 1929, and ending June 30, 1931.

While the mothers' pension law, which Illinois enacted in 1911 and gained the honor of being the first state to pass such legislation, sets up the general terms in which the money can be distributed considerable leeway is given to the department of public welfare.

For the year 1929-30, the department has been operating under the plan proposed by the Association of County and Probate Judges. Disbursements have been based upon the assessed valuation of property in the individual counties. Mothers' aid work of each county was checked and only the counties seeking to comply with the law received aid from the state.

Lake county stands sixth in the amounts assigned to counties. This county will receive \$2,127.50.

Says Distribution of Highway Funds Should Continue As at Present

The present system of distributing highway funds should remain unchanged until the state has completed its pledge to the people to complete its main system of hard roads, Gov. Louis L. Emmerson declared recently in an address at Harvard, Ill.

"This main system of roads is a pledge to the people of Illinois approved the two bond issues, and personally, I am opposed to any alteration in the present system of distributing highway funds until that pledge shall have been met.

"I also am opposed to using money derived from taxation of automobiles for any purpose other than the construction of roads, or the meeting of interest or principle upon our present road bond indebtedness. When the need for additional road construction is at an end, and when the debt that the state owes—due to its road building—is wiped out, the only direct tax upon motorists of the state should be that necessary for the maintenance of the highway system and for the necessary officers to maintain safe traveling conditions. To tax motorists for other forms of governmental activity would be contrary to fair principles of taxation."

State Prison Inmates Pass 10,000 Mark for First Time Is Report

On Dec. 1 Illinois passed the ten thousand mark in its penal population for the first time in its history. This total—10,066 to be exact—include the inmates at Joliet, Menard, Pontiac, Chester, the state farm at Vandalia, the woman's prison at Joliet, and the new woman's reformatory at Dwight. The rapidly increasing population of the state's penal institutions, and charitable institutions as well, as presenting a difficult problem to Gov. Louis L. Emmerson's administration. New buildings erected during the past two years to relieve the deplorable overcrowded conditions of the state institutions are being filled rapidly with new wards and wards from overcrowded buildings.

Receive Bids Soon on Waukegan Harbor Work

Bids on the proposed improvement of the Waukegan harbor will be received by the United States engineering department at its district offices in Chicago on January 15, Mayor L. J. Yager and City Engineer Henry Bleck were informed by Major J. H. Wild, in charge of the district last week.

The contracts will provide for the building of an extension to the present breakwater to cost \$251,000, the expenditure of \$50,000 in rebuilding the north pier and the allotment of \$15,000 for dredging in the mouth of the harbor. Another \$8,000 has been allotted for enlarging the inner basin of the harbor but this is contingent upon the building of a wharf either by the city or shipping interests.

The contracts will be awarded by the government as soon as possible so that work on the project can be started as early as possible in the spring.

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