

ADD DETAILS TO CORONER'S DUTIES

New Law Requires Probe of All Unattended Deaths; Other Features

Science as pertaining to the development of ascertaining causes of death and its prevention, is expected to be greatly aided through creation of a new law by the recent Illinois State Legislature, providing that all deaths occurring without medical attendance must be investigated by a coroner.

According to Dr. Andy Hall, director of the State Department of Health, the new law was enacted so as to put a stop to the listing of numerous deaths as being due to "unknown causes."

Is Mandatory

The change, Hall said, provides that in all cases where death occurs without medical attendance the coroner shall be called and that he shall take charge of the body, make a preliminary examination and issue a certificate of death. If death is not from natural causes, then an inquest must be held.

This, Hall said, will end the practice of permitting local registrars, of whom there are more than 1,300 in the state, to file reports of deaths without a specific certificate that sets forth the cause.

Many "Unknown" Causes

Nearly all local registrars are non-

medical officers, he said, and without authority to call witnesses and take testimony, and as a rule, are not skilled in conducting examinations.

"This has resulted in an undue number of deaths from 'unknown' causes going into the records, said Hall. "As an illustration, the health department's records show that of 330 deaths reported from unknown causes last year 325 of the certificates were signed by local registrars."

Unfavorable notice of this condition in Illinois by the Federal Bureau of Census, Hall said tended to stress the desirability of this revision of the law.

Mortality Record

The value of mortality records, for the purposes of research and study of causes and prevention, Hall said rests upon the thoroughness and an accuracy of investigation into causes. This, the act, as amended, he declared, will provide by the requirement that the coroners conduct the investigations.

Investigating Four Western Bond Groups

The Federal Trade commission has been turning the spotlight on four Pacific and Western members of the Electric Bond and Share company's groups. This investigation has been going for two or three years and while some very important disclosures have been made the big concern evidently has not been hurt, as its profits have constantly increased.



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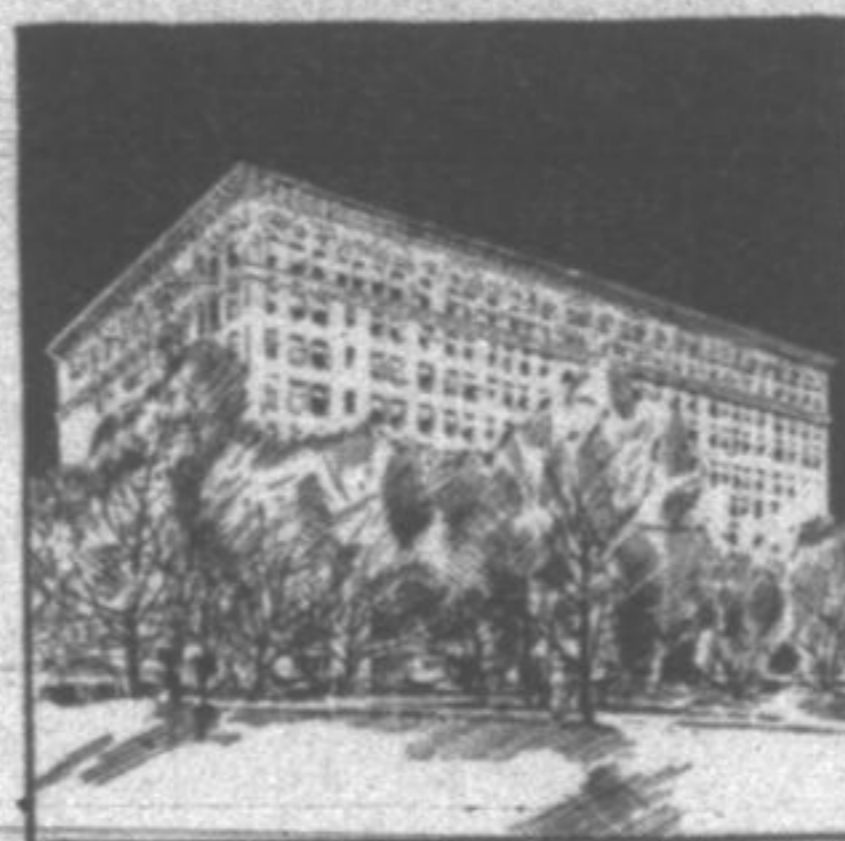


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