

### Wage Rates Established on Construction Work by State of Illinois, Report

Prevailing rates of wages for state construction involving building trades and established by the state department of purchases and construction were made public last week at Springfield, in connection with proposals for two Illinois waterway bridges and bids for work at Stateville prison.

The projects in which the wage rates were set are those involving construction of a bridge at Marseilles, a temporary structure at Joliet in connection with the deep waterway projects, and of various improvements at Stateville prison.

The scale for workmen employed at the bridge projects is as follows: Blacksmiths, Joliet, \$1.35; Marseilles, \$1.

Bricklayers, Joliet, \$1.25; Marseilles, \$1.

Carpenters (rough work), Joliet, 90c; Marseilles, 60c.

Carpenters (fine work), Joliet \$1; Marseilles, 80c.

Electricians, Joliet, \$1.25; Marseilles, \$1.

Labor (skilled), Joliet, 60c; Marseilles, 50c.

Labor (common), Joliet, 50; Marseilles, 40c.

The scale of wages for the work on the Joliet bridge project is 20 per cent higher than that for the Marseilles construction. The figures, according to Kohn, were based on wages being paid for similar work by the federal government. Bids on the two projects will be received August 25.

Specifications for work at Stateville prison, on which bids will be received August 11, stipulate that successful bidders or sub-contractors must pay the following minimum hour rates: Cement finishers, \$1.50; roofers, \$1.25; roofers' helpers, 75 cents; sheet metal workers, \$1.50; composition floor finishers, \$1.50 and \$1.62½; common labor, 90 cents.

### Swamp Land Case Is Decided Day After Death of the Owner

Frank Hatch, of Grass Lake, who had fought six years for title to 600 acres of swamp lands in the Pistakee bay region, died last week at his home, and the following day Special Master-in-Chancery Hervey C. Coulson filed an opinion with Circuit Judge Ralph J. Dady, stopping the State of Illinois and Lake county from claiming the land.

The suit started June 18, 1926 and scores of experts on soil formations, surveys, etc., were called from all over the middle west to testify.

The state and the county sued Hatch, and he in turn sued them in a cross bill. Coulson dismissed the original bill for want of equity and recommended a decree on the cross bill quieting title.

In his findings the special master held that the Galloway survey was erroneous or a fraud and that Pistakee Lake never was navigable, and did not exist in 1838 or 1818 or for several hundred years prior to that time as claimed by the state and county.

The U. S. called a new survey in 1876, Coulson ruled, which was adopted by the state and county, which never placed title of the land in the

state or county in their sovereign capacities.

Hatch, he held, paid taxes more than 20 years.

### Illinois Peach Crop Large; Other Fruits

With the 1931 peach crop estimated at 4,500,000 bushels, Illinois will have made a long stride this season toward fruit growing as a farm in-

come crop. Apple and pear orchards, bush fruits and strawberries are also gaining ground.

There is much enthusiasm over the enormous peach crop. Hundreds of farmers in the southern half of the state, who formerly depended on grains as their chief source of profit, have definitely swung over to mixed farming.

Governor Emmerson has designated August 16 to 31 for the Illinois peach

harvest festival. Stuart E. Pierson, state director of the department of agriculture, is spokesman for the governor in arranging for a great display of fruits at the state fair the last week in August.

Fruit growers, commission men and railroad representatives are in conference today formulating plans for interesting the public in the use of peaches and the farmers in the production of the crop.



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