THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

VOL. XXXVI—NO. 276. OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1907. SINGLE COPY THREE CENTS.

POLICE VIOLATE LAW

Chicago Grand Jury Uncovers a Serious State of Affairs.

OFFICERS ASSESSED FOR POLITICS

Testimony Shows Practice Has Been in Vogue for Years.

GRAND JURY ONLY SCRATCHES SURFACE

Recommends that Its Successor Go to the Bottom of the Pool.

TRIAL OF CHIEF EXPECTED IN JUNE

District Attorney's Office is Preparing to Push the Graft Hearings as Rapidly as Circumstances Will Permit.

CHICAGO, May 5.—That the city of Chicago has for years been violating the civil service law was brought to light by the investigation of the police department, which resulted yesterday in indictments being returned against four city officers and two detectives under former Mayor Dunne's administration. The investigation begun ten days ago followed charges during the recent mayoralty campaign by former Chief of Police Collins that he had his department to further the interests of Dunne by asking and receiving money from members of the police force for the support of the democratic candidate.

During the investigation inspectors, captains and patrolmen testified that as far back as they could remember they had been assessed a certain amount for campaign purposes at each city election, no matter which party was in power. According to the inspectors who testified before the Civil Service commission, it was not compulsory to subscribe to this fund, still the impression always prevailed throughout the department that it was for the best interests of everybody in the department to comply. According to the testimony submitted, on which the four indictments were returned, records of the police department had been mutilated and destroyed; police officers had been used for political work while being paid by the city to perform police duty and that persons indicted had been guilty of levying assessments on city employes, together with soliciting and receiving bribes from saloonkeepers. The penalty for each offense is the payment of a fine not exceeding $2,000 or imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Report of Grand Jury.

The grand jury in its report said:

"We find indications of corruption and graft on the part of patrolmen and officers that leads us to suggest that these matters, which we have been unable to investigate thoroughly on account of lack of time, be fully gone into by the next grand jury. The flagrant violations of the civil service laws by the police of Chicago show the necessity for vigilance on the part of civil service boards to prevent similar abuses and violations by other departments of the county and city government under civil service regulations."

Preparations for the trial of the former superintendent of the Chicago police department as soon as possible will be made by State's Attorney Healy. The state's attorney said tonight that he believed Collins could be placed on trial by June 1. The other cases will not be taken up until fall.

TROUBLE FOR FRENCH CABINET

Labor Situation Has Thoroughly Aroused the Conservative Elements.

PARIS, May 5.—Ugly clouds have gathered during the Easter holidays, and when Parliament reassembles Tuesday Premier Clemenceau and his cabinet will have to face a multitude of interpellations. While the conservative interests for months have been alarmed at the government's new scheme of taxation, they now have become genuinely frightened to find a carnival of strikes, labor disorders and an anti-military propaganda being directly fostered by the General Federation of Labor, an organization comprising all the labor unions in France, which is openly preaching collectivism, expropriation and the attainment of ends which means a general strike. Besides organizing the workmen, the federation has been instrumental in forming seventeen syndicates of state employes, including teachers. The result has been public and private demoralization, threatening veritable anarchy, and a tremendous sentiment has flared up in favor of the complete suppression of the federation.

Premier Clemenceau sympathizes with this demand, but has feared to break with his old socialistic colleagues. As a natural consequence his irresolution has disappointed friends and enemies alike. He squelched the May day celebrations, but when it came to taking the federation by the throat he capitulated. At Saturday's cabinet meeting he submitted a bill dissolving the federation, but when M. Viviani, minister of labor, and M. Briand, minister of education, ordered it he agreed to hold it in abeyance for a first test of sentiment in the Chamber of Deputies. As a matter of fact, M. Viviani is believed to be secretly trying to unhorse his chief.

PROBING KANSAS CITY POLICE

Governor Folk to Take a Hand in Sifting Charges of Corruption.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 5.—Tomorrow morning the Board of Police commissioners will begin its promised investigation of the charge of police corruption. The probable advent in Kansas City within the next week or so of Governor Joseph W. Folk, who has practically said he would come here and take a hand personally in the investigation, gives promise of sensational disclosures.

For a long time allegations have been made that graft was commonly practiced on the force. It has been charged that it extended all the way from the protection of petty criminals to the covering up, for a consideration, of the grave crimes of murderers and dangerous crooks shielded, and appointments made at the behest of certain faro banks to pay political debts and with no consideration of the fitness for office of the appointees.

Chief of Police John W. Kenna has repeatedly said that he courted an investigation of his department from top to bottom, and he has offered to give the governor and the police commissioners every aid at his command.

SUMMARY OF THE BEE

Monday, May 6, 1907.

1907		MAY				1907
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

THE WEATHER.

FORECAST FOR NEBRASKA—Cloudy Monday; probably showers. Tuesday, fair.

FORECAST FOR IOWA—Showers Monday and warmer in extreme east portion. Tuesday partly cloudy.

Temperatures at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	42	1 p. m.	54
6 a. m.	42	2 p. m.	56
7 a. m.	42	3 p. m.	58
8 a. m.	43	4 p. m.	57
9 a. m.	46	5 p. m.	58
10 a. m.	48	6 p. m.	54
11 a. m.	49	7 p. m.	53
12 m.	52	8 p. m.	51
		9 p. m.	50

DOMESTIC.

Grand jury investigation in Chicago shows wholesale violation of law in the public department and recommends further investigation. **Page 1**

Navigation opens on the lakes and immense amount of freight is already afloat in both directions. **Page 1**

Conflicting reports concerning the condition of winter grains cause great activity in the Board of Trade. **Page 1**

Lady-bugs being distributed to exterminate the green-bug which is damaging the crop in Kansas and Oklahoma. **Page 1**

WASHINGTON.

Secretary Taft decides complaints of canal employes. Rejects claim for increased pay for shovelmen, holds that no change shall be made by commission in conditions which were held out as inducement for men to go to the isthmus; men are not to be discharged without a hearing or just cause. **Page 1**

Interstate Commerce commission rules express company cannot charge shipper an excessive rate simply because it has contracted to give its agents and the railroad company an excessive rate for their services. **Page 1**

Louisiana judge presents argument for constitutional power to place railroads entirely under federal control. **Page 2**

LOCAL.

Greeks of Omaha quietly observe their Easter day, though without church or organized body. **Page 8**

Rev. James M. Wilson of Seattle, first pastor of Castellar Street Presbyterian church, is cordially greeted there Sunday when he preaches on faith in God. **Page 8**

NEBRASKA.

Judge Jessen in scavenger tax suits rules the county has no right to bid on property at any time except the regular sales. **Page 1**

State Board of Assessment meets today to fix value of railroads for taxation purposes. Representatives of roads to be given one hearing each and board proposes to do the rest. **Page 1**

SPORT.

Results of the ball games:

11—Omaha vs. Sioux City—0.
2—Des Moines vs. Lincoln—1.
3—Chicago vs. Pittsburg—1.
11—Cincinnati vs. St. Louis—2.
4—Cleveland vs. Chicago—1.
6—Milwaukee vs. Indianapolis—0.
4—St. Paul vs. Columbus—1.
7—Minneapolis vs. Toledo—5

HELPING ALONG WAR OF BUGS

Lady Bug Proves the Exterminator of the Green Bug Wheat Pest.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 5.—The campaign in Kansas and Oklahoma to exterminate the green bug, which has been doing much damage to wheat, is developing interesting features. The main effort is being directed in the collection and distribution through the affected districts of the lady bug, so-called, which Prof. S. J. Hunter, entomologist at the Kansas State university, recently discovered to be the parasite enemy of the destroying green bug. Since Prof. Hunter became convinced of the worth of the lady bug as an exterminator he has constantly kept a number of students from the university in the fields collecting these insects. The bugs have been brought into the university at Lawrence, packed and shipped free to any point where they were needed. In the last two weeks thousands of these destroying parasites had been sent out over the state. They showed quite wonderful results and the demand for them increased beyond the supply. Concerns vitally interested, impressed with the great good accomplished, raised money voluntarily and forwarded it to Prof. Hunter to aid him in his work.

The work of extermination was temporarily delayed by the extreme cold weather of the past few days, which brought out the fact that while a low temperature and cold rains killed off the lady bug, the green bug thrived on these conditions. Now that warmer weather is in sight renewed efforts are being made to spread the lady bug, and Governor Hoch of Kansas, the Kansas City (Mo.) Board of Trade and several southwestern millers are giving financial support to the campaign.

OMAHA NOBLES REACH COAST

Mystic Shriners Have Descended in Force on Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, May 5.—From all parts of the United States, from Mexico and from the Hawaiian islands, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine are gathered tonight in this city. By morning there will be upwards of 20,000 strangers in the city, with many still to arrive. The day was devoted to receiving visiting delegates to the imperial council, which held its first session Thursday.

Following brass bands and escorted by Shriners in picturesque patrol uniforms, cheered by people who lined every thoroughfare, the nobles were cordially greeted by committees from Al Malaikah temple of Los Angeles.

Among the delegations which have arrived by special train during the last twelve hours are representatives of Aleppo temple, Boston; Hamous temple, Meridian, O.; Anezeh temple, City of Mexico; Zurah temple, Minneapolis; Tangier temple, Omaha; Osman temple, St. Paul; El Dazal temple, Fargo, N. D.; Nala temple, Deadwood, S. D., and Sinai temple, Pittsburg.

Fully thirty trains are scheduled to arrive before tomorrow at midnight.

The imperial potentate special bearing Aleah P. Clayton and many members of Moila temple of St. Joseph, Mo., is scheduled to arrive tomorrow. The city is beautifully decorated and illuminated.

COST OF CARRYING MAIL

Further Figures Are Offered for General Manderson's Consideration.

COMPARISON WITH RATES ON EXPRESS

Hundred Pound Rate Taken as Basis Because Adopted by Prof. Adams, Statistician of Interstate Commerce Commission.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, May 5.—(Special.)—General Charles F. Manderson's attack upon the figures of the relative cost of transportation of mail and express published in The Bee of April 28 was called to the attention of the person who furnished them to The Bee correspondent. In reply thereto, he said:

"General Manderson could not have read the article carefully. There is no place in it where, as General Manderson implies, it intimates that the express figures come from the report of the Postmaster General. The statement is simply made that data from the report of the postmaster general for 1906 shows that the rate per ton paid for carrying the mail between New York and Chicago was $67.40 per ton. It then recites that the express rate is $59 per ton, but does not in any way, shape or form attribute this information to the postmaster general's report.

"The figures cited were taken from the report of the Postal commission, of which Senator Penrose is chairman, pages 592 to 597 inclusive, and were furnished by Mr. Herbert Noble, representing the Periodical Publishers' Association of America.

Postmaster General's Figures.

In his statement there occurs the following passage:

On page 441 of the postmaster general's report for 1906, and the following pages, there appears a table showing the readjustment of pay per mile upon the section for which the quadrennial term expired June 30, 1905. The points between which each route is operated, the names of the railroads, the total length of the route, the average weight of mail carried over the entire route per day, the character and frequency of the service, etc., the average number of trips per week, the pay per mile per annum for transportation, the pay for railroad post-office car service, and the annual rate of pay for transportation are all set forth.

From these, by the process hereinafter described, it is possible to figure out the actual amount received by each particular railroad for each hundred pounds carried over each route. For example, we will take the New York Central & Hudson River railroad, from New York to Buffalo, which is known as "Route No. 10501." The average weight of mail carried over this entire route per day is "adjusted" at 411,838 pounds. The total annual rate of pay for the transportation of same not including the allowance for railroad post-office cars is $250,891.45. This makes a total compensation to the road of $2,201,891.72 per annum for the four years commencing July 1, 1905.

By multiplying the average daily weight of 411,838 pounds by 365 we find that the quantity carried yearly is 150,320,870 pounds, and by dividing this quantity into $2,351,891.72 we find that the rate per pound is $0.0149 plus, or practically $1.50 per 100 pounds. Comparing this with the freight to Buffalo, which is $1.25, it will be seen that the New York Central & Hudson River railroad is now receiving nearly four times the amount of the first-class rate (less than carload lots) and much more than the express rate.

Basing our computation upon this same method, we propose to show the amounts paid per 100 pounds to the railroads for carrying mails to some of the principal points of the United States on trunk lines, and to compare these amounts with the freight rates and express rates between the same points.

Hundred Pound Rate as Basis.

"Mr. Noble then proceeds to give the figures as cited in the story which General Manderson criticises. His express rates are based on the express charges per 100 pounds. As for me, I do not know what the average sized express shipment is, but when Prof. Adams, the present efficient statistician of the Interstate Commerce commission, made an extended comparison of mail and express rates between New York and Buffalo, he used the 100-pound rate as the basis of his comparison. And when one considers that most of the poultry, most of the eggs, most of the veal calves, many of the early vegetables, most of the thoroughbred horses and cows and hogs go by express, he will have to agree that Prof. Adams was nearer right in using the 100-pound rate as a basis than General Manderson when he says that a seven-pound package is a typical one. Mr. Noble has figured out the mail pay on the data in the report of the postmaster general. He has given the express rates on the basis selected as the just basis by Prof. Adams, probably the greatest living, and certainly the most widely recognized authority on transportation statistics. It will, therefore, be seen that the mail figures are not fake figures at all, and that the express figures were computed on the basis furnished by Prof. Adams.

"When Prof. Adams compared the cost of mail and express transportation between New York and Buffalo, as is shown by his statement before the Wolcott commission, he found that the rate per ton for hauling the mail between these two points was $31.73. Taking the 100-pound rate as an average express rate, he found that the rate per ton for express was $25. By allowing the railroad one-half for the transportation of the express he found that it received $12.50 per ton for that service. Since that time it has repeatedly been stated on the floor of the house that the contract rate for which the railroad carries express from New York to Buffalo is 40 per cent, and the statement has never been denied. Upon the basis given by Prof. Adams, then, the railroad really received $10 per ton for rendering a service not dissimilar to that for which the government paid it $31.73 per ton.

Figures that Are Disinterested.

"As for myself, and I think it will be the same with the public, I prefer to take the disinterested statements and conclusions of Prof. Adams to the interested statements of even so honorable a gentleman as General Manderson.

"I know that General Manderson would not intentionally misrepresent any one or anything, and yet in his article he sets Senator Chandler down as agreeing, as a member of the Wolcott commission, that present rates of railway mail pay are not too high. As a matter of fact, Senator Chandler says, over his signature, in the report, that rates are too high. The following passage from his statement will throw light on his views, and show what he thinks of Prof. Adams, whose figures are quoted above:

"The commission, as authorized by congress, employed a highly competent expert (Prof. Henry C. Adams), and he recommended a reduction of 5 per cent of the compensation on all routes, and a further reduction of from 5 to 15 per cent on the railroads where the traffic is most dense, as being in his judgment, below the percentage of reduction which could justly be demanded by reason of changed conditions. The undersigned joins with Representative Fleming in recommending the foregoing reductions, and in the removal of the present limit of progressive reduc-

(Continued on Second Page.)

BREWERS PUTTING UP FIGHT

New Complication Arises in Effort to Confiscate Property in Kansas.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 5.—What is believed to be one of the last stages of Kansas' twenty-year fight against the liquor traffic, namely, the seizure of brewery property by the three receivers recently appointed by the state supreme court, is developing legal complications. After a week's work and visits to five cities in the state, the receivers have taken possession of several hundred saloons and some other property known to be owned by some of the nine indicted brewing companies. There has been much evasion on the part of the brewery agents, according to the receivers, the title to some of their property being hurriedly transferred, and this the receivers have not molested, desiring first to gain a ruling on their status from the state's legal department.

Yesterday at Pittsburg the receivers encountered a new proposition when they visited Idle Hour park, a beer garden, operated supposedly by the Heim Brewing company. The receivers intended to take charge of this property, with the avowed purpose of selling it and turning the proceeds into the state treasury, but the agent in charge insisted that the brewing company owned the fixtures only and that the ground and buildings belonged to him. The receivers decided to make no move there at present and went to Topeka for legal advice. It is stated that the sale of the valuable property already seized will soon be begun, but the brewers declare that if this is attempted they will go to the courts.

BAD WEATHER DELAYS SEEDING

Only Small Portion of the Spring Grain is in the Ground as Yet.

ST. PAUL, May 5.—Throughout northern Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba and in some sections of South Dakota, seeding has been greatly delayed by the inclemency of the weather which has prevailed during April and so far during the present month. Successive snowstorms in North Dakota have left the ground in such condition that it has been impossible to put the seeders to work. Probably not more than one-third of the usual acreage has been seeded in Manitoba. In North Dakota, northern Minnesota and northern South Dakota the percentage has been somewhat greater, but is still far below the normal for this time of the year.

However, farmers feel little apprehension. The ground is full of moisture, but a few days' warm sunshine will put it in good condition for planting. Grain growers are confident that if the bulk of the seeding can be done by the last of this week or the middle of next, they will have no reason to fear a reduced crop.

PRESIDENT STATES HIS POSITION

Simply Desires to See Justice in the Haywood Case.

NEW YORK, May 5.—In a letter today before the Central Federated union, President Roosevelt states that if evidence is submitted to him showing that there has been a miscarriage of justice for or against Moyer and Haywood, awaiting trial at Boise, Idaho, charged with the murder of former Governor Steunenberg, he will bring such evidence to the attention of the attorney general for such action, if any, as it may be in the power of the federal authorities to take.

The communication was the formal reply of the president to the union committee which recently called on the president and requested him to set forth in general his attitude toward the accused men and specifically why he had referred to Moyer and Haywood as "undesirable citizens."

In making his report today the chairman, John Henry, said the committee had spent more than an hour with the president, at which time the matter in hand was thoroughly discussed. The president signified his intention of formally replying in the letter which the chairman then read. Following the reading there was an animated discussion during which the chairman and William Coakley, another member of the committee, stoutly championed the attitude of the chief executive. It was finally voted to send a copy of the letter to counsel for Moyer and Haywood. In his reply the president quoted from a letter written by him more than a year ago to the attorney general in which he says that "our duty is (if it should ever happen that we had any power in the matter) to see that exact justice is done these men."

The president's letter follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, May 5.—My Dear Mr. Henry: When you in company with Messrs. Coakley and Brown called upon me this morning, I read you the letter I had written to the attorney general on March 25, 1906. At your request I gladly send you the following extract from that letter:

"Our duty is (if it should ever happen that we had any power in the matter) to see that exact justice is done these men. There must be no condonation of lawlessness on our part, even if the lawlessness takes the form of an effort to avenge the wrongs committed by the lawlessness of others. The sole question as regards Haywood and Moyer must be the question whether or not they can be shown to be guilty of this particular act, and their legal rights must be as carefully safeguarded as those of any other men. It is alleged that they were extradited from Colorado in a manner that amounted to a betrayal of their legal rights. I should like to have the district attorney of Colorado, and if necessary, the district attorney of Idaho, give me such information as they can on this point. I should like to get from the district attorney of Idaho any information that he can obtain as to whether or not there has been the slightest disposition shown by the authorities in Idaho to act toward these men in an unfair or improper manner, or to deny them their legal rights.

"On the other hand, I should like to know whether there is any symptom of a miscarriage of justice in their favor. The intemperate violence with which the socialistic labor organizations have insisted, without any knowledge of the facts, upon treating these men as martyrs to the cause of labor has unquestionably resulted in tremendous pressure being brought to bear upon the authorities of Idaho to discharge or acquit them, whether guilty or innocent. So far as the unions are anxious only to see that exact justice is done these men; that they are given the full legal rights and not condemned unless proven guilty of this specific act, they are entitled to the cordial co-operation of all just and fair-minded citizens. So far as by any action, or by murderous and treasonable language such as that quoted above from Debs and others, they tend to bring pressure to bear upon the state authorities and the courts, to obstruct the course of justice and to render it difficult to convict the men if guilty or without sin to be condemned, and anything that the federal authorities can do in either event to further the cause of justice is to be done.

"In response to your question, it is I trust, needless for me to say that if at any time you or any one else can submit to me any evidence showing that there has been a miscarriage of justice for or against Messrs. Moyer or Haywood, which you believe it is in my power to remedy, I will at once bring such evidence to the attention of the attorney general to have him give it the fullest consideration and to take therein such action, if any, as may be in the power of the federal authorities to take.

"THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Mr. John S. Henry, New York.

ASSESSING THE RAILROADS

State Board Meets Today to Take Up the Task for the Current Year.

MAJORITY OF MEMBERS NEW AT THE WORK

Opinion Prevails, However, that the Board Will Reach a Conclusion This Year in Less Time Than Usual.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, May 5.—(Special.)—Beginning tomorrow five state officers go under the limelight as members of the State Board of Assessors to place a value on all the railroad property of the state for taxing purposes. More than the usual interest attaches to the meeting this year, and the work of the board because the majority of the members are doing this work for the first time. Governor Sheldon, Treasurer Brian and Secretary of State Junkin. The other two members, Land Commissioner Eton and Auditor Searle have had two years experience. Inasmuch, however, as the railroad question has been the chief topic in Nebraska for so long, and the especial study of state officers during the late campaign, it is predicted the present board will have less difficulty in arriving at a conclusion than has former boards, which in some instances have not been able to answer the arguments put forth by the railroad tax agents. It is understood public hearings will be given the railroad representatives, but these tax agents will not be permitted to make numerous appearances. In other words they will be given a chance to have their say, and then the board will do the rest.

The conclusions of the board will be of importance, more than usual because of the effect the valuation fixed will have upon the work of the State Railway commission, which likely will take the board's figures into account when making or changing freight rates. Mr. Eustis of the Burlington admitted before a legislative committee last winter that his road had a commercial value and a taxing value, but as both the railway commission and the board will be in session at the same time, some people are wondering how both values can be used just now.

Dedication of New Park.

Friday May 10 has been set apart officially as "park day" and all Lincoln will join in the dedication of the new health and pleasure resort to be known as "Antelope park" which the Park board, the city council, county commissioners and private citizens have been working on for some months. All the stores will close at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, all the bands in the city will join in the music festival, and the people generally, providing the weather is favorable, will eat their dinners that day under the shade trees and on the grass. To help matters along everyone is asked either to contribute something to the beauty of the place, in the way of trees, flowers and shrubbery or give a half day's work or some small change. To make the occasion more memorable, Mayor Brown, Senator Burkett and W. J. Bryan will speak during the day and the public schools will be dismissed in the afternoon and the pupils taken to the grounds.

Governor Not Worrying.

Notwithstanding the dire predictions made by applicants for state jobs regarding the condition of the health of the governor should these applicants be kept in suspense much longer, the executive is keeping up bravely and the government is going along. Though the position he occupies is trying on a man, the governor has declined the many offers of outsiders and well meaning friends to relieve him of the duty of naming heads of departments and employes for other positions. Some, who predicted the bottom would drop out of the oil business unless the new oil inspector was named at once, have found conditions still the same and the worst yet to come. A dozen or so of men call at the office of the governor daily to tell him what to do and while they seem to worry because he doesn't do it, the governor still seems patient and not the least worried. It was reported yesterday another man who had been loafing on his prospects for some months went back to regular work and is satisfied.

Investigating Court House.

The grand jury has been grinding away for a week and so far the members have been close-mouthed about what they are doing. Election matters have been looked into thoroughly and a day or two ago, the jury began to take a look at some of the records at the court house, but just what will come out of this last move no one seems able to guess. The inquisition may take in a whole lot of things not talked of at the time the jury was called and a great many people in Lincoln are very deeply interested.

RULING ON THE SCAVENGER LAW

Judge Jessen Interprets the Rights of County to Bid.

NEBRASKA CITY, May 5.—(Special.)—Judge Jessen of the district court has handed down a decision that is of importance to the people of the state as it is a new interpretation of what is called the scavenger law. When the county treasurer sold at public sale a number of pieces of property the commissioners bid in some and the remainder went to private bidders. Later the commissioners raised their bid on a number of pieces and among them was a piece that W. F. Hair bid on, and he brought suit to compel the treasurer to deed him the property and accept his money. The first question raised was whether the commissioners had a right to bid on any delinquent property except on the regular day of sale and this was decided in the negative. The next question was where were the commissioners to get the money to pay for the property and would they have to pay the 18 per cent per year the same as a private citizen. The decision was that the commissioners had no right to bid except at regular sales. This puts the commissioners in a peculiar position as they bought a great deal of property at private sale, and it will cost the county many thousands of dollars. The case will be appealed.

Building Operations at Tecumseh.

TECUMSEH, Neb., May 5.—(Special.)—The building committee of the proposed new Carnegie library building for Tecumseh, is asking for bids for the erection of the building. It looks as though the new library will be but a matter of a few months. Andrew Simpson has let the contract for a new brick livery stable, the building to occupy the site of his present barn, which is frame. It will be 40x100 feet and of modern architecture. The soliciting committees from the Methodist church, which are engaged in raising money for the erection of a new $15,000 church building, has been at work one week. The announcement is made that $10,000 of the amount has been raised. The building will be commodious, modern and built of brick.

NAVIGATION OPENS ON LAKE

Immense Amount of Freight is Already Afloat on the Lakes.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 5.—The opening of the navigation of the great lakes restores to commerce one of the greatest channels of international traffic in the United States, if not in the entire world. Thus, each year, this link in a vast system of exchange is re-established with Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee and innumerable points known as "feeders."

The opening of navigation this year has been later, owing to ice in the lake. The grain fleets are already on their way from Duluth and Superior on the way to the east, while the great ore carriers of the United States steel corporation have started for the upper lakes. The copper carriers were able on April 28 to break through the ice in the Portage harbors of the Calumet & Hecla and other copper regions. Reports from the head of Lake Superior show unprecedented activity, with hundreds of vessels waiting to discharge eastern freight and load western products, the discharge in one day, April 30, at Superior, Wis., reaching the record breaking total of 150,000 tons of eastern freight bound for the west.

The grain situation here is somewhat better than shippers expected, but it is feared the immense cargoes of wheat, corn, oats and other grains already afloat and bound for this port and ultimately destined for Europe, will cause another blockade.

The inability of shippers to get cars to handle the grain out of the elevators caused many heavy losses in the past, as they were unable to meet engagements at tidewater, and oceangoing vessels left for European ports with sand in their holds for ballast in place of grain. There is still some of last fall's grain in the elevators and arrivals during the next ten days will be heavy.

ACTIVITY IN GRAIN MARKET

Conflicting Reports Concerning Condition of Winter Wheat the Cause.

CHICAGO, May 5.—The last week on the Chicago Board of Trade has seen a revival of the activity which prevailed there several years ago, and it is predicted by the more optimistic traders that business will continue at a higher level for some time to come.

The cold weather conditions throughout the west and southwest have been the chief cause of the increased volume of trade. Never in the history of the weather bureau has such extended and such severe weather existed at this time of the year. The result has been a growing conviction on the part of many traders and commission men that the crop of winter wheat has been seriously damaged, and one excellent authority made the prediction that the crop will be about 100,000,000 bushels below that of last year.

Conflicting reports have been received from all sections regarding the damage inflicted by the "green bug" and from Oklahoma especially have the reports been of a contradictory character. By some it has been asserted that the crop has been greatly impaired and by others that the injury has been slight. The result has been, however, a renewal of something like old time activity on the Board of Trade.

RULING ON EXPRESS RATES

In Reducing Charges Commission Makes an Important Decision on Rate Principles.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—The Interstate Commerce commission has rendered its first opinion in a case involving the reasonableness of an express rate. The case was brought by the Society of American Florists, which asserted that the rate charged by the United States Express company on cut flowers from New Jersey points to New York City was unreasonable, excessive and unjust. Commissioner Franlin Lane, who delivers the opinion, holds that the rate should be reduced. The commission rules that a rate must not be imposed upon the shipper, by reason of contracts which the express company has made with its agent and the railroad, which will yield twice or thrice as much to the railroad and the agent as the services they render are reasonably worth. This very statement carries its own answer.

"An express company cannot justify a rate which, in comparison with other rates, is excessive and unreasonable. An express company is entitled to charge a reasonable amount for its service, but cannot justify an unreasonable rate by producing its contracts with the railroads.

JAPANESE GREET KUROKI

Fellow Countrymen Assemble at Missoula to Honor the General.

MISSOULA, Mont., May 5.—General Kuroki and party, escorted by General Arthur MacArthur and staff who are on their way to Washington made a short stop in Missoula today. The occasion was a holiday for the Japanese people of western Montana, who flocked to the station to welcome the hero of the Russo-Japanese war. General Kuroki spoke briefly to his countrymen, and received a huge bouquet of carnations from Miss Mitsuko Yasumura, daughter of a prominent Japanese who lives here. General MacArthur spoke on behalf of the party, saying that the distinguished soldier, General Kuroki and his companions were guests of the United States, and that he appreciated the friendly feeling which prompted thousands to pay their respects to the visitors. He concluded his remarks, leading the rousing "banzais" which followed.

FUNERAL OF THE MARVIN BOY

Developments Indicate He Wandered Away and Died from Exhaustion.

DOVER, Del., May 5.—The body of Horace Marvin, Jr., which was found on Saturday lying in a pool of water less than half a mile from where he was last seen playing on March 4, was interred today. Prior to the funeral a coroner's jury officially identified the body and authorized an autopsy.

There is much to make it appear that the boy wandered away and fell exhausted into the pool on the marshes where his body was found. Physicians have decided he did not drown. No marks of violence were found on the body. The stomach was empty and the child may either have been frozen or starved to death.

The detectives are perplexed at the finding of the body so near to the Marvin home and at a point which they had walked over again and again.

TAFT DECIDES ON PAY

President Approves His Ruling on Complaint of Isthmian Employes.

RULE RESTRICTING LEAVES IS ABROGATED

Held to Be Part of Contract Under Which Men Went Into the Service.

NO INCREASE IN WAGES FOR SHOVELMEN

Secretary Reviews Conditions and Holds They Are Not Entitled to It.

NO DISCHARGES WITHOUT A HEARING

Commission to Be Organized in Which Men Are Represented to Pass on Question of Discharge of Workmen.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—A far-reaching decision by Secretary Taft affecting rates of pay, hours of labor, etc., on the isthmus of Panama, following his recent personal investigation there, was made public at the White House today, after being approved by President Roosevelt. The decision applies to steam shovelmen, construction locomotive engineers and construction train conductors.

One of the grievances of the men was the putting into operation on April 1 of new regulations restricting leave of absence or leave on account of sickness. On this question the secretary says:

"The old regulations were advertised in the printed announcements sent out by the commission's agents to induce persons to go to the isthmus and enter the employ of the commission, so that every man who has come to the isthmus has come there with the understanding that the old regulations were to apply as part of his contract of service.

"It seems to me that good faith requires that the old regulations as to leave shall not be materially changed and shall remain as part of the contract of service of those now on the isthmus, and that while there are some provisions in the new regulations which would make for the more stringent enforcement of the government's rights and more certainly avoid possible fraud, they should not be made applicable to men who came to the isthmus under the old regulations."

Regarding summary dismissal without hearing or giving reasons, which was complained of by the canal employes, Secretary Taft says that he has given his approval to the plan of Colonel Goethals, whereby it is proposed to dispose of such cases through a committee consisting of one representative of the craft of the employe proposed for dismissal, one representing the foreman or higher official proposing discharge and one representing the commission, final action to be taken by the commission.

Present Wages Liberal.

Secretary Taft next considers the case of the steam shovelmen, who applied for higher wages as follows:

Engineers, $210 to $300 per month; cranesmen, from $185 to $250 per month; firemen, from $88.33 to $110 per month.

In reaching the conclusion that the present rates of pay are liberal he cites a large number of instances of wage scales paid by large construction firms in the United States from New York to San Francisco, and also in Alaska. He concludes the complaint of this branch of the canal employes is not well founded.

"Upon the isthmus," he adds, "the conditions under which the different men work in respect to the character of material and the distance of the dumps are so different that it has been impossible to graduate the pay or offer bonuses for high yardage. The only method is to fix a flat rate for the whole class.

"After giving the matter the consideration which its importance deserves, and after weighing the comparative advantages which the isthmian shovelmen enjoy over their brothers in the states, with the disadvantages which they have to bear in going to and living on the isthmus, I have reached the conclusion that the existing standard of pay is liberal and ought not to be increased except under some provision of reasonable increase applicable to all veteran skilled employes of the commission who are paid by class rates. The isthmian shovel engineers are paid from 25 to 35 per cent higher than the average of those paid in the states and this by no means states all the terms favorable to the men employed on the isthmus.

"A steam shovelman on the isthmus can count on twelve months constant employment in a year, and steam shovelmen in the United States cannot expect to be employed more than nine months in the year. The rate of pay for steam shovel engineers in Alaska, as before stated, is said to be $300 a month, but we can reasonably presume that the working year there would hardly exceed six or seven months.

Vacations with Pay.

"Every shovelman on the isthmus is entitled to six weeks' leave, with pay, as a vacation, so that he receives twelve months' pay for ten and one-half months' work.

"Steam shovelmen on the isthmus work only eigh hours a day, whereas many, though not all of the steam shovelmen in the United States, work ten hours a day.

"Every employe on the isthmus is permitted, if he falls sick, to enjoy twenty days' sick leave, with pay.

"If the employe receives an injury during his work he is entitled to an additional thirty days' sick leave.

"Every married man is entitled to furnished quarters for himself and family free, with modern plumbing conveniences, with water, fuel and light free; and a commissary which aims to sell all necessaries at cost to commission employes. The married quarters are generally in separate houses. Every bachelor is entitled to his furnished room free, together with light and board at a reasonable rate, at a mess house or hotel. The cost of food and necessaries is about what it is in eastern cities or slightly higher.

"Every employe is entitled to free medical attendance and hospital service.

"It may be admitted that service on the isthmus is attended with greater discomfort and greater risk of illness than that in the states, due to the climatic conditions, and that the distance from home, the difficulty of securing usual and rational amusements and the naturally depressing effect of continued high temperature makes the service on the isthmus less desirable than in the United States. But it is to be remarked that the original conditions of unhealthfulness which existed when the original rate for shovelmen was fixed in 1904 have been greatly bettered; that the yellow fever has been stamped out; that the rate of death and sickness among