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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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BRUNDAGE LEADS

Popular New Attorney General is Now the Main Controlling Force in Cook County Republican Politics.

Edward J. Brundage is the controlling power in Republican Cook County politics. His followers and friends have gained control of the Cook county central committee, having a majority vote over the Deneen and Thompson forces combined.

This was disclosed when the first test vote was recorded by the county committee since the recent election on the resolution to dump all the county, city, and state patronage into one basket.

Under the primary law the ward committeeman has a total voting strength on the county committee of one vote for each fifty votes cast for governor and one additional vote for each precinct in the ward.

The big vote that Lowden polled in the wards where the neutrals elected their committeemen, the final official figures show, gives the neutrals a majority of sixty of the voting strength of the entire county.

The revised figures are:
Neutrals3,842
Thompson2,376
Deneen1,344
Necessary to choose3,782
Neutral majority 60

The districts controlled by the neutrals in arriving at the total are the six country town districts and the following wards:

Third, Eighth, Eleventh, Eighteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-ninth, and Thirty-second.

The Thompson wards are:
First, Second, Fourth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Thirty-first, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, and Thirty-fifth.

The Deneen wards:
Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Twenty-eighth, and Thirtieth.

The resolution providing for the "jack-potting" of the patronage was adopted by a vote of 29 to 6. County Recorder Haas was not present and E. R. Litzinger, member of the board of review, did not vote. The other six Deneen men contended that more time should be given to consider the matter. The resolution was drawn by Brundage, Homer K. Galpin, William W. Weber, and W. H. Reid, the latter representing the city hall.

This committee was authorized to wait on all the new Republican county officials and ascertain whether they will put their patronage into one pot for a division "equitably" among all factions. Mr. Haas will not return before the forepart of next month.

MONEY FOR ALDERMEN

Appropriations for council committees have been cut appreciably, while the \$19,000 which the Chicago plan commission got this year and the \$21,000 which it asked for next year the committee has fixed for 1917 at \$10,000.

A fight is almost certain to come up in the council when the budget is considered over the question of aldermanic salaries. By a bare majority the council last spring voted that aldermen should receive the limit allowed by the state law, which is \$3,500 a year. Their present salary is \$3,000.

When the council considers the budget one set of aldermen is likely to try to boost the aldermanic pay to \$3,500, while another set will try to rescind the \$500 salary raise ordinance of last spring.

OPEN THESE STREETS AND HELP CHICAGO

Eight million dollars of new street extensions, widening and connections are in prospect for the great West Side district of Chicago as a result of action taken by the Chicago Plan Commission. The work will mark the first unfolding of the Plan of Chicago in its aim for better traffic conditions throughout the West Side.

If the plans officially brought for-

ward for prompt action by the city authorities prevail, the following notable street projects will be carried out:

Ogden avenue will be extended from Union Park on the West Side to Lincoln Park on the North Side, at a width of 108 feet. The new diagonal thoroughfare will terminate at Lincoln Park at the foot of Lincoln avenue. Estimated cost, \$4,649,000.

North Ashland avenue will be opened as a through traffic way, connecting the North and West Sides by a new viaduct and bridge connection across the north branch of the river. It will become a 100-foot street between Cortland street and Fullerton avenue. The estimated cost, including the bridge, is \$1,275,000.

In addition the plan commission directed its officers and technical staff to complete plans for opening, widening and extending both Robey street and Western avenue throughout the city. Ashland avenue is to be opened, also, on the South Side through to the city limits.

These three thoroughfares are planned to provide much needed new connections between the North, West and South Sides. The estimated cost of the Robey street connections, using subways at the river crossings, is \$5,700,000; using viaducts and bridges, \$3,238,500.

NO DRY PRIMARY NEXT SPRING

Political leaders without regard to their leanings on the saloon question have awakened to the fact that submission of the Dry Chicago Federation's proposition to the voters in the spring of 1918 might seriously interfere with regular politics. Therefore they are backing away from the idea, which previously had found much favor, of advancing the primary for state and county offices from September to April. They fear to involve the United States senatorship and the legislative nominations in a "wet" and "dry" campaign.

ANYTHING BUT STUDY

Twelve men, appointed to be members of a commission to consider the question of military training in the public schools, prepared for their first consultation. The men were appointed in line with the suggestion of Jacob M. Loeb, in his inaugural address as president of the board of education. They are:

John W. Eckhart, chairman; Maj. Abel Davis, First Infantry, Illinois national guard; Capt. Raymond Sheldon, U. S. A.; Maj. Fred Blayney, chief surgeon, Second Infantry, Illinois national guard; Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, Bishop Samuel Fallows, Dennis F. Kelly, Edward J. Piggott, Ernest J. Kruetgen, Charles S. Peterson, John D. Shoop and President Loeb, ex-officio.

ALDERMEN SAVED—POOR CITY EMPLOYEES SOAKED

More than a fourth of Chicago's policemen and firemen may have to be laid off next month, Comptroller Pike said, while a large number of street lights will have to be abandoned during January. The city council will have to amend meeting its retrenchment ordinance adopted in order to prevent a fourth of the aldermen from joining the ranks of unemployed city officials during the month of January.

Mr. Pike told Mayor Thompson that he called upon Chairman Richard of the finance committee to ask him whether one-fourth of the aldermen or whether all of them should be laid off without pay next month for a week.

"The ordinance passed last Wednesday plainly provided that one-fourth of the expenditures in every branch of the city government must be saved next month, the saving to be based on the amount spent by the various branches last January," explained Comptroller Pike. "Therefore it certainly applied to the aldermen themselves. Aid. Richard promptly informed me that the council will have to adopt an amendment at its next session exempting aldermen, the

mayor, the city clerk, the city treasurer, municipal judges and all other elective officers of the city government."

"That means that civil service employes and others of the more poorly paid men and women working for the city must be laid off in even greater numbers in order to permit elective officers who are more highly paid, to get their full salaries," interposed Mayor Thompson.

COOK COUNTY IN 1916

County Agent—William H. Ehemann reports the county gave relief to 39,600 poor persons and to 10,000 poor families during the year; \$210,000 was expended on outdoor relief, \$213,000 paid to widows with large families and \$24,000 to the blind.

Jury Commissioners—During the year 36,315 men were drawn for jury service. Of these 17,216 served.

TO APPOINT TREASURER AND CITY CLERK

A radical reorganization of the city's financial machinery was recommended to the council finance committee by Ald. H. D. Capitain's subcommittee on consolidation.

The proposed program as worked out by the finance committee staff provides for creating the elective office of city auditor and making the offices of city treasurer and city clerk appointive instead of elective. Under this scheme the auditor would serve as a check on the treasurer, who would be appointed by the mayor and have charge of all financial departments, including the controller's office and the collector's office.

Ald. Capitain, who is pushing the scheme, says it will make for economy and a shorter ballot.

HOYNE WILL ENFORCE CIVIL SERVICE LAWS

State's Attorney Hoyne made an announcement in keeping with one of his campaign pledges. It has to do with honest administration of the city civil service law. The county prosecutor says he has assigned Charles C. Case, one of his assistants, to look after prosecutions of criminal violations of the city civil service. Mr. Case has headquarters on the fifth floor of the county building, where complaints of violations of the municipal civil service may be lodged. "It has been the policy of Mr. Hoyne to promote efficiency by assigning cases of a similar nature to the same assistant state's attorney,"

LOWDEN'S PLANS

Governor-Elect Will Recommend Consolidation of a Large Number of State Departments for Better Efficiency.

Governor-elect Frank O. Lowden proposes to group all of the agencies of the state government into departments.

"I am having outlines of consolidation bills prepared," said Colonel Lowden. "This does not mean that all the details will be worked out by the time the legislature convenes. But the day after I am inaugurated there will be ready bills which will serve as a starting point for detailed discussion."

"My plan is to have one general bill that will provide for a grouping of all the agencies of state government supervised by the governor into seven, eight or nine departments. This bill will be general in its nature."

"Then I shall have as many supplemental bills as there are departments in the main bill. These bills will provide for the organization in detail of the various departments." Colonel Lowden is going right at

will be so many points in dispute that the conferences of legislators planned by the governor-elect will drag along through the entire session and that in the rush of the final weeks the bills will be slaughtered.

That some of the Republicans will not shed any tears if the proposed consolidation is not effected, thus avoiding the elimination of numerous jobs, is well known. The Democrats in the legislature predict positively that the Republican organization will go to pieces and that Democratic votes will be needed to pass the administration measures.

Governor Dunne is preparing a farewell message for inauguration day. This message will be largely a review of the last four years and will not attempt to make many recommendations for the future.

GOV. DUNNE FOR JUDGE

A dispatch from Washington, D. C., says: Governor Dunne of Illinois, who will retire from office early in January, and Attorney E. C. Kramer of East St. Louis are slated for federal judgeships if Congress passes the pending bill authorizing the president to appoint additional judges to assist those over 70 years who refuse to take advantage of the retirement clause in the existing statute.

Gov. Dunne, according to report here, will be named by the President as the colleague of Judge Kohlsaat of Chicago, while Mr. Kramer will be appointed to aid Judge Wright in the Danville district.

Efforts are now being made by Senator Lewis and other members of the Illinois delegation to have an additional federal circuit created in southern Illinois, which would provide for a judge at East St. Louis in addition to one at Danville.

If the new district should be established, Mr. Kramer, it is understood, will be urged as a new judge, but if not he will be recommended as aid to Judge Wright.

GEORGE A. BABBITT FOR SECRETARY

A number of the friends of George A. Babbitt, the veteran newspaper man, are hoping that he will be appointed secretary of the City Civil Service Commission. A university graduate and a man of wide experience and culture, he would make an ideal official. The list of eligibles for the place under the rules of the civil service expired automatically Monday after having been on file for two years.

"The office is an extremely important one," Capt. Coffin said, "and we are anxious to get a responsible man. We do not know yet whom we may select. There are a number of good men on the old list and the choice may fall on one of them or we may deem it wise to hold another examination."

The office was left vacant a few days ago on the resignation of Arthur M. Swanson because of ill health. The position pays \$3,500 a year and is regarded as one of the civil service "plums."

CITY TO OWN ALL CARS

Figures regarding financial and other phases of the vast problem of the building of Chicago's subway system and the unification and reconstruction of the surface and elevated lines have been worked out with great care by the city's expert subway and traction commission. They form the basis of the entire plan of the city's experts, which is to go before the city council next Wednesday, and will, in detailed form, constitute an appendix to the report.

According to the experts' estimates, if their proposals and plans are carried through, by the time the \$260,000,000 is expended for the carrying out of the subway and transportation problem in 1949, the city's investment of its 55 per cent income from the traction properties plus the income from interest during the period up to that year will amount to \$160,261,000. This, with the \$20,000,000 of the traction fund to be put into the

properties in carrying out the new plan will make the city's investment at that time \$180,000,000.

GOV. ELECT LOWDEN AND THE JOBS

Governor-elect Frank O. Lowden made it plain to the job hunters that the patronage plea will not be cut until the consolidation and economy bills are in the oven at Springfield.

Before departing for Springfield, his country estate, the colonel issued a formal statement that so far he has tendered appointments to only two men, whose names are withheld for the present, and that he will not consider jobs and appointments until the constructive program of the G. O. P. Peoria platform hits the homestretch. He says the people are more concerned in reorganization of the state machinery than in the distribution of the political plums.

So yesterday he went to his farm for the purpose of mapping out the details of the Republican legislative program.

JAIL FOR SPEAK-EASY'S

Possibility of a penitentiary sentence for saloonkeepers who keep their places open Sundays is the sure cure for that offense, Mayor Thompson declared.

"There has been no sincere effort to get convictions under the present law," he said. "It might not do any harm to try, though, in the future. I believe that if the amendment I have proposed, making the offense punishable by penitentiary sentence, were adopted, saloons throughout the state would be closed."

NORTH SIDE "L" SERVICE IMPROVED

Improved North Side "L" service, daily except Saturdays and Sundays, for the evening rush hours, was announced.

Ravenswood trains will run express from Chicago avenue to Southport avenue between 5:54 and 6:16 p. m. Evanston trains leaving the loop between 4:48 and 6:19 p. m. will not stop between Chicago avenue and Argyle street.

Additional service will be provided from the North Water street stub terminal, which will be open from 4:59 to 6:29 p. m. Ravenswood trains from the stub will stop at Kinzie street, Chicago avenue, Fullerton and Belmont avenues and all Ravenswood branch stations.

TONY WILL HELP HIS MEN

Bailiff Cermak of the Municipal Court accompanied a statement that he would draw \$10,000 out of a bank to pay his employees with an additional declaration that the amount the city will owe his office force will total \$18,346 and that he is going to withhold his fees until the city squares up. The fees collected in his office approximate \$10,000 a month.

"There are more than 100 employees in my office who need their money and I am going to advance them enough on their salaries to enable them to enjoy a merry Christmas," said Mr. Cermak. "My employees have been compelled to start mandamus proceedings to try to secure their salaries, and I am going to give the city a little of its own medicine by forcing it to start similar proceedings to get the fees I collect and which I have been in the habit of turning over monthly, although there is nothing in the law that says I should turn them over every month."



EDWARD J. BRUNDAGE, Illinois New Attorney General and Republican Leader.

11,240 were excused, 2,175 made no answer, 490 were not summoned, 4,410 were not found and 775 proved to be exempt.

County Court Clerk—Robert M. Sweitzer reports an increase of nearly 300 insanity cases, 257 applications for help by the blind, deaf and dumb and the feeble-minded, and a decrease of 91 pauper and support cases during 1916.

County Civil Service—Commission notes a marked decrease in the number of applicants for positions of common grades, owing to larger demand for such labor and higher prices paid therefor in the competing commercial service. It asks for a comprehensive civil service act for the county.

County Treasurer—Henry Stuckart reports the county's revenue from his office in the way of interest returned was \$733,000, whereas the total appropriations by the county board for the maintenance of the office for the year was \$411,911.

said Mr. Case. "In this connection, however, it should be understood that the official duties of the state's attorney relate only to violations of the criminal code, so, although I shall be glad to listen to any complaints made, yet I must confine my services to those cases in which the evidence shows the commission of a crime."

PITY THE POOR TAXPAYER

All taxable property in Cook county is valued at \$3,345,541,791, according to figures received by the county board through the county clerk from the various tax levying and tax extending bodies. On the basis of an average tax rate of \$6.20 on each \$100 of assessed valuation, which is one-third the full value, taxpayers next year will pay taxes approximating \$66,900,830.

the needs of the state in his inaugural message as governor of Illinois.

The greater part of the message will be devoted to the governor-elect's program for the consolidation of overlapping state bureaus and commissions. He has served notice that other legislation must wait its turn.

Following out this idea, Colonel Lowden probably will touch lightly on various other propositions to which the Republican administration is pledged.

In line with Colonel Lowden's announcement that the consolidation bills in preparation under his direction will be mainly outlines of what he desires accomplished, the message will not attempt to set forth in arbitrary manner how all the changes in the governmental structure should be made.

Some of Colonel Lowden's friends regret that he does not intend to have all details worked out before the session convenes. They fear that there

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