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INDEPENDENT IN ALL THINGS, NEUTRAL IN NONE.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR, NO. 15.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1917.

Sixteen Pages.

WHOLE COPY FIVE CENTS

WHOLE NUMBER 1,420

THE PUBLIC JOBS

Big Stir Up in the City Hall and Many Changes in the County Offices This Week.

The city hall is filled with rumors of approaching changes among officials.

William Burkhardt, deputy commissioner of public works, is said to be slated for city purchasing agent. Virrus C. Rohm, the present head of the department of supplies, is scheduled for retirement, according to political prophets. The job of purchasing agent pays \$6,000 a year, while the deputy commissioner of public works draws only \$5,000.

The repeated report of the retirement of Percy B. Coffin from the presidency of the civil service commission at \$5,000 a year, is said to hinge upon his ability to get a job from Governor-elect Lowden.

Coffin, Rohm, Stocker and Keith are supposed to have been selected by Fred Lundin.

The \$8,000 job of Police Chief Healey is to go to Schuetler, the first deputy. This latter place is under civil service. Still another department head is involved in the situation. Mrs. Louise Osborn Rowe, the finance committee has voted to abolish her department—public welfare—as one means of reducing the corporate expense this year.

If Mr. Burkhardt is promoted there will be two \$5,000 a year jobs in the department of public works. It is understood that Frank I. Bennett, who succeeded William R. Moorhouse ten days ago, has been promised a "free hand" in administering the affairs of the department, which may mean that Bennett can select his deputy and have a voice in fixing the requirements of the man to be selected for the new superintendent of streets.

This vacancy comes through the election of August W. Miller as clerk of the Circuit court. The two names most frequently mentioned for superintendent of streets are Felix Mitchell and William J. Galligan, both assistant superintendents.

For the possible Coffin vacancy there is a rumor that the mayor will listen to the Civil Service Reform Association. Prominent members of it have been asked to prepare the questions of a civil service examination for secretary of the merit board, from which Mr. Swanson has retired because of ill health.

It is reported that if Mayor Thompson personally selects a new deputy commissioner of public works it is gossiped that Jos. J. Elias has a chance for the place. He is a former county commissioner and at present a member of the board of local improvements. This place pays \$4,000, while being deputy commissioner would give him \$1,000 more annually.

There are rumors that the department of public service is to be abolished to reduce corporate expense. The idea is to retain the traction and telephone supervisors, but to get rid of the remainder of the department and the overhead expense. John P. Garner is the commissioner at \$8,000 a year.

Meanwhile the same crowd that handled the stuff during the Harrison regime are dragging off the pudding in the local improvement and public works departments.

The jobs in the more important of the county offices making changes are:

County recorder 222
Circuit court clerk 58
Superior court clerk 43
Assessors 74

John Kjellander, clerk of the Superior court, was the only one of the plum distributors who was working in the open. He named fourteen places which he had filled.

"I'm going slow, and most of those named have been in before and are experienced," said Mr. Kjellander. "I insist that the men recommended to the places be efficient, stay on their jobs seven hours a day and treat the lawyers and the public with courtesy."

Those already placed in office, with their wards and positions, are:
Leonard A. Brundage, 24th, chief clerk.

James French, 23d, principal clerk.
Emil A. W. Johnson, 26th, cashier.
Ferd W. Scherer, 24th, process clerk.

Henry C. Schwartz, 29th, minute clerk.
Herman D. Schwartz, 9th, vault clerk.
Jacob Ruehmann, 29th, minute clerk.

Otto G. Pusch, 32d, minute clerk.
Miss Mary E. Furlong, country towns, stenographer.

*John Pattee, 3d, minute clerk.
Richard Hammer, 23d, vault clerk.
William Albrecht, 33d, minute clerk.

*John B. Price, 8th, head chancery writer.
*Henry Harman, 8th, execution clerk.

*Reappointed.
In the recorder's office about 40 per cent of the employees cannot be changed on account of the skilled work they do. In clerks' offices are more who cannot be removed, especially in the Circuit court, where the juvenile court has many permanent employees. Similar conditions in the assessors' offices bring the number of spots jobs down to twenty-five.

There are several hundred temporary six week jobs in both assessors' and reviewers' offices when the rush season is on.

NEW BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The new board of assessors held its first meeting on New Year's day. In accordance with the statute requiring the election of officers on the first day of every year the five members of the board met for the purpose of organizing the body for the coming year.

Michael K. Sheridan, lone Democratic member, was elected president, and William H. Weber secretary. George K. Schmidt, elected a member on Nov. 7, took office, succeeding Frank W. Koraleski.

The other members of the board are Adam Wolf and Charles Ringer. Charles Krutchoff was named by the members as chief clerk of the board, succeeding James A. Long.

Many people are wondering why Michael K. Sheridan, the only Democratic member, was made president of the board at the meeting Monday. The law specifies that the member with the shortest term to serve shall be president. It lay between Mr. Sheridan and Charles A. Ringer, just elected, each of whom has two years ahead of him. Adam Wolf tossed a coin. "Tails!" shouted Mr. Sheridan; tails it was, and he will be president of the next two years. William H. Weber was chosen secretary.

BANQUET TO IGOE

A banquet to Michael L. Igoe and Henry W. Freeman, both of whom resigned as assistant district attorneys, was given by associates in the district attorney's office at the Great Northern hotel last Saturday night.

Mr. Clyne acted as toastmaster. Mr. Igoe, who was recently reelected to the state legislature, and Mr. Freeman will have offices in the Chicago Title and Trust building.

SCULLY'S GOOD WORK

Judge Thomas F. Scully of the County Court is doing good work towards bringing about election reform. The committee named by him to formulate a plan to be presented to the legislature for primary and election law revision is composed of good men. It is asserted the committee, which has at its head Attorney S. S. Gregory, will recommend revision in the primary and election laws that will mean a saving of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a year.

In the primary amendments some radical steps are suggested to shorten the ballot. For elections a constitutional amendment is essential to any material shortening of the ballot. The primary act is created by the legislature solely and it is within the authority of the general assembly to say what officers shall be nominated by direct primary and what nominations may be made by convention. In preliminary suggestions it has

been argued that candidates for these offices might be nominated in conventions rather than by direct vote:

City clerk.
County surveyor.
Municipal clerk.
City treasurer.
Municipal bailiff.
Superior clerk.
Probate clerk.

Direct primary champions who favor a short ballot fear this will be a step backward. They say the thing to do is to abolish these as elective offices and make them appointive, thereby not only shortening the primary election day ballot as well. Roger C. Sullivan, who is an influential member of Judge Scully's committee, says that all save one of the clerkships in the county should be abolable.

Judge Scully plans to push with all the power at his command the cen-

BRUNDAGE GIVES JOBS IN STATE LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Edward J. Brundage, attorney general elect, distributed a few New Year's felicitations in the shape of good jobs in the state's legal department:

The following appointments were officially announced:
William C. Moody, assistant in the Chicago office of the inheritance tax attorney. Moody was formerly an assistant corporation counsel.
Clarence N. Board, assistant in the Springfield office.
C. W. Middlekauff, Freeport, assistant in the Springfield office.
James B. Searcy, Carlinville, assistant in the Springfield office.
William F. Weis, Waukegan, assistant in the Chicago inheritance tax office.

WEBB FAVORS TAX REFORM

In retiring from the Board of Review on Monday, Thomas J. Webb speaking, said: "Out of the abundance of experience and study of the question, the greatest thing the next legislature can do is to revise the entire revenue system of Illinois. "There is no difficulty in arriving at a fair basis of value upon real estate and improvements. The whole trouble arises over personal property, and the state constitution, as it existed, did not permit a classification of personal property; but happily, in the last election, the legis-

LOWDEN AT HELM

The New Governor of Illinois Takes Hold at Springfield on Monday Amidst Great Republican Rejoicing.

The Republicans are going to have a gala time when they take possession of the state government next Monday.

Chairman Homer K. Galpin of the Republican County Committee has arranged for a special train to carry members of the committee and their friends to Springfield for the inaugural exercises. The train will leave here Sunday night, Jan. 7. It will be parked in the Springfield railroad yards, so sleeping and dining accommodations will be assured.

The party will join with other clubs from out in the state in the inaugural parade, which is to move at 10:30 a. m. Monday, Jan. 8, from the Leland Hotel. The meeting place will be in the sun parlor of the hotel, where Governor-Elect Frank O. Lowden and Mrs. Lowden will join the parade and go to the executive mansion for Gov. Dunne and Mrs. Dunne.

The business section of Springfield will be traversed in the march to the

Representative Rodenburg of East St. Louis.

"The defeat of Charles E. Hughes by the narrowest margin in the history of political campaigns does not by any means remove him from the politics of the future," Mr. Rodenburg said. "If, however, Mr. Hughes should decline to have his name considered again, the Republican party will have an abundance of excellent material from which to make its selection four years hence.

"Among the new material no man possesses more promising possibilities than the governor-elect of Illinois, Frank O. Lowden.

"It is my prediction that his record as governor will place him in the very front rank of available presidential candidates for 1920."

SMIETANKA'S GOOD SHOWING

Collector of Internal Revenue Makes Annual Report to Uncle Sam.

Chicago drank more beer, smoked less expensive cigars and fewer cigarettes, used more distilled spirits and less opium and more snuff in 1916 than it did in 1915.

These interesting facts were disclosed by the annual report of Julius F. Smietanka, collector of internal revenue in Chicago.

The total collections for the year amounted to \$28,195,032.14, an increase of \$3,246,188.01 over 1915.

The government tax on beer collected for the year reached the big total of \$8,066,335, compared to a collection of \$7,407,788.50 in 1915.

The amount that the brewers paid into the United States treasury was almost equal to the combined corporation and individual income tax collections for the year. The corporation income tax collected amounted to \$4,310,385.57 and the individual income tax to \$4,360,414.98. Both corporation and individual income taxes showed an increase of approximately \$1,000,000 over last year.

The cigar revenues collected amounted only to \$634,063.61, compared to \$641,181.43 a year ago, while the cigarette revenues decreased from \$5,618.01 in 1915 to \$3,261.65 this year.

Other collections were: Opium, \$525.40 this year, against \$2,905.30 in 1915; snuff, \$499,316.92 this year, against \$472,499.21 last year, and distilled spirits \$639,093.38 this year, against \$452,589.04 last year.

TO WIDEN MICHIGAN AV.

Work on the widening of Michigan avenue will begin within six months following the announcement that the John S. Miller interests had withdrawn their opposition to the \$10,000,000 improvement. Philip J. McKenna, attorney for the Miller interests, has informed Judge Pond of the County Court that no further opposition would be presented.

Hearings on assessments against property owners and awards to them will begin at once. These, it is believed, will occupy six months. After that the work of widening the avenue will start.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS GET COAL

Coal has been delivered to public schools in sufficient amounts to ward off the necessity of closing any of them, according to Chief Engineer John Howatt of the board of education.

"We have caught up on deliveries of coal in pretty good shape," said Mr. Howatt, "and we are certain to get through today and probably the rest of the week if the mild weather continues. Not a single school is in danger of being closed today."

The principal trouble with the coal supply for the schools was explained to be a lack of deliveries at the contractors' yards by the railroads.

Hinton G. Clabaugh, chief of the investigation bureau of the federal department of justice, sent letters today to all coal dealers and operators in

Illinois for the purpose of gathering accurate information on the amount of coal sold in the last year and the profits of those who supplied it.

WATCHING THE TROUGH

Bar Association Job Hunters Are Afraid Something May Escape.

One of the first bills introduced in the 50th general assembly will be the Chicago Bar association measure providing separate ballots for the election of all judges of the various courts in the primary and the election proper. John T. Richards is chairman of the Chicago Bar Association committee that drafted the bill and it is to be introduced by Representative William G. Thon.

This bill was before the last general assembly and was lost in the legislative grind. If this effort is successful it will do away with all doubt about the primary for ten Superior court judges to be elected next November. Some hold that under the present primary act they will have to be nominated in convention.

Under the Chicago Bar association bill the primary law for Municipal judges is set with the aldermanic contests the last Tuesday in February and the Municipal judges are to be elected in April instead of in November. The primary for Superior or Circuit court judges to be elected in the June separate judicial election also is set for the second Tuesday in April. For judges who are elected in November, when the general elections come, the primary is set for the first Wednesday after the second Tuesday in September corresponding with the regular primary.

The names of candidates are to rotate on the ballots so that all will have an equal showing.

BUTTER AND EGG MEN ELECT

The Chicago butter and egg board held its annual election today, the regular ticket going through without opposition. The new officers are:

President—S. Edward Davis.
First vice-president—C. J. Bowman.
Second vice-president—W. W. Power.

Treasurer—M. H. Eichengreen.
Secretary—Thomas E. O'Neill.

Directors—Joseph Borden, Henry Burhop, Jr., and T. W. Brennan.
Nominating committee—M. H. Eichengreen, Charles E. McNeill and O. D. Gilman.

Sergeant at arms—F. M. Hoggie.
Mr. Davis is well known in South Water street, having at one time served as secretary of the board. He succeeds Charles E. McNeill, who has held the position for two terms.

HIGH STATE TAX RATE

Illinois is confronted with the highest tax rate in its history. The state faces a deficit of \$3,500,000 because the rate was fixed too low last year. State Treasurer Andrew Russell, who refused to sign the low rate last year, said today that an 85 cent rate will be necessary to meet the present situation. The highest rate heretofore was 70 cents on the \$100 valuation. That was fixed in 1913.

In 1914 it was 48 cents and in 1915 it was placed at 55 cents. Then Mr. Russell protested, asserting the rate was too low and would result in a deficit in the general fund.

A portrait of County Judge Thomas F. Scully, the first judge of the Boys' court, and one of the founders of the Big Brothers' association, was unveiled in the Boys' court, now presided over by Judge Harry Dolan. Members of the Big Brothers' association presented the picture.



FRANK O. LOWDEN, Governor of Illinois.

tral registration idea, whereby the election board office will be an all year round registration place. This scheme also comprehends a precinct polling registration just before an election each year.

ELEVATOR MEN WANT LIFT

Going up! Now it's the elevator starters and operators in the employ of Cook County who want their salaries raised. They ask for \$25 a month increase. They get \$90 now. This follows the demand of the balliffs for a raise from \$125 to \$150 a month. They are backed by the Chicago Elevator Conductors and Starters' Union. These employes operate elevators in the County Building, the jail, the Criminal Court Building, Oak Forest and the County Hospital.

lature has been commissioned to frame a new revenue measure.

"My experience as a member of this board would prompt me to suggest that there should be an exemption in personal property for taxation of the ordinary household goods, to the extent of the debtor's exemption of \$400. The artisan's tools, the musician's instruments, the ordinary farming implements and bank savings and bank balances should also be exempt.

"If the legislature gives us a new form of a schedule so that the ordinary citizens can fill one out it will be of untold benefit to the state, for a vast amount of property will be added to the tax list. The present system has abetted perjury and tax dodging and placed an unfair load upon the conscientious and the weak."

Mr. Litzinger was elected secretary of the board and Fred W. Blocki president. Stephen D. Griffin was reappointed chief clerk.

state house. Representatives of the national guard will be in the line. At the capitol building the justices of the Supreme Court will lead the way to the hall of representatives, where the inaugural exercises are to be held at noon. Gov. Dunne and the other retiring state officers will come next.

They will be followed by Col. Lowden and the other newly elected state officers. Gov. Dunne will deliver his valedictory and Gov. Lowden his inaugural. In the evening there will be a reception at the executive mansion from 7:30 to 11 o'clock.

BOOMS LOWDEN FOR PRESIDENT

A 1920 presidential boom for Gov. Elect Frank O. Lowden of Illinois, contingent upon Charles E. Hughes declining to run again, was started by

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