

The information desk of the building department referred the reporter to one Hoy, secretary to Building Commissioner Ericsson. Hoy was asked if there were any city regulations requiring that elevators should run flush with all four sides of the shaft.

"I can't tell you about that," said Hoy. "I'm not posted on that point. I'll take you to a man who can tell you all about it."

Hoy led the reporter to J. B. Taylor, chief elevator clerk, a gentleman who modestly admitted that he had "read the city building laws through about 500 times."

Taylor did not at first answer the question as to what city regulation there might be. He said:

"I never heard of an elevator with one foot of space between its platform and the shaft wall. That would be 12 inches of space and would be dangerous. When we find an elevator has two or three inches of space between the elevator platform and the shaft wall, we advise that the space be closed up in some way."

Taylor was asked if he ever had heard of an elevator in Chicago where there was two feet of space between platform and shaft wall.

"No," he said, "I never heard of such an one and the department does not know of such a one."

He was then told that several witnesses swore to such a condition in a Carson-Pirie-Scott elevator at the inquest held over Lusch Thursday afternoon.

"With two feet of space to fall

through," he asked.

"Yes."

"I can't possibly see why anyone should build that way," he said in a mildly surprised tone. "It is very unusual."

Taylor was asked if he would consider such a condition dangerous to those working about the shaft. He said he would.

Taylor was then asked about the law covering guards at the entrances to freight elevators. He turned to page 160 of the building ordinances, Sec. 688 (b), and pointed to the following:

"All freight elevators shall be provided with one guard at least six feet high."

"That means," said Taylor, "that the guard must be six feet high above elevator platform."

Taylor was asked what was meant by a "guard." He pointed to a specimen cage.

"A wire screen or mesh like that," he said.

The screen guard was of steel wire with square spaces about two inches in size.

Taylor was asked if he would consider chains running across the elevator entrance a sufficient guard and one in compliance with the law.

He said it would depend on how close the chains were. He was asked if it would be a violation of the law if the highest chain were only four feet above the floor. He said it would.

Taylor was then asked if he knew how it happened that the elevator inspection department had no record of the peculiar ar-