

The Proposed New Constitution

BY FLOYD L. THOMPSON.
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Notable changes are suggested in the organization and operation of the courts. The membership of the supreme court is increased from seven to nine justices, and its original jurisdiction is increased to include quo warranto, prohibition, and other cases involving questions of great public importance. The two justices added to the court are to be elected from the Chicago district, and there is no change in the downstate districts. The most important change in this article is the vesting in the supreme court of exclusive power to prescribe rules of pleading, practice and procedure in all courts. Under the present constitution, the general assembly prescribes these rules. The proponents of this change argue that the courts should be made independent of the other departments of the government, and that there is no more reason why the legislative department should make rules for the judicial department than that the judicial department should make rules for the legislative department.

Under the present constitution, the judges of appellate courts are selected by the supreme court from the judges of the circuit courts, and under the proposed new constitution they will be selected by the supreme court from the lawyers of the respective districts, without regard to whether they have elected circuit judge. The appellate judges will be appointed to serve for 6-year terms, but the practical operation will no doubt be that they will be appointed to serve as long as they give satisfaction. Appellate judges will be relieved of trial work and will have all their time to do what they do now in one-third of their time.

City courts and probate courts are abolished by the proposed new constitution and provision is made for an additional county judge in counties having a population of more than 75,000, and the term of the county judge is increased to six years. The jurisdiction of the county court is increased and the

salaries are to be fixed by the general assembly and paid from the state treasury instead of being fixed by the county board and paid from the county treasury. The proposed new constitution is an old man's constitution. All age limits are raised. In order to be circuit judge a man must be as old as he must be to be president of the United States and he must have other qualifications not required of the president. It does not say where fix a compulsory retiring age.

Suffrage and Elections.
This article grants suffrage to the women which they already have by virtue of the federal constitution, and in that respect accomplishes nothing, but is simply made to conform with the federal law. The most important change is the provision that in that part of the state outside of Cook county no final election of officers shall be held except on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, which shall be a holiday. This makes one election day a year instead of the many election days now provided for by law. This change could be accomplished by legislation in most respects, and a change of the constitution is not required to effect the reform.

County Government.
The important changes with respect to county government are that a sheriff is made eligible to reelection, and county officers are no longer required to earn by fees their salaries and the salaries of their deputies. Under the present constitution, the county board fixes the compensation of all county officers with the amount of their necessary clerk hire and other expenses, and the county officers who collect fees are required to pay all these salaries and expenses

out of the earnings of their offices. Under the proposed new constitution, the compensation of county officers and the number and compensation of their employees shall be fixed by the county board and paid out of the general funds of the county. The proposed new constitution abolishes the office of township assessor and provides for a county assessor.

FERDINAND MATH IS VICTIM OF ACCIDENT AT ST. BEDE COLLEGE

Ferdinand Math, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Math, 1500 Fifteenth street, is in a Spring Valley hospital, suffering from a compound fracture of the leg, incurred when he was struck by an automobile a week ago near Peru. Ferdinand is a student in St. Bede's college and with four companions had started to walk to a car line to go to LaSalle. They had just left the college lane when without warning an auto, driven by W. H. Edwards of Ladd, drove into the group. The Math boy and Augustine Cina were struck. Mr. Edwards took the boys to Spring Valley where they received medical attention. The Math boy's injuries are so serious that the bones have not been set since the accident but physicians expected to attempt that operation today. Mrs. Math is at her son's bedside, called there shortly after the accident.

PROTEST OVER ROUTING HOLDS UP STATE ROAD

Prophetstown Insists Upon Being Included at Expense of Adding Seven Miles.

Commercial organizations of Rock Island, Moline and East Moline are likely to unite in framing protests to the state highway commission against any further delay in designating the route between Hillsdale and Morrison, the result of the verification of a report that progress of the route, known as state bond issue No. 3, has again been impeded by a controversy over the Prophetstown stub. It has been learned here that a delegation from Prophetstown is protesting against the proceedings until an investigation can be made of that town's claims to position upon the main highway between Moline and Morrison, instead of on a connecting stub. The engineers of the highway department are understood to have decided against running the main highway through Prophetstown for various reasons, not the least of which is that seven miles would be added to the distance between Moline and the Lincoln highway at Morrison should Prophetstown be included. And then there would be some difficult engineering problems to be overcome in directing the main highway through two or

three miles of marsh land, besides rendering the construction of two bridges necessary, as Rock river would have to be crossed twice. The hearing on the route was held in Rock Island two or three years ago, at which time considerable discussion both ways was given the Prophetstown problem. It was shown that the greatest portion of traffic over the improved highway would naturally come from the trillies, and that it would not be wise to add seven miles to the connecting link with the Lincoln highway when the purposes of Prophetstown would readily be served by a stub of a few miles in length, connecting it with the main highway.

Town Designated.
Prophetstown people have never been satisfied with this decision, and have not ceased to give up hopes of being included on the main highway. Prophetstown's claims are fortified by the fact that when the \$60,000,000 road bond issue map was made it provided that the highways should touch certain designated municipalities, and for some unexplained reason Prophetstown was one of the places designated, although off the direct route now used between Moline and Morrison. If Sterling had been designated as the connecting point with the Lincoln highway, the route then would have led more directly through Prophetstown. The right-of-way has been obtained through Rock Island county

and part of the distance in White side county, but progress in completing the right-of-way must necessarily stop if the investigation insisted upon by Prophetstown people is to be carried on. The chambers of commerce of Rock Island, Moline and East Moline are understood to be ready to press their claims for the elimination of Prophetstown from the main highway for the simple reason that the increased distance to the Lincoln highway will make the new state road considerably less attractive to the people of this community.

Raise Interest Rate.
Another Graham amendment raised the interest rate to be paid the government on the unpaid portion of the purchase price of vessels. As it now stands, this rate will be four and one-quarter per cent. Both these changes were made by the house without a record vote and with little dissension.

The Aledo congressman defined his intentions in regard to the bill during the debate as "the building of a merchant marine by a subsidy only sufficient to pay the difference in the cost of operation of ships under the American flag and under a foreign flag and no more." Suggesting amendments to this end and supported by his downstate colleagues, he was more successful in securing changes in the bill than any of the numerous others who sought them.

The most important alteration in the stipulations of the subsidy bill wrought by downstate opinion was that which made subsidy grants to ship owners subject to review by the government general accounting office. Representative Graham, acting on the suggestion of other downstate members, attacked the exemption which the original bill gave the shipping board in this respect.

Insists on Check.
He charged that not even the officials of the treasury knew that such leeway in checking accounts was proposed for the shipping organization.

"The Republican side of the house lays itself open to suspicion when it writes into the bill a provision which departs from a practice followed since the beginning of this government," he declared, in moving to strike out the accounting exemption. On a standing vote the amendment carried 52 to 46, the Illinois delegation voting for it.

A fourth amendment offered by Graham and carried through the house provided that provisions of the bill should not apply to boats engaged exclusively in inland trade, plying on the rivers and canals of the United States. This feature had been subject to question from the outset and was adopted without disagreement as the easiest method of clearing up the point.

SWALLOWS POISON.
New York, N. Y., Dec. 2.—Olive Stone, a trained nurse, who last March was acquitted of the murder of Ellis Guy Kinkead, attempted to commit suicide by swallowing poison, police said.

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Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 2.—Marie Frost, motion picture actress, and Kenneth Harlan, film actor, formerly the husband of Flo Harlan of the stage, are engaged to be married, according to a report current in motion picture studios, the Los Angeles Times said today.

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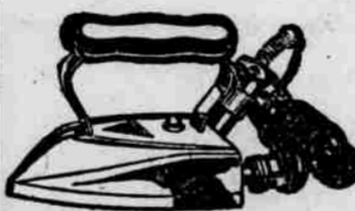
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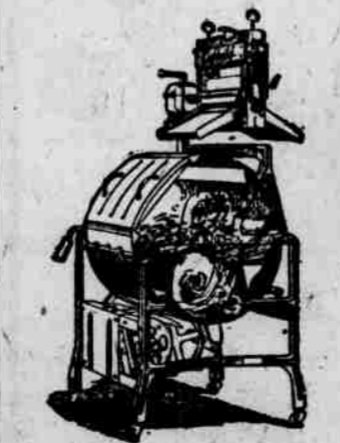
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