

LAW VIOLATED
IN PURCHASING
SCHOOL NEEDSThousands Illegally Spent,
State Accounts Board
to Report.

LAXITY HITS PUPILS

This is the second of a series of articles dealing with the lax methods under which the business of the school city has been conducted. Other articles will appear subsequently.

When the state board of accounts completes its examination of the purchase of supplies by the school city of Indianapolis for the six months ending March 1, 1920, it will be able to report, if not interfered with, that thousands of dollars of school money has been spent in a manner directly in violation of the state law.

It will also have found that masked under these illegally executed deals there was at least one transaction by which the school children were compelled to use inferior goods, purchased at the price of a much better grade.

WHAT THE
LAW SAYS.

The law governing the purchase of supplies by the school city says:

"All contracts involving more than \$200 in amount shall be in writing, executed in the name of the school city by the business director and signed by a notary public. When no notary has been appointed by the commissioners the business director may make contracts and purchase not exceeding \$200 in amount in any one time, but all such contracts shall be reported at its next regular meeting to the board, and if disapproved by a majority of the members present at the preceding regular meeting, such director shall be responsible thereon for his bid. No purchase of supplies or of materials of any kind shall be made from any one person or corporation, in any year to the amount in the aggregate of more than \$200 except upon bids duly advertised for and accepted."

NOTARY
TO SUBMIT CONTRACTS.

The records of the proceedings of the school board show that it was not customary to submit contracts for supplies to the board.

The records also show that contracts far in excess of the \$200 limit were made without the submission to the approval of the board, and in many instances without advertising for or accepting bids.

One of the last acts of school officials prior to the recent organization of the board was a violation of this law. This act involved the signing of a contract for \$15,429.50 worth of paper for use in the school.

Although this was one of the largest supply contracts let in months, and despite the fact that the law is explicit on the subject, there is nothing to show that the approval of the board was obtained. Board members say they knew nothing of the transaction, and one of the members explained that the matter was brought to his attention by a person entirely outside the school administration. He said this was the first

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DENIES PARLEY
ASKED ON RUSSIA

Allies Haven't Replied on
Trade Proposal, U. S. Says.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Foreign reports say the United States had asked a conference on March 20 of the allies to discuss means for resuming trade with Russia, were denied today by the state department.

This government has made a suggestion to the allies for a method of resuming trade with Russia, but as yet no reply to the suggestion has been received.

Freight on Oils
Held Unreasonable

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The interstate commerce commission today declared unreasonable a rate of 26 cents a hundred on refined oil and a rate of 34 cents a hundred on fuel oil between Kansas City and Chicago.

Reckless Treatment
for Ziegfeld's Name

The music department attracted her. With all of importance she leaned over the counter.

"Have you anything from the Zig Zag Foolees?" she asked.

Gov. Lowden Kept in
Bed by Heavy Cold

MENOMINEE, Mich., March 18.—Gov. of Illinois, Frank Murphy, today, following from a heavy cold contracted on his tour through the upper peninsula and has canceled his speaking date at Es- canaba.

Indiana Radicals
Get Secret Hearing

CHICAGO, March 18.—A secret hearing in the deportation cases of eleven alleged members of the communist party from Gary, Ind., and vicinity was concluded here yesterday before Immigration Commissioner Paul. Findings in the cases will be forwarded by Paul to Washington within a few weeks. He refused to give any information regarding the hearings.

Kaiser Says He'll
Live It Out in Ease

AMSTERDAM, March 18.—Following the inspection of his new home at Doorn, the former kaiser declared to friends today that "he is confident he will pass the evening of his life quietly as an obscure citizen."

Charlie Chaplin's Wife
Asks Divorce; Next!

SUCCESSOR TO
TAGGART PUT UP
TO COMMITTEE

Sallee Gets Ruling Democratic
State Body Must Name
Man for Senator.

W. V. ROOKER DIFFERS

An opinion in which it is declared that it is mandatory for the democratic state committee to select a candidate for United States senator to replace Thomas Taggart on the democratic primary ballot has been received by A. C. Sallee, chairman of the committee appointed several weeks ago to guide the committee in legal matters.

The opinion, which will probably be followed by the state committee inasmuch as it is the opinion of a committee created to guide the state committee in such matters, is an amplification of the views expressed recently by W. W. Spencer.

At the same time that this opinion was received an opinion was made public by W. V. Rooker, in which he takes the grounds that Mr. Taggart can not and has not legally withdrawn his name from the ballot.

TEXT OF OPINION
FROM COMMITTEE

The opinion of the democratic committee is as follows:

"Hon. Charles Sallee, chairman democratic state committee:

"Dear Sir—You have asked us to advise you as to the duty of the democratic state committee in the circumstances of the withdrawal of the name of Hon. Thomas Taggart as a candidate for the democratic primary election. We advise you to vote for him as a democratic candidate at the primary election to be held on the 10th of May next coming.

"The circumstances as we understand them to be are: that Mr. Taggart's name was filed as such candidate one filed in the primary election with Section 14 of the primary election law, making provision therefor. (Burns Supp. 1918, Sec. 7068.) His name was the only one filed as a candidate for such democratic nomination for that office. He subsequently, more than twenty-five days before the primary date as provided in Section 18 (Burns Supp. 1918, Sec. 7069) filed his name as a candidate for the primary election law, withdrew his name as a candidate as therein provided. This withdrawal left no democratic candidate for the nomination for the office of senator.

PRIMARY LAW

"Formerly political party organization and practice in forming party committees and in nominating party candidates was left by the law to the voluntary action of the parties. The state has, however, in the primary election law placed these matters under the control and regulation of statutory law. This law has been made more stringent. (Kelseys v. Cook 184 Ind. 173, 182, 190.) It is to be looked to, to discover the method of selecting candidates and must be followed where it points the way.

"In the circumstances above stated Section 14 of this statute provides:

"(a) That the proper officer" (is) to cause to the secretary of state "with whom such nomination shall be filed and such name or names shall be placed upon the official ballot to be voted for at the primary election."

"(b) That the proper officer" (is) to cause to the secretary of state "with whom such nomination shall be filed and such name or names shall be placed upon the official ballot to be voted for at the primary election."

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