

## STRIPPED FOR BIG FIGHT ON SERVICE BODY

Legislators of Both Houses Plan Battle for Return of Franchise Power to Cities.

### TWO BILLS INTRODUCED

Continuing their efforts on bills calling for the abolishment of the Indiana public service commission and the return of franchise powers to the municipalities, members of the senate and the house today prepared to wage a bitter war against the service commission.

The bills are in the hands of the judiciary committee of the house and the senate and there appears to be a growing feeling that if the committees should report favorably on the proposed abolishment at the special session, the measure might pass after a bitter fight.

Sen. Alfred Hoggan of Marion, introducing the bill proposing the abolishment of the public service commission, the re-creation of the state railroad commission and providing for local regulation of public utilities by the various city and town boards and city councils.

In the house a bill was introduced by Representative Harry E. Howbottom, Evansville, calling for the abolishment of the service commission, but not providing for any control of public utilities.

### RECENT ACTIVITIES ARE BLAMED.

Similar bills have been introduced at other sessions, but the recent action of the public service commission in raising rates of service for public utilities has resulted in a storm of protest.

The introduction of these two bills is the direct result of protests made by the public to the lawmakers against actions of the public service commission in raising rates.

It is understood the Goodrich administration would exclude the consideration of such during the special session, but the legislators loudly are declaring they intend to introduce bills of any character they desire and state they intend to take the floor and wage a fight to protect their bills.

"They will not gag me and prevent me from introducing my bills," yelled an irate representative when a certain house committee attempted to rapidly pass over a bill by recommending it not be passed.

The two bills providing for the abolishment of the public service commission are under consideration by the judiciary committee of the two houses and supporters of the bills are making an effort to gain favorable votes.

The bill first proposed for the repeal of the law establishing the public service commission and calls on the governor to appoint three commissioners to compose a board to be known as the railroad commission of Indiana.

The railroad commission was abolished by an act approved in 1913 and its powers and duties were transferred to the public service commission which was created at the same time.

### PROVISION AGAINST NO LIMIT PERMITS.

The Hoggan bill provides that the indeterminate permits which the public service commission has issued in lieu of franchises or contracts, shall cease to exist on the passage of the bill and that the franchises and franchises which were in existence in 1913 should be in full force and effect.

The bill also makes it unlawful for a municipality or a utility to make discriminatory rates or to provide free service except free transportation to police officers on duty.

The bill provides that standards and conditions of service of public utilities are to be determined by the common councils or town boards and also prohibits any utility from suspending service pending litigation over rates.

## REAL FIGHT DUE ON STATE MINE

Governor Claims It Would Put Coal Cost at \$2.

That Gov. Goodrich is insisting that the special session of the state legislature act favorably on his request for passage of the bill providing for the purchase of a mine, to be operated by the state, to provide coal for state institutions, is indicated by a statement made by him in support of the bill.

The measure is one that he has advocated for some time, because of the acuteness of the coal situation in the state, and was one of the leading points in his message to the assembly.

The governor claims in his statement with the cost of mining coal under private ownership and the relative low cost with which he insists the state could operate a mine.

"Coal, mined and placed on cars at the mines at a cost of less than \$2 per ton, is quoted to the state at a price of \$5.25 to \$7.25 per ton," the governor decided, in answer to opponents of the measure, who said that state ownership of a mine is a step toward state socialism.

**GOVERNOR SAYS COULD SELL AT \$2.**

The statement continued with the declaration of the governor that he could take an appropriation sufficient to purchase, operate or lease a mine and that he could mine the coal, place it on the cars, operating 60 per cent capacity, and sell it for less than \$2 per ton.

The governor denied that he above, to purchase the coal, was step toward socialism, and stated that he was dealing, not with theories, but with a condition.

Manufacture of various articles in the state penal institutions, which are sold outside of the state's institutions for a low cost, is cited by the governor as evidence that he is right.

"I think that the unusual situation in the coal business will end within a few months," said the governor.

"I don't believe it will end within a year, and the high prices will obtain throughout the fiscal year."

"I don't think the mine, we will have to pay \$400,000 or \$500,000 extra for state coal this winter."

### SAYS CONSUMPTION WOULD BE REDUCED.

"Ten per cent of the consumption of coal can be saved through the mine purchase, because of the fact that the coal used in state institutions would be of uniform quality, allowing us to adjust our equipment to the particular coal, and our men and engineers would become accustomed to it."

"Under ordinary circumstances, I would not favor the state-operated mine, but under the present conditions, having in mind only the interests of the state, I am certain that it is the wise thing to do, that the results will justify the assembly and the executive in taking this step."

The mine bills was expected to be reported out of the ways and means committee of the lower house today, and opinion was that its passage would be recommended.

Representative Mendenhall, chairman of the committee, introduced the bill in the house.

The minority was expected to lodge a fight for indefinite postponement, and a stiff contest will probably result.

## Nurseryman and Son Killed by Lightning

LYONS, Ind., July 14.—William E. Stacy, 38, owner of Franklin Farm Nursery and his son, E. R., 16, were instantly killed here Tuesday evening by a bolt of lightning, while they were watering their horses at a pond.

## PLENTY OF COAL FOR 6,000 YEARS

Consumers Need Not Worry for Few Generations.

## BILL PROVIDES FOR REFUND OF OVERPAYMENTS

(Continued From Page One.)

CLEVELAND, July 14.—Coal consumers of the Indiana State will have no real worries until about the year 1920, according to state and government inspectors attending the eleventh annual convention of the mine inspectors' institute of America here today.

Hard coal will give out in 150 years or 200 years, but the soft coal is nearly inexhaustible, J. W. Paul, chief coal mining engineer of the United States bureau of mines, said.

The inspectors foresee evidence of enough soft coal to run the country 6,000 years.

## THREE SNAGS BLOCK COURSE OF GOVERNOR

(Continued From Page One.)

from a company in which Goodrich was a stockholder, at a purchase price that was \$165,000 more than the president of the company said the plant was worth.

Nor has the public forgotten that Goodrich's son, Pierre, and his business associates were financially interested in one coal company that had the benefit of convict labor after gave Goodrich a billion of stock "for services."

Consideration of whether or not the purchase of a coal mine would be a good thing for the state of Indiana, some what warped by the fact that the Goodrich have been interested in coal deals with the state and Marion county, and none of them does the Goodrich purse appear to have such a sum as the state would have.

The republican members of the committee were solidly in favor of the bill and the democratic members were uniformly opposed to it.

Representative Bost stated that he was opposed to legalizing acts which the courts had held to be invalid, and charged that the bill contained no provision for reimbursing taxpayers who had paid amounts in excess of those held to be legal.

Representative Cann of Frankfort asserted that he might be compelled to vote the democratic ticket by opposing the legalizing act.

HOUSE VOTES FOR MAJORITY REPORT.

This was branded as "quibbling" by the speaker, and the house voted down the minority report, adopting the majority report for passage.

As amended by the committee, the legalizing bill provides that appeals from assessments shall be made to ex-officio members of the board of review, such as the treasurer, the auditor and county assessor, and not to the county commissioners, as the original bill provided.

Another bill affecting the tax problem was introduced by Representative Laughlin. It is in the hands of the cludes and to come.

The Laughlin bill provides, that in any town or city where the county treasurer collects the general taxes for the municipality it shall be the duty of the treasurer to collect all special assessments for local improvements after the city clerk has provided the treasurer with an alphabetical list of all local improvements for which assessments are to be made.

Representative Green now has in the hands of the Judiciary B committee a bill that all property, real and personal, which is subject to taxation and not specifically exempt, shall be "assessed and valued for taxation at one-half of its true cash value."

**HENRY THERE WITH "GRAVY."**

Representative Henry Abrams introduced a bill "to provide for expense account appropriations for township trustees."

Abrams' little plan of helping the trustees would make the taxpayers pay the following expenses of the township trustees: Traveling expenses, telephone, rent, postage, office stationery and other things.

Under the Abrams plan the township trustees would annually appropriate in townships of the first-class a sum not to exceed \$1,000 as expense money for the township trustees.

The amounts which might be appropriated in the other classes of townships range from \$300 to \$900.

Gov. Goodrich's bill proposing state ownership of a mine to furnish fuel to state institutions has been introduced under the designation of house bill No. 544.

Representative Charles L. Mendenhall of Hendricks county introduced the bill.

An appropriation of \$900,000 is provided in the measure.

**CLAIM SAYING ON \$400,000.**

By appropriating this amount, it is estimated in the bill that approximately \$400,000 may be saved on the supply of 200,000 tons of coal for the first year.

The bill, which was referred to the ways and means committee, would grant authority to the commissioners of the joint railroads board to acquire and operate coal mines and purchase or lease coal cars and award contracts for operation of the mines.

Following closely on the heels of the bill for state ownership of mines is Bill No. 548, introduced by Representative E. W. Swain of Madison county, which would provide a supply of coal for the transportation of the coal to its destination.

The bill is entitled "bill to amend section 5 of an act entitled 'an act touching common carriers over railroads in the state and authorizing a railroad company to be incorporated therewith'" approved March 11, 1907, and declaring an emergency.

Three of the superintendents tried to see Gov. Goodrich last night to protest that their items were too small, but the governor had left his office and they told their troubles to members of the ways and means committee.

Charles McGonagle, head of the boys' school at Plainfield, Dr. Smith of the Eastern Hospital for Lepers at Richmond, and Dr. Samuel Dodds, superintendent of the Northern Hospital for Insane, at Logansport, waged their fight before members of the ways and means committee.

"If we are to receive the full attention of this body until final disposition is made of it."

It was to appropriate this money and legalize Klausen's expenditures that the call for the special session was first convened.

The bill calls for the following appropriations: State School for the Blind, \$5,000; State School for the Deaf, \$8,000; State Hospital for the Insane, \$25,000; Northern Hospital for Insane, \$25,000; Southeastern Hospital for the Insane, \$45,000; Southern Hospital for the Insane, \$15,000; Village for Epileptics, \$25,000; School for Feeble Minded Youth, \$15,000; Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, \$15,000; State Soldiers' Home, \$25 per month for each person residing in the home; State Sanitorium, \$25,000; Farm Colony for Feeble Minded, \$25,000; Farm Colony for the Blind, \$25,000; State Hospital for the Deaf, \$10,000; Girls' High School, \$27,000; Reformatory, \$35,000; State Farm, \$20,000; State Prison, \$55,000; Women's Prison, \$25,250; department of state, \$1,500; state fire marshal, \$5,000; superintendent of buildings and property, \$12,000; library commission, \$1,000; Academy of Science, \$941.37; joint purchasing committee, \$25,000; industrial rotary fund for state institutions, \$25,000; Grand Army encampment, \$15,000.

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unless it is asked for by the highway committee of the commission, has announced.

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