

# COUNTY TAXPAYERS STUNG FOR \$43,000

Contract Let for New Bridge on Michigan Road After Repairs Ordered.

## DISCLOSED BY SUPPRESSED REPORT

Disclosure that the taxpayers of Marion county will lose \$43,646.36 and the recommendation that the necessary action be instituted in the circuit court to recover the sum for the county, are contained in a special report of A. L. Donaldson, civil engineer and field examiner of the state, dated Aug. 26, 1920, and not yet made public by the state board of accounts.

Donaldson charges that through the illegal "release" of the Sheehan Construction Company from a part of its contract to build the Michigan road, the county will be out this sum of money.

The records of the county commissioners show that on March 28, 1919, the Sheehan Construction Company was awarded the contract for the improvement of the Michigan road, a sum of \$147,200.

This contract included the raising of the Canis bridge and the raising and re-flooring of the White river bridge and all other necessary work to put the road in first-class shape.

Donaldson's report shows that after the contract had been let to the Sheehan company, the county commissioners on July 7, 1920, made a contract with H. Price, receiver for the A. J. Newell Company, to erect a new bridge in place of the White river bridge, which was to be raised and repaired as a part of the contract previously entered into with the Sheehan company.

### FOUND NO REPORT ON PUBLIC ACTION.

Donaldson reports that he was unable to find any record in the office of the county commissioners to the effect that commissioners had made any effort to obtain a release from the Sheehan people for that part of their contract included in the contract awarded to Price prior to the granting of the Price contract.

According to Donaldson's report he found a copy of what showed that J. J. Griffith, county engineer, on Aug. 14, 1920, recommended to the commissioners that it would be impractical for the Sheehan company to proceed with the raising of the bridge over White river in the fact of the contract held with Price.

Griffith, in his report to the county commissioners, recommended that the Sheehan company be released from a part of their contract and the commissioners ordered \$25,000 deducted from the Sheehan contract, the records show.

The records show that the Sheehan company agreed to that reduction and modification.

Donaldson stated in his report: "It will be seen that the report (that of Griffith) recommends that the sum of \$25,000 be deducted from the amount of the contract entered into with the said

"UNABLE TO FIND LAW FOR ACTION.

"In addition to the loss of \$18,420.36 the excess amount allowed the contractor, Marion county commissioners, a further and greater loss by reason of the fact that when the contract for the raising of the bridge over White river is let, it will cost at least \$2 per square yard more than the amount deducted from said Sheehan Construction Company contract, or \$22,222 square yards at \$2 will amount to the sum of \$45,420.36 will make the total sum of \$45,66.36 and is, therefore, a fair representation of the loss which the said county will sustain by reason of the acts of the board of commissioners as herein set out," Donaldson stated.

Donaldson's report shows that the total value of the work deducted at the contract price equals \$42,420.36 and with the \$25,000 which was deducted by the county, the excess allowed the contractor amounts to \$18,420.36.

"The records show that the county commissioners, in their report, recommended that the sum of \$25,000 be deducted from the amount of the contract entered into with the said

### THIS NEW SLUMP OR—SAME ONE?

Coal Prices Are Reported Due for Shaving.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—A slump in bituminous coal prices is expected soon, as a result of increasing production.

Authority for this statement is Vice-President Morrow of the National Coal association, representing big operators; Director Cushing of the American Whole Coal association, and other officials.

The association's production is more than 40,000,000 tons by Dec. 1, if the present production rate continues, according to a survey of the coal situation just completed.

Production now is ranging more than 11,700,000 tons a week, according to the United States geological survey.

"A production of 11,200,000 tons a week will be sufficient to pile up a big reserve by Dec. 1," said Director Cushing today.

"The panic of consumers to buy coal is cooling down. It was this panic, engendered by the famine talk of operators, that boosted prices."

"The panic is now certain to fall.

"Bituminous coal of a grade used by utilities and household consumers in the each, which now is selling for \$11 and \$12 a ton, by December will drop to \$6 or \$7."

Morrow said the big operators did not take advantage of the situation to raise their prices.

"The action of the I. C. C. in laying priority orders has given us the increased production we needed," he said. "If the big coal consumers will stop their frantic bidding against each other, prices are bound to come down."

Coal is just one of the commodities on the downward trend, according to official announcements here.

The association's monthly bulletin sees "an important downward tendency" in all prices except those paid for food.

A sharp reduction in other prices fore-casts a drop in food prices it was pointed out.

### Sure They'll Fight—Just Try This on 'Em

24 Feet, 128 West Twelfth street, to-day knows that a United States soldier can and will fight.

Pete was on special car No. 960, on which there were a number of persons enjoying a trolley party Thursday night and as the street car reached a point near Illinois and Ohio streets, he is said to have reached through a window and lifted a hat off the head of a soldier standing in the street.

The soldier was William Dennis, Company G, Twentieth United States Infantry, stationed at Ft. Benjamin Harrison.

When the police reached the scene the soldier had jumped on the street car and it is said was showing Pete how to battle.

Both were arrested on the charge of assault and battery.

### Pie-Eating Contest on for Credit Picnic

The fifth annual picnic of the Indianapolis Association of Credit Men, with a program including various contests in the afternoon and dancing and vaudeville in the evening, will be held at Turner park this afternoon and evening.

There will be a pie-eating contest of various kinds, including a spotlight, a filing case, a ham, a phonograph record, books, a side of bacon, a coffee percolator and a fire extinguisher—thirty-two prizes in all.

The contests in the afternoon will include a peanut race, shotput, broad-jump, obstacle race, pole-vault and a pie-eating contest, with a prize of the hunting case style of architecture—this latter contest, by the way, being especially designed for the younger picnickers, but open to all.

In addition to the contests there will be a variety of games for children.

### Conservation Man Is Water Power Delegate

Richard Lieber, director of the state department of conservation, has been named as the personal representative of Gov. James P. Goodrich to the national convention of the Water Power League of America in Washington, D. C., Oct. 7 and 8.

Mr. Lieber will address the convention

on the subject of the water power of the state.

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