

AVERS FESLER BREAKS LAW IN CLAIM PAYING

Former Custodian of Docket Points Out Acts of County Auditor.

QUITTS FOLLOWING JAM

Claims totaling thousands of dollars have been paid by County Auditor Leo K. Fesler without the signature of a single member of the board of county commissioners, as the law provides, it is known today.

In many cases the claim even has not been posted on the claim docket of the commissioners' court, although the law requires that this be done prior to payment.

According to William Fox, former bailiff of the court and the custodian of the claim docket, whose resignation became effective today following numerous arguments with Mr. Fesler, the claims of the election inspectors and judges have not been entered on the claim docket as yet, although they have been paid by Auditor Fesler.

Mr. Fesler states that the county commissioners passed a resolution giving him the power to allow the claims of the election inspectors and judges. The commissioners have not signed each claim as the law requires and the claims have not been entered on the claim docket, Mr. Fox states. The total cost of the election will be approximately \$35,000 when all the claims have been received, Auditor Fesler stated.

LEAVES CLAIMS ON DESK.

When Mr. Fox terminated his duties with the commissioners as bailiff last night, claims totaling approximately \$38,934, all of which had been allowed by Auditor Fesler but not one bearing the signature of a single county commissioner, were on the desk of the bailiff.

Some of these claims were as follows: To the office of M. L. Jefferson, township assessor, for office deputies, \$471; for Jefferson's office, \$471; Joseph Hillman, \$818, for Wayne Township poor; for clothing for insane patients, \$306; to James C. Douglas, \$2, for county assessor's department, R. A. Lemcke, trustee, \$7,400, for school improvement claims; James C. Douglas, \$75, for county assessor's deputies; for clothing for the insane, \$100; for stamps, \$30; for Jerry Griffin, \$48, on account of the election of 1920, and Mary E. Christian, who is county nurse, \$62.50 as salary.

WHAT LAW?

Under the law it is the duty of the county commissioners to have all claims posted, and to allow to sign each one before it is allowed. The majority members of the board, Commissioners Shantz and George, appear to permit Auditor Fesler do as he desires about certain claims, the records show.

It has become a general statement of commissioners' court when any one about a claim, "see Fesler."

Fesler also paid the claims of the voters at the last primary before they were signed and Commissioner Shantz was seen signing them after they had been allowed and paid by Auditor Fesler.

RAIL CROSSING REPAIRS HEAVY

Says Interurban Traffic Big Expense for Street Car Co.

Repairs at principal street car crossings in Indianapolis, determined by which is said to be due largely to the operation of interurban cars over the tracks, have increased in cost until at the present time it requires as much to make such repairs as it did to lay the original track. Thomas B. McMath, civil engineer of the Indianapolis Street Railways, commented today in the resumption of the hearing of the company's petition for a 2-cent transfer charge to be imposed on passengers. Mr. McMath occupied the witness stand during the entire morning, and it was indicated that he would not be relieved until late in the day.

Repairs made recently at Pennsylvania and Ohio streets, Mr. McMath said, cost one-half as much again as did the original cost of laying the tracks, and repairs at Illinois and Ohio streets cost the company in 1914 as much as the original cost of laying the crossing.

ESTIMATE MADE

OF TERMINAL'S VALUE.

Much time was spent today in cross-examination of Mr. McMath by Samuel Ashby, Indianapolis corporation counsel, in an effort to determine the value of the company's terminal property.

The Indianapolis Street Railway Company's terminal facilities, located at Illinois and Market streets, have a total value of \$667,117, property including a waiting room, train shed, baggage room, express room, check room and tracks, according to the answers to interrogatories filed by the company. Nov. 26, in the examination of Mr. McMath.

The estimated value of the property is as follows, according to figures given in the examination of Mr. McMath: Freight room, \$171,000; train shed, \$352,501; baggage room, \$15,500; express room, \$10,500; tracks, \$108,617.

The total valuation of the freight terminals, placed at \$690,370, is divided as follows: Freight room, Nov. 1 and 2, \$171,000; train shed, \$352,501; express room, \$15,500; tracks, \$108,617.

H. H. Hornbrook, attorney for the street car company, presented exhibits showing the cost of fuel for power purchases in 1915, 1917 and nine months of 1920, and another exhibit showing the cost of power for the same period.

The first exhibit revealed that in 1915 the company spent \$68,730 for coal, an average of \$1.42 per ton; in 1917, the exhibit showed coal cost \$163,000, an average cost of \$2.62 per ton, and in the first nine months of the present year, the company has been forced to pay \$239,531, an average of \$4.63 per ton.

Mr. McMath stated to the commission he had been with the Indianapolis Street Railway Company for the last twenty years and that since he had come to the use of the interurban companies on Ohio, Delaware and Maryland streets, Capitol avenue and many other streets in the downtown section, about ten miles of special track has been laid in outlying districts also, due to the interurban accounts, Mr. McMath said.

Mr. McMath stated that the shock received from a damaged interurban car would be four times as great on a rail as a shock caused by a damaged city car which is approximately twenty tons lighter.

Stamp Sales Grow

Overbalancing a deficit of more than \$6,000 in two departments, postage receipts for last month, announced today by Postmaster Robert E. Springsteen, show a total increase of \$30,982, or 15.69 per cent over the receipts of November, 1919.

The steady growth of the sale of stamps has continued, last month's report showing a gain of \$35,163.60 over the sales of November, 1919. The sales last month were \$201,331. Second class postage sales increased from \$14,516.00 to \$16,370.55, but permits in third and fourth-class mail departments decreased from \$10,903.50 to \$4,744.92.

Waste paper sales, which increased from \$107.80 to \$158.27, practically offset the decrease of \$96.75 in box rents, which were quoted at \$17.75 for last month.

Street Car Hits Auto, Police Rescue Quart; 'Tiger' Charge Filed

Miller Cites Changing Status to Implement Men.

When Patrolmen Ball and Nicholson rescued a boy, Levy, and Patrolman Leon Davis freed beneath an overturned automobile at New York and Noble streets, at 12:15 o'clock this morning, they also rescued a quart bottle half full of whisky. Finding the girls uninjured and Levy suffering only from slight bruises, they arrested him on a charge of operating a blind tiger.

Levy, a boy, got out of the car at the Lincoln Hotel, was driving west in New Jersey, when a street car going south in Noble street struck the rear end of his machine and turned it over twice. The auto finished upside down, imprisoning the occupants.

The girls, who said they were sisters, gave their address as 654 North New Jersey, and the patrolmen, continuing on their way to the time of the accident, later Patrolmen Ball and Nicholson arrested Mike Meehan, 24, of 521 Marion street, at St. Clair street and Massachusetts avenue, when they discovered he had three half pints of "white mule" in his possession.

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FARMER TODAY A BUSINESS MAN'

Miller Cites Changing Status to Implement Men.

That the farmer of today is becoming a man and more of a business man, was pointed out by Dick Miller, in his talk on "The Banker, the Farmer, the Implement Merchant and Their Relations," at today's session of the fourth annual convention of the Indiana Implement Dealers' Association, at the Clappwood Hotel.

He further expressed the belief that the farmer, as time passes, will use more and more of the services of the implement dealers, and that this was entitled to a producer of new wealth.

In his address on "Advertising as Applied to the Retail Implement Dealer," J. C. Feeley of Chicago said that "we actually realized for the first time the indispensable part that the farmer played in our existence three years ago, when Herbert Hoover asked us to conserve what we have for the first time that if we wasn't for the farmer a lot of us would starve to death."

He spoke of the relationship of the farm paper to the farmer and the implement dealer, and said he was sure all his auditors realized there is still ample room for a closer coupling up between the manufacturer, the farm paper and the dealer, and that together they can make the various features of this cooperation.

Other speakers during the morning session were: Ernest Cohn of this city, on "The Force of Advertising," and George R. Wilson, whose subject was "Insurance."

The program for the afternoon session included the following addresses: "The Relation of Agriculture to Business," by John Napier Dyer of Cincinnati; "The Transition of the Farmer," by N. H. Hemmings, president of the Indiana State Fair Commission; "The County Agent," by T. A. Coleman of Purdue University.

There will be a dinner tonight at which the principal speaker is to be Charles A. Bowdwater.

On the interesting addresses of Wednesday afternoon's session was "The Field of Agricultural Engineering and Its Relation to the Tractor and Implement Industry," illustrated with stereopticon views by Prof. G. W. McLean.

It is the opinion of many experiments of Ohio State University that the tractor has been carried out through the agricultural department of the university, relative to the use of tractors, various farming implements, types of barns and silos and various other forms of farm equipment.

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