

GOOD ROAD PROSPECTS ROSY, SAY DELEGATES TO CHICAGO CONCLAVE

Enthusiasm for the future of good roads in cities and towns was expressed by Dell Davis, city engineer, and Councilman Oscar Williams after their return from the Eleventh Annual Good Roads congress in Chicago, which they attended during the past week.

Motorization of city departments, with particular stress on street departments, was said to have been pointed out, according to Mr. Williams. Various labor-saving machines of all kinds were on exhibit and in operation.

Asphalt Leads

Asphalt and tarvia streets were recommended for cities. Concrete was condemned for cities but was said to be very practical for country roads, the local men stated.

Asphalt streets lead in the number of miles throughout the country, it is said, but Tarvia is being used in larger quantities in present construction.

The convention which Mr. Davis and Mr. Williams attended was said to be the largest gathering of men interested in streets and roads ever held in the United States.

Representatives from New York and California were registered. The exhibits and speeches were all in the Coliseum.

Combine Meeting

Three meetings were combined in one. The Eleventh Annual Good Roads congress; the Eighteenth Annual convention of American Road Builders association and the Twelfth National Good Roads Show were held at the same time.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring people interested in highway work into closer relationship to show the latest developments in highway construction; to stimulate interest in highway improvement; and to show the latest road building materials, methods and appliances.

AXE IS READY

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the legislature there is division of opinion.

There is agreement, however, on the prophecy that it will cause a hard fight when it comes up for final action.

Less Important Bills.

Among the less important senate measures that have been sent to the house for action are measures by Houghton to provide a penalty for slanderous statements; English and Hartzell two bills relating to the crimes of robbery and vehicle taking; Houghton to enable a court to make an order against a husband's income for support of wife; Moorhead making attendance at evening schools compulsory in certain cases; Kiper, to make the state highway law and regulations apply to the building of culverts and bridges; Meeker, providing for the erection of highway guideposts by county commissioners; Cann, providing for the transportation of high school pupils; Masters, increasing salaries of members of general assembly to \$1,000 a year; Baxter, providing penalty for false claims to obtain insurance; the Ratts blue sky amendments; and the Beardsley bill making way for provision of lunches for school children.

The house last week killed a bill introduced in the house by Representative Newman which would have provided penalties for false statements made to obtain insurance.

Budget Bill Up.

In the senate this week a number of important questions will be up for consideration, one of the most important being the budget bill which has the backing of the governor. This bill provides that the chief accountant of the state board of accounts shall be the budget commissioner.

It has been suggested from certain sources that the board of state charities or some other state board take over the duties. Senator Ratts said today, however, that he had heard nothing that would indicate that his bill will not go through practically as it has been framed.

It is likely, also, that the house bill providing for the taking over of the state fair ground property will come up in the senate. As this bill is framed now it is provided that at an

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election of the state board of agriculture the members of the board shall not vote. It is probable that an effort will be made in the senate to eliminate this provision.

Ratts Investigates.

It is understood that Senator Ratts who was a member of the committee that made a wide investigation of state boards of agriculture will be in favor of such an amendment.

Under the bill as it now stands it is said that any election that is held by the state board will be attended by many delegates representing county fair associations and other organizations of the kind. It is probable that there would be between 200 and 300 delegates at such a meeting.

The argument is made that it would be difficult where there are so many delegates with voting powers for the members of the board who will number not more than 16, to control the action of the meeting. On the other hand it is pointed out that while the members of the board may be small in number they will be great in influence and might therefore hold the balance of power.

May Extend Pensions.

It is probable that there will be introduced in the senate this week a bill to extend the teachers' pension act to all places in the state. This is a measure that has been widely discussed and it may be introduced by Senator Ratts. It is understood that he is favorable to the proposal.

There are also some motion picture bills pending for action in both the senate and the house, and apparently there is no hotter fight around the legislature than is being waged over this question. Women of the legislative council of Indiana women realizing that the showing of moving pictures has in some instances become a menace are behind a measure to establish the state board of education as a board of censorship.

Their argument is that the present method of regulation has failed and that the state board of education would be far removed from anything political and that the censorship would therefore not be political. The opposition which is composed largely of Indianapolis women who have been giving attention to the motion picture question for several years say that censorship is a dangerous step because it would put in the hands of a few, questions that should be settled by the courts. They believe the present authorities backed up by the proper kind of law and with the aid of public opinion can do more than a censorship board.

Solons In Air.

Legislators appear to be in the air on the question and are scrambling about to get all the information they can about the blood and thunder films and the so called sex photo plays that have made their way to most picture shows.

Most legislators agree that something should be done, but with the Indianapolis church federation and the

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legislative council of Indiana women favoring censorship and practically all of the parent-teacher associations in Indianapolis and some out in the state lining up against censorship, they do not know just exactly which way to turn.

In the senate the house bill for a five-cent levy for the higher educational institutions was reported favorably and the report was concurred in February 8.

Consider Highways.

Another question of considerable importance that probably will come up soon in one branch or the other in the governor's plan for maintenance of county improved highways. His proposal has already been outlined. It is his idea to have the automobile license money go back to the counties to be used in the road maintenance fund. This would amount to something like \$3,000,000.

He would also put the inheritance tax amounting to about \$600,000 in this fund and the remainder of the fund he would make up from a state levy which he thinks would need to be about four cents on the hundred.

Under his plan the maintenance of the county improved highways would be largely the direction of engineers connected with the state highway commission. In each county the work would be directly in the charge of a county highway commissioner who would be appointed after examination before a board of engineers of the state highway commission.

Includes Patrol System.

The plan also includes complete patrol system. It is said the cost of maintenance during the first year would be about \$7,000,000 or \$5,000,000 less it is said, than the present cost of maintenance.

One influential member of the senate said today that he was for the road patrol system suggested by the governor and that he would do all he could to push such a bill through the senate, but he believed it would encounter fierce opposition particularly from the road contractors, their theory he said, being that better roads maintenance will decrease the amount of road building.

May Convene Saturdays.

It was said that in all probability both houses henceforth will hold Saturday sessions. In fact, sessions would have been held last Saturday had it not been for the fact that it was Lincoln's birthday. Floor leaders and presiding officers of both branches are well pleased with the way the work has been going and there is every indication that all of the important business of the session will, unless something unexpected happens, be disposed of easily and without any great rush.

"To look at the list of bills that are

pending in committee in the senate," said Senator Ratts, majority floor leader, "it might appear that we are swamped with work and that we will have a difficult time getting through but it should be borne in mind that many of these bills are destined to remain in committee. It is true in every session that a great many legislators introduce by request many bills in which they are not interested and in which the general public has little interest. These bills clutter up the legislative calendar and make it appear that the task ahead of the legislature is insuperable, but such is not the case."

Fifty Bills Passed.

The records show that something more than 50 senate bills have been passed by the senate and as many house bills have been passed by the house. Few senate bills have come up for final action in the house and the same is true the other way round. But from this time on action on bills from opposite sides should be fast.

Last week the senate passed 34 bills and killed nine. The house passed 13 and killed 17. The senate put an end to two proposed investigations, one relating to the so-called building trust and the other to the financial conditions of the state institutions. This action seemed to meet with favor because it was said the legislature of Indiana is not constituted in such a way that it can make a legislative investigation. It has to act largely on investigations

made by others or to delegate powers of investigation to others.

Generally, it is not believed that the action of the state board of education in letting school book contracts, on which action there is to be a hearing tonight, will get very far. That is the opinion of a good many Indianapolis school men and others.

One regret is that the present agitation has led to some talk of a return to old system of placing power as to the school book contracts in the hands of local bodies. Those who are defending the action of the state board of education assert that the action of the board was taken in the open and that it was almost unanimous. They say that the board can not always afford to be governed by money considerations in the letting or contracts for school books. They believe there is only one just criticism of the school board, and that is that they might have acted too hastily, in other words, that it might have been wise to devise some means of holding up the

letting of contracts in anticipation of that if prices become lower in any lower prices. It is said, however, that other state, the price in Indiana shall there be a provision in all contracts to be reduced to the same figure.



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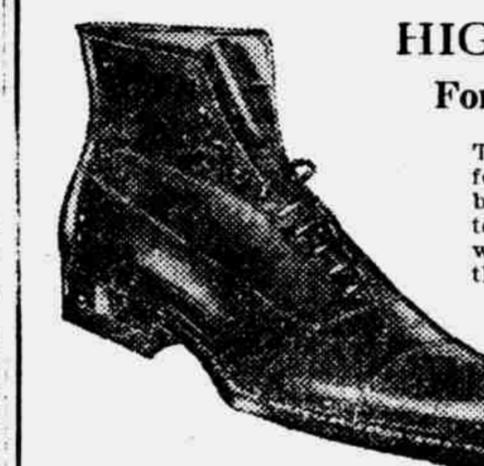
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