

TO EXTEND WATERWAY

Important Measure Before the Illinois Legislature at the October Session.

LETTER FROM ISHAM RANDOLPH

Chief Engineer of the Desplaine Canal Gives Some Important Facts to the Public—Fights of Lawyer Garsney.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 27.—The fact for control of water power at Joliet lake below Joliet in Will county has been precipitated by John H. Garsney, a lawyer of Joliet. He has written members of the legislature criticizing the plan of the Sanitary District of Chicago for extending the deep waterway three miles below the present end of the canal, making an attack upon the bill pending in the legislature to give the District the right to develop the water power. This measure is one of the most important that came before the present session. It is for his consideration that the legislature took a recess to October.

To the taxpayers of Chicago authority to develop the water power. Large revenue from the flow of the canal and the constant increase of that revenue as the law is increased by expenditures of the District in widening the canal, operating the thirty-third street pumps and the opening of the Calumet channel.

Should the District not be allowed to develop the power, the outlay of the District that increased in the flow means dollars in the pockets of the Economy Light and Power company, which now controls a plant and owns some speculative rights at Joliet that will be developed when the improvements that must be made by the District.

Company Opposes Action.

The legislature is to decide whether the District shall secure a revenue from its by-product in the way of water power, or whether it shall go to a private corporation. The Sanitary District officials are not disposed to hand over an immense profit to private interests, and are preparing a campaign from now till October to enlighten the public upon the great value of properties sought to be taken away from them.

A letter from Mr. Garsney at this time has precipitated the fight and given utterance to ill-founded charges and statements intended to belittle the issue. The Sanitary District's claim are well stated in the following communication from Mr. Isham Randolph, its chief engineer:

Joliet began to be, in 1833, when Charles Reed started to build a grist mill. Reed never finished the mill, but sold in 1834 to James McKee, who completed the mill. Hence hydraulic power was a right, and the first settlers of the country. The milling industry was not great, but the people were few and it met their needs. The town was organized in 1836, and it felt the need of a waterway to the Illinois and Michigan canal then being built. In 1839, however, the canal work shut down and the town saw hard times until work was resumed in 1840. During this period the arrivals did not equal the departures. The canal work was resumed and Joliet revived. In April, 1848, the canal was opened for traffic. Its construction involved the canalization of the Desplaine river for about a mile. Dam No. 1 created what has ever since been known as the upper basin; the canal entered the basin and its waters lifted and were impounded with those of the Desplaine river.

"About 2,500 feet south of Dam No. 1 was a second dam (No. 2), forming a basin, which was about the middle basin, after the Adam dam was built still farther down the stream. The 1. and M. canal ported company with the Desplaine river channel at dam No. 2. Each of these dams afforded a small water power, which was reliable after the Illinois and Michigan canal began to contribute a constant water supply which approximated 45,000 cubic feet per minute. But the Illinois and Michigan canal water was burdened with sewage and the pools which the three dams had formed were stagnant and noxious, horrible to look at and worse to smell.

Chicago Benefits Joliet. "Such were the conditions in Joliet prior to the building of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship canal. This great project was the channel of escape for Chicago from impending disaster. It was the law of self-preservation that impelled the city to build this great work and the Sanitary District law was the permit under which the state of Illinois allowed its prosecution. Chicago had no altruistic purpose in building the canal and yet the best recent results to Joliet are just as great as though the expenditure had been from philanthropic motives wholly directed to the amelioration of its wretched condition. The measure has been that the Adam dam and dam No. 2 have been removed and in place of the noxious pool there is a noisy river tumbling down the slope which these dams once blocked and yet the water is pleasing to look upon, and the air is no longer burdened with noxious and ill-smelling vapors. Notwithstanding the benefits to be derived according to the words of the sanitary district's benefits which they recognize and graciously acknowledge—the sentiments of the citizens of Joliet as they

and public interest have been directed hostile to the District and the corporate authorities have shown themselves anxious to form alliances with any and all agencies inimical to its interests. We do not believe that the public interests of the few who have spoken in Joliet represent the sentiment of the whole people. A whole people cannot be led by the interested few against their own interests and their right.

"This measure is preliminary to a presentation of the projects of the Sanitary District in and below Joliet, and the reasons which justify them. The outcome of the building of the Sanitary and Ship canal has been the diversion of a river's portion of water from Lake Michigan and the discharge of that river into the Desplaine river north of Joliet.

Development Attracts Capital. "The natural declivity of the stream through Joliet in combination with the great volume of water artificially supplied by the Sanitary District of Chicago has created possibilities of water power development that have attracted the attention of capitalists who hope by a moderate expenditure of their own money to reap earnings on the investment expended by the Sanitary District.

"On the other hand, the trustees of the Sanitary District believe that a wise business policy demands that they harness the water power now running to waste and make it produce a revenue which shall lighten the burdens of taxation which rest heavily upon the people.

"To carry out their plans for the public good they must have further legislative authority, for, as the law now stands, the Sanitary District has not authority to develop power below dam No. 1. The bill introduced in senate bill 544, which was introduced May 1, 1907, by Senator A. C. Clark. Under this bill the Sanitary District would acquire the right to use the right of way of the Illinois and Michigan canal from dam No. 1 to Brandon road. It would acquire all of the rights of the state in the water power being developed at dam No. 1 and the right to remove that dam whenever it shall have constructed a dam at or near the head of Lake Joliet and provided a navigable way across between the site of dam No. 1 and the location of the proposed new dam; and shall have provided a proper lock connecting the pool to be created by the new dam with the Channahon level of the Illinois and Michigan canal. In compensation to the state for the use of the property of the canal and its water power rights at dam No. 1 and along the canal in Joliet, the Sanitary District pays annually to the canal commissioners the sum of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars. Under other provisions of this act the Sanitary District must provide a deep navigable waterway from the site of its Lockport water power southward and through the city of Joliet to the site of its proposed water power development at the head of Lake Joliet.

Offers \$1,000,000 Profit Annually.

"This bill is opposed by the Economy Light and Power company, which has, by assignment from John L. Norton, a lease from the Illinois and Michigan canal commissioners giving the Sanitary District power annually to the canal commissioners the sum of seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars. The revenue now derived by the Illinois and Michigan commissioners for the state from the lease of the dam No. 1 power on the Desplaine river, the Channahon level of the canal is approximately \$14,000 per annum; so that the increased profit to the state growing out of the legislation asked for by the Sanitary District of Chicago will be \$1,000,000 per annum, nearly, in money, besides the immense value of three miles of deep navigable waterway. The completion of this project would give the state a deep water navigation and would come to the state in return for the bare permission to do the work, a work which involves the expenditure of over \$1,000,000.

"The interests of the state at large and of the taxpayers who have expended their millions are opposed by a small group of capitalists who are not culpable in their opposition. If the pursuit is honorable. These capitalists brought the contention against the Sanitary District with full knowledge of the plans of the people. The interests of the whole people of the state are in this controversy tied to the interests of the Sanitary District. The financial situation in this controversy is a situation between the Sanitary District of Chicago and the Economy Light and Power company seems to be as follows:

"By acquiring the riparian rights held by the state and other corporations, either the Economy company or the Sanitary district could develop the water power that would pay a handsome return on at least \$5,000,000; but before either could do so they must give certain rights held by the other, as the Sanitary district cannot proceed with the work until given the additional authority sought at the hands of the general assembly. It will resume its session Oct. 8, in order to give the contending interests a chance to get together."

RELIEF FOR WORKMEN

Measures Which Governor Deneen Wished the Legislature to Pass.

WOULD HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL

Urgent Necessity for Legislation for the Wage Earners Pointed Out by Professor Charles J. Bushnell.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 3.—Legislation recommended to the general assembly by Governor Charles S. Deneen would result in the saving of the lives of hundreds of workmen annually in the state of Illinois, the prevention of the maiming of thousands of others, and would make provision for the support and education of the families of those killed and the maintenance through the period of their disability of those crippled through accidents growing out of the nature of their employment.

More comprehensive legislation for the benefit, protection and welfare of workmen was recommended by Governor Deneen and urged by him, than has ever been recommended by the governor of any other state in the Union. That such legislation was not enacted into law was not the fault of Governor Deneen. In session and out of session he has ever been in the forefront of the general assembly the passage of bills desired by organized labor in the state. His personal friends in both branches of the legislature fought for these bills, the distinguished partners, appointed by the governor, pleaded for the bills with the members of the legislature. The legislative committee of the state federation of labor recently reported the efforts in behalf of the workmen, and the almost incalculable value to the workmen of the bills urged by the governor.

Chief among the measures for the relief of wage earners advocated by Governor Deneen were the bills for the establishment of a system of industrial insurance and the law for the better protection of men and women employed in the handling of hazardous machinery. Every year thousands of workmen are killed or injured by avoidable and unnecessary accidents in the course of their employment, in the state of Illinois. In the vast majority of such cases the family of the killed or disabled workman is left without means, the daily wages earned by the workman while in health being seldom more than sufficient to maintain the family from week to week. Death or accident deprives the family of their support, and leaves women and children by the thousand to want or the bitterness of public charity.

Bills Protected Workers.

The two main bills recommended by Governor Deneen would have remedied these sad conditions to a great extent. Investigation by competent authorities shows that three-fourths of the accidents in industrial occupations are unnecessary and are avoidable by proper conditions of care and protection in the manner of handling machinery with which the workman is compelled to work. The law for the better protection of workers with hazardous machinery, which was introduced from the state department of factory inspection, and the passage of which was urged so strongly by Governor Deneen and Chief Factory Inspector Edgar T. Davies would have established a system of protection for this class of wage-earners that would have reduced accidents by more than 75 per cent. Many employees opposed this bill. A lobby was maintained in Springfield all winter to fight it and similar means for the relief of workmen. Every influence that could be brought to bear was used to prevent the passage of these bills. The most important of the labor bills offered by the governor were defeated. Now, however, the main reasons urged against Governor Deneen by some of his opponents is that he sought to influence the legislature to enact these and similar bills into law.

Favors Industrial Commission.

Governor Deneen has repeatedly shown his friendship to the workmen. In his first message to the general assembly he recommended the adoption of a resolution creating an industrial commission to inquire into the best means of relieving the conditions of wage-earners. The resolution was adopted by the forty-fourth general assembly. In pursuance of it Governor Deneen appointed such a commission with Professor Charles J. Bushnell of the University of Chicago as its head. The other members were Professor David Kinley, Urbana; Adolph E. Adelfoff and Harrison F. Jones, Chicago; and Charles H. Hulburd, president Egin Watch Company, Elgin.

This commission labored during two years and made a report in favor of the enactment of a law in Illinois establishing a system of industrial insurance under control of the State factory insurance department. A bill along these lines was prepared, introduced in the legislature and urged for passage by Governor Deneen. Under the provisions of that bill there could be established voluntary industrial insurance associations, which would save from want and charity the families of workmen killed or injured in their work. One-half of the revenues of such associations was to be paid by the insured employees; the other half

was to be paid by the employers. The expense of administration of the association was to be borne by the state. Provisions for death and injury benefits were made. It was the most beneficial system for the workmen ever proposed in the western states. If it had been enacted the family of the workman killed at his work would be provided for and educated. The workman who was injured at his work would be supported in comfort until his recovery, and his family would not suffer. Best of all, this relief would not be charity, but would be the workman's legal and moral right.

Necessity for Protection.

The urgent necessity for legislation of this kind is demonstrated in a recent public statement by Professor Charles J. Bushnell, of Washington, D. C. After stating there are in the United States under continuous charge of employability, 5,000,000 dependent persons, Professor Bushnell goes on to say:

"The large source of this abnormal dependence is our vast aggregate of unnecessary industrial accidents. Few people begin to realize our annual national loss from this source. At a conservative figure, 1,000,000 workmen in the United States every year are killed or injured in industry by accidents, of which three-quarters are proven by European experience to be wholly unnecessary. Josiah Strong says the least possible estimate of our annual industrial casualties are about 500,000. The vast majority of the accidents occur among working classes. European statistics show that among these classes 90 per cent. of all accidents are caused by the injury to the body thrown upon public charity. Soldiers suffer because they are professional destroyers, but members of this great industrial army are struck down every year in this country because they are producers. This is the price they have to pay for the privilege of earning their bread in serving civilization."

This statement of Professor Bushnell is the strongest possible argument in favor of the hazardous machinery protection bill and the industrial insurance bill advocated by the governor of Illinois. The need for these reforms was announced by Governor Deneen long before Professor Bushnell's article was published July 29, 1907. Governor Deneen's message concerning the industrial insurance commission was sent to the legislature in January, 1905. The bills for the better protection of workers and the establishment of the industrial insurance system in Illinois were introduced in the legislature early in 1907 and were continuously urged by the administration forces.

Pass Ironworkers' Act.

Governor Deneen secured the passage of a bill for the better protection of workmen employed in structural work. This was passed only after fierce opposition. This act requires contractors to provide all scaffolds, hoists, ladders, and stays or other mechanical contrivances to be erected in a safe, suitable and proper manner so that adequate protection to the life of any person or persons employed there may be given. The state factory inspector is given supervisory power over the work and through his deputies may require the employer to make whatever changes he may deem necessary for the protection of employees thereon.

Another measure recommended by the factory inspection department that became a law was that providing for inspection of butterline and ice cream factories. It requires all buildings or rooms occupied by butterline and ice cream manufacturers to be drained and plumbed so that employees may be given proper sanitary protection. Every room is given a separate floor, and the floor shall be a pre-erected height and shall possess an impervious floor of cement or of tiles when a cement or additional flooring is not properly saturated with linseed oil. The side-walls of this room shall be plastered and wainscoted. The inspector may require a life line to be wainscoted at least once in three months. The furniture shall be cleaned and no domestic animal be permitted to remain in the room where butterline or ice cream is manufactured or stored.

To Investigate Diseases.

Through the efforts of the general assembly was adopted a resolution empowering the governor to appoint a commission to study occupational diseases, and to ascertain the effect of various employments on the health of the life those employed in them. Governor Deneen will appoint this commission, which will be the first of its kind in the United States. The commission will consist of nine members to be composed of the state factory inspector, the secretary of the bureau of labor statistics, the president and secretary of the state board of health, two reputable physicians, and three other representative citizens of the state, who shall serve without remuneration and whose duties shall be to officially investigate causes and conditions of occupational diseases in all occupations. It is expected that the work of this commission will result in legislation that will compel reformations in the methods of occupations that are now destroying the health and life of those engaged therein.

A number of other bills, all tending to the betterment of conditions of toil in their occupations, were introduced at the request of Governor Deneen and their passage was urged by him. They met the fate of the hazardous machinery bill and the industrial insurance bill. Every statement made here is substantiated by the records of the general assembly.

D. F. LAMEY

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