

INDICT MAYOR DAVIS OF JACKSONVILLE FOR TAKING \$2,000 BRIBE

**Malfeasance in Office Also
Charged, Making Climax of
Sensational Grand
Jury Action.**

JURORS VOTED IN

ALL 105 INDICTMENTS

STATE REGISTER SPECIAL SERVICE.

Jacksonville, Ill., March 18.—The special grand jury called by Judge Owen P. Thompson on January 30 and which has been in session seven weeks, to-day made its final report and was discharged. The total of indictments returned by this grand jury is 105, and 15 of them have been made against Mayor John R. Davis.

The expected happened to-day when in the thirteen reported, one of them charged Mayor Davis with accepting a \$2,000 bribe from Frank Weeks of Chicago. Weeks was private secretary of F. W. Mayhon of Chicago, who came to Jacksonville to secure a franchise from the city council to operate the Jacksonville water works. He secured the franchise, but so untenable were his plans that he could not sell the bonds and his scheme fell through. Mr. Weeks spent several weeks in Jacksonville during the pending of the franchise before the city council and he spent large sums of money in various questionable places, and had always with him a gang of hangers-on who did his bidding and were paid for it.

How It Leaked Out.

Mayhon unable to float the necessary bonds to put in operation his water works scheme, turned to investigate the reasons for the large expenditure of money made by Weeks, and not being able to get a satisfactory explanation from Mr. Weeks, brought suit against him for misappropriating funds and said suit is now pending. Mayhon was first summoned before the grand jury and turned over to them all of the correspondence that took place between Weeks and Mayor Davis. It was several days before Weeks could be brought before the grand jury, but when finally apprehended, he verified the statements made by Mr. Mayhon, and hence the indictments. Another indictment was also returned to-day against Mayor Davis for malfeasance, charging that he devoted certain sums of money drawn from the city treasury.

Davis Gives Bond.

Mayor Davis gave bond for the sum of \$2,000 for his appearance in the May term and his bondsmen were John R. Robertson, John Cherry, Jr., C. B. Graff, W. E. Killen, W. W. Schermerhorn, W. L. Fay, Andrew Russell, S. W. Black, John A. Ayres and Dr. George E. Baxter.

Mayor Davis, when questioned regarding the indictments, remarked that "they did not worry him, only one side had so far been given the people and it would soon be their pleasure to hear the other side. The whole story will be told before election day and the people will have full opportunity to know all the facts."

Other Indictments.

Other indictments were to-day returned against W. J. Harney and J. W. Price, charged with conspiracy to defraud the city. Night Police Captain Kennedy was also indicted for committing a false imprisonment. Six more indictments were returned against Charles Knollenberg and George Spires for controlling and operating in six saloons, slot machines.

L. O. Vaught, alderman in the Fourth ward, addressed a mass meeting of the citizens at the court house yesterday evening and for one hour he made a bitter attack on the city administration. He said he began in March, 1904, to get evidence to bring to light the actual conditions in the city government of Jacksonville, and further said that even though Governor Yates had not removed him as treasurer of the state school for the blind he had intended bringing about an investigation of city affairs. He said he would not again be a candidate for alderman in his ward, but made a strong plea for the mayoralty by discussing at length the city municipal league of Chicago and finished his remarks by stating he would rest his fate with the people of Jacksonville and believer they would rise up and blight out the corruption now so well known to exist in the administration of city affairs.

The grand jury submitted a lengthy report on the conditions found existing in the city, but Judge Thompson refused to accept the report, as he said it was not within the province of the court to do so.