

are not retrospective, and can have no effect in law upon warrants issued prior thereto, notwithstanding it operates to repeal the provisions of the law of 1894, *supra*.

It does not clearly appear from your inquiry, whether all of the warrants of which you speak were issued under the provisions of chapter 81 of the laws of 1894, or whether a portion thereof were issued for purposes other than those mentioned in said chapter, to wit, "For labor performed upon the public roads within the county issuing them."

The rule is well settled that in the absence of a statute authorizing the county court to issue interest-bearing warrants, there can be no liability for interest as against the county. Counties are not liable to implied common law liability. Their liabilities, whether grounded in tort or in contract are mere creatures of statute, and they possess no power and can incur no liability or obligation, except such as are specially provided for by statute. They are, in this particular, the same as the State government of which they are merely a part. The State is not liable except by its own consent, and so the county is exempt from liability, unless the State has given its consent by legislative enactment.

Answering your questions, I am of opinion, therefore, that the county courts, prior to June 5th, 1896 had no power to issue any interest-bearing warrants, except such as are provided for in chapter 81, of the laws of 1894, *supra*, and if any warrants have been issued for any other purpose than those mentioned in said chapter, providing for any rate of interest, the interest clause therein would create no liability against the county.

Further, that all warrants which may have been issued pursuant to said chapter 81, providing for eight per cent interest are a liability against the county, and that the law of 1896 does not operate to avoid or abrogate the same, neither could it have the effect of reducing the rate of interest of said warrants.

I am further of opinion, that all warrants issued by the board of county commissioners subsequent to June 5, 1896, if not paid when presented, will bear interest from date of presentation until funds are in the treasury to pay the same, and this by operation of law. I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,
A. C. BISHOP,
Attorney General.

NORTHERN INDIANA CONFERENCE.

ORA, Starke County, Ind.,
September 1, 1896.

I left home to fill a mission to the Northern States January 11, 1896. Arriving at the office of the Indiana conference, which was then at Marlon, Illinois, I was assigned to labor in Jackson county, Illinois, with Elder S. S. Bunnell. I remained there traveling among the people and holding meetings whenever we could get a house, until our spring conference, which took place in the latter part of March. After conference I was appointed to labor with Elder John H. Stout in Starke county, Indiana. On my way here in company with some

other Elders I visited Chicago and spent a pleasant time taking in the many interesting sights. We also held one meeting while there, with a number of Saints, where we had an enjoyable time.

Coming into this field we found that it was comparatively a new one as there had not been much work done in it by Elders for about eight years. We also found that there was considerable prejudice existing against our people. We went to work immediately to allay the prejudice and to place the Gospel before the people. Although at first we could not get many houses to preach in, at the present time we have many that we can hold meetings in.

On June 9th Elder R. C. Wilkin of Granger ward Salt Lake county, arrived to take Brother Stout's place, and Elder Stout was sent to a new field of labor. Since that date the Indiana conference has been sub-divided and it has fallen to my lot to act as president of this conference. There are but twelve elders laboring in it at present and although we are weak in numbers we know that there is strength in union, and we are all working together and earnestly for the spread of truth upon the earth. The Elders are doing a good work in this conference. With one exception all the Elders are enjoying good health and the spirit of their calling.

Since leaving the valleys and coming here I can say that I have enjoyed my labors very much. In our travels among the people we meet some who treat us very kindly and some who treat us with suspicion and want nothing to do with us. I feel well and to rejoice in the work that I am engaged in, and although I have not baptized any as yet it may be that the good seeds that are now being sown may sprout and bear fruit yet in the future. The names and addresses of the Elders laboring in the Northern Indiana conference are as follow:

Nathan Gedge and Richard C. Wilkin, Ora, Starke county, Indiana.

Ernest M. Buyer and John Foote, Crumstown, St. Joseph county, Indiana.

John H. Stout and Uriah Miller, Metz, Steuben county, Indiana.

Walter F. Mayhew and John T. Gabbott, Mill Creek, La Porte county, Indiana.

Hyrum S. Arnoldson and Alfred A. Bramwell, Port Huron, Michigan.

Thomas W. Eggett and John L. Ellertson, Columbus Grove, Putnam county, Ohio.

NATHAN GEDGE,
President Northern Indiana Conference.

SWEPT BY GALES.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Sept. 30.—The West Indian cyclone that swept over this city yesterday has hardly been equalled for intensity and destruction within the memory of those living here. The wind reached the highest velocity shortly after 12 o'clock. The instrument at the weather bureau registered 66 miles per hour, and then went in pieces. The barometer went to 28.80. It would go even below the record of 28.81 of 1893, had the storm continued longer.

The blow was practically over within

two and half hours, but for that time raged with an intensity heretofore unknown. Tin roofs were rolled up everywhere as of tissue paper. There must have been a hundred tons of tin rolled off of the roofs in Savannah. Bricks and wires fell everywhere, and hundreds of roofs were totally demolished. It is impossible to enumerate the buildings unroofed or partially destroyed. Shattered trees covered every street and those with hundreds of fallen wires made the streets impassable for hours. The total damage is estimated at \$700,000 to \$1,000,000 in Savannah and the county.

The list of known fatalities is about nine in or near the city. There has been no way of reaching an island near the coast, where it is likely the fatalities number a hundred. Wallace Johnson, a young white man, was killed by a falling roof. W. J. Thompson was killed in the wreck of A. S. Bacon's lumber mill. Four negroes were killed in a house on Twelfth street; another negro was killed by a falling tree. Captain S. J. Murphy of the tug Turner, was sunk in the river and drowned. C. J. McClure, of the Southerner Plaster company, and a negro were drowned on a tug.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 30.—A special to the Times-Democrat from Savannah dated yesterday says: A worse storm than that of August, 1893, if not the worse in the memory of those living, was at its height at 12:30 today. Business in city was suspended over an hour, the storm being furious for that length of time. No person dared to appear on the street. Steamers halted and elevators stopped running. Electric currents were shut off, through fear or because of breakage; windows and shades were blown in everywhere; wires hurled down, trees raised, fences blown down, houses unroofed and portions of big buildings were wrecked. Vessels were turned over in the river. Church steeples toppled and the streets were literally strewn with debris of every imaginable kind. People lived in dread for an hour in Savannah. The stoutest buildings in the city trembled. There is the greatest apprehension for vessels out and for small craft that are known to have been in the blow.

Relatives of persons known to be at sea are frantic in their endeavor to receive news from them early. There are reports that there has been loss of life in the city. The loss, as estimated, will reach \$600,000 to \$800,000.

There was an indication at 8 o'clock of severe wind and that hour the observer said the wind was over thirty miles an hour. At 12:15 the velocity was sixty-six miles and the air literally was filled with flying debris. At that time the instruments at the observer's office were blown out of working order, the barometer at 29.20. At 12:30 it was 28.95, and after that further reports from it could not be secured.

The last report of the observer received from Tibbee was at 11:30. The wind was then blowing forty miles an hour there. Since then it has been impossible to secure connection with the island.

The damage to shipping was great. The tramp steamer at the Plant system wharf is aground; the bark Rosentiv, Norwegian, was blown from its moor-