

HEALY'S BILL FAILS TO SUIT THEM.

Civil Service for Cook County Gets a Temporary Black Eye.

Springfield, Ill., April 10.—[Special.]—The special standing Committee on Legislation of the Cook County Board, consisting of J. N. Cuning, Chairman; George Struckman, Theodore W. Jones, Thomas J. McNichols, and John Ritter, with President Healy as ex-officio member, accompanied by the committee clerk, Theodore Gestefeld, landed in Springfield early this morning. The committee came here to lay before the General Assembly the imperative necessity of applying civil service reform to all employes of the county. Daniel Healy had concealed about his person a bill which the other committeemen had not seen. The bill provides for the appointment of commissioners, examiners, secretaries, and other officers who are to examine and pass upon the qualifications of applicants for office who receive a salary of \$20 per month or over. The committee started in like a band of brethren, dwelling in peace and harmony. They breakfasted together and decorated themselves with red roses and got along well enough until exactly fifteen minutes past 10 o'clock this morning, Springfield time, when the existence of Daniel Healy's bill became known.

Then came a row. Thomas McNichols, who is zealous and emphatic in everything he undertakes to do, rose in his wrath. He told his co-laborers in the vineyard of the Legislature that he was not for civil service at all. He believed in the doctrine that to the victors belonged the spoils, and he would fight the "pesky" proposition from beginning to end. He thereupon warned the friends of civil service that he had a lot of friends over in the House and Senate, and no matter whether any one went with him or not, he was going to declare himself against the bill. Curious as it may seem, every member of the committee, Mr. Healy alone excepted, joined hands with Mr. McNichols, and the worthy President was forced to flock by himself. Of course nothing could be done under such distressing circumstances. George Struckman in the meantime had got "huffy" over the fact that the bill enlarging the powers of the President of the County Board, offered by Senator Crawford, gave his (Struckman's) successor, Mr. Healy, a mighty field of opinion. Struckman seemed to think Healy's civil service bill was to be made a part of the tail of the kite introduced by Mr. Crawford.

Nothing could be done—of course nothing could be done. At 3 o'clock this afternoon Mr. Gestefeld, who is a peacemaker except when in the newspaper business, corralled the brethren in an upper chamber of the Leland. They fought it out among themselves and agreed to disagree. They will invite the committee of the Civic Federation to meet with them to draft a bill which will be practical and less expensive than the one which Mr. Healy brought here, and which Mr. Healy says John W. Ela persuaded him to offer. According to Tommy McNichols the Healy bill involves an expense of \$20,000 a year and only reaches about twenty employes. But this is merely an incident in the era of reform which is now prevalent.

The committee informed itself thoroughly as to all matters in the Legislature pertaining to Cook County and will return later in the season prepared to do battle if need be.