

"I never heard of an elevator with one foot of space between its platform and the shaft wall. That would be 12 inches of space and would be dangerous. When we find an elevator has two or three inches of space between the elevator platform and the shaft wall, we advise that the space be closed up in some way."

Taylor was asked if he ever had heard of an elevator in Chicago where there was two feet of space between platform and shaft wall.

"No," he said, "I never heard of such an one and the department does not know of such an one."

He was then told that several witnesses swore to such a condition in a Carson-Pirie-Scott elevator at the inquest held over Lusch Thursday afternoon.

"With two feet of space to fall through?" he asked.

"Yes."

"I can't possibly see why anyone should build that way," he said in a mildly surprised tone. "It is very unusual. It is so exceptional that there is nothing in the building laws to cover the case."

Taylor was asked if he would consider such a condition dangerous to those working about the shaft. He said he certainly would.

Taylor was then asked about the law covering guards at the entrances to freight elevators. He turned to page 160 of the building ordinances, Sec. 688 (b), and pointed to the following:

"All freight elevators shall be

provided with one guard at least six feet high."

"That means," said Taylor, "that the guard must be six feet high above elevator platform."

Taylor was asked what was meant by a "guard." He pointed to a specimen cage in a corner of the room.

"A wire screen or mesh like that," he said.

The screen guard was of steel wire with square spaces about two inches in size.

Taylor was asked if he would consider chains running across the elevator entrance a sufficient guard and one in compliance with the law.

He said it would depend on how close the chains were. He was asked if it would be a violation of the law if the highest chain were only four feet above the floor. He said it would.

Taylor was then asked if he knew how it happened that the elevator inspection department had no record of the peculiar arrangement in freight elevator No. 25 in the basement of the Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co. store, an arrangement which left a space of two feet between the edge of the elevator platform and the shaft wall, and which provided a guard only of chains, the highest about four feet from the elevator floor, for the elevator.

"No," said Taylor, "I don't know anything about that. You will have to ask the chief inspector about that."

Chief Inspector Frank Gaynor was not in his office at the time.