

MYSTERY SHROUDS METHODS OF MEN IN LAND GRAB DEAL

Visits to Property Owners in Vicinity of 21st and Race Streets and Vague Offers to Buy Assume New Significance in Light of Municipal Court Project.

Proposed Purchase of the Magdalen Home Admitted by Those in the Secret to Be Only the "Entering Wedge" in \$2,000,000 Building Fund.

Mysterious calls by mysterious men on property owners in the vicinity of 21st and Race streets... The Municipal Court, have taken a new meaning to those who entertained the men since the plans of Mc-Nichol-Penrose forces have been revealed.

For months before it was even whispered that the Detention House at 22d and Arch streets, built only six years ago, was to be abandoned persons who owned property in the path of the grab have been asked to tell what they would sell for.

No one knows who these men are. But they have been unsuccessful in most cases, as the method of the men is to buy property in the vicinity of the Detention House and then offer to sell it to the city.

Some property owners stopped talking very quickly when asked if any one had tried to buy property on their street. Others, like the one on 21st street, have been pointed out. Records at City Hall are somewhat sketchy. There is one exception, however.

It is known that one of the properties owned by Mrs. James B. McNeill, a four-story brick house at 22d street, directly across the street from the "Detention House" property, was sold to the city in the summer of 1913.

Settlement on the land grab is being followed by almost criticism among those familiar with the scheme of the Municipal Court.

It was noted on today that the city majority in council was willing enough to spend millions to house a Municipal Court less than a year ago, but that the city would be of no use to the city.

Councils granted \$200,000 of the loan bill money for the Municipal Court, but reluctantly allowed the city to preliminary work to improve the site.

After the receipt Saturday of the plans to buy nearly an entire city square and put up buildings, work, etc., officials connected with the Municipal Court admitted the truth of the story as set forth after investigations.

ONLY THE "ENTERING WEDGE" Executive Clerk Fred C. Stone, of the Municipal Court, admitted that the item in the loan bill and the ordinance passed over the Mayor's veto to acquire a small plot at 21st and Race streets were only the "entering wedge" in the scheme to house the Municipal Court in an expensive tract.

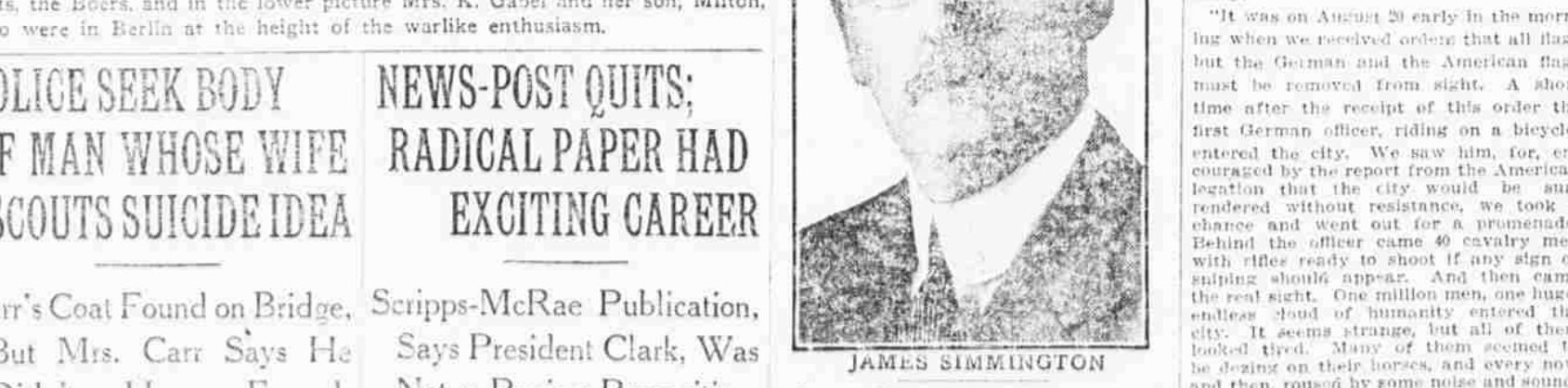
When the "entering wedge" was moved to the house of Detention many of the officials in the city were in the office on the first floor of the building was turned over to the city.

DOMINION REFUGEES HERE WITH WAR TALES



Passengers who arrived in port on the American liner Dominion today. Nearly all had some war experience to tell, eager to make it known and glad to be home again. Reading from left to right are Miss Elizabeth Doer, of this city, who left Brussels a day after the German occupation of the city; John Vrooman, an American Boy Scout, who lived in England for three years and had a chance to see what war activity is like; Captain Frank V. Avery, U. S. A. retired, who spoke highly of the German army and mobilization; De Forrest Hart, of Chicago, who arrived from South Africa and spoke of the sentiment among England's erstwhile enemies and present loyal subjects, the Boers, and in the lower picture Mrs. K. Gabel and her son, Milton, who were in Berlin at the height of the warlike enthusiasm.

REFORM MEMBER OF COUNCILS RESIGNS TO BALK MACHINE Simmington Retires in Order to Permit Election of Successor in November Who Will Uphold Mayor's Hands.



JAMES SIMMINGTON Common Councilman from the 28th Ward, and candidate for the Legislature from the 10th District on the Democratic and Washington tickets, resigned from Council at noon today.

Back of Mr. Simmington's resignation is the belief of the administration leaders in Council to muster enough votes to stand behind Mayor Blankenship in his reform measures. Legally, Mr. Simmington, even if elected to the Legislature, would have remained in Council until January 1, 1915. By resigning then, however, the seat of one reform Councilman would have been vacant until the November election next year.

The resignation of Mr. Simmington at this time gives an opportunity for his successor to be elected on November 4, this year. Mr. Simmington intends to cooperate with the reform leaders in his ward in the election of a man who will stand by the Mayor in order that the numerical ratio of administration and organization Councilmen will remain as it now is.

Several men have been considered by the administration leaders to fill the Councilman's vacancy. Among these James Rotherick, who lives at the corner of 22d and Dauphin streets, is the most favored. Mr. Rotherick resigned as member for the Legislature on the Washington party ticket in order to perfect fusion in the 10th District. His sacrifice in resigning, his friends say, makes him the logical candidate to take the place made vacant by Mr. Simmington.

ROTTEN HOSE BALKS FIREMEN IN FIGHT AT \$50,000 BLAZE

Could Not Carry High Pressure Streams to Burning Plant of E. J. Spangler & Co. — Prediction Upheld.

Rotten hose, which burst when attached to the high-pressure fire main, a thing predicted recently by Director of Public Safety Porter, held up firemen early this morning at a \$50,000 fire in the envelope and paper plant of E. J. Spangler & Co., 1237 to 1240 North Howard street. A girl who discovered the blaze fainting after rousing neighbors, and a policeman, whose home is across the street from the burned building, ran eight blocks in his bare feet to turn in two alarms.

The burning hose this morning is the second experience of that kind firemen have had in less than 48 hours. Late Saturday afternoon three separate lines of hose burst while firemen were fighting a big blaze at the Roebuck packing plant, Second and Brown streets, and in one instance spectators were drenched.

The fire this morning was discovered a few minutes after 4 o'clock by Miss Irene Yale, 1233 Howard street, two doors from the burning building. She was aroused by the crackling of flames and when she saw the blaze she screamed "fire" and then fell back in her room in a faint.

Her mother, Mrs. May Yale, aroused neighbors, including Policeman Bender, of the Front and Master streets station. Hurrying out to send in an alarm, Bender fell down stairs, but was not hurt. The bluecoat, in his pajamas and without shoes or stockings, ran two blocks to Girard avenue and sent in an alarm.

When he returned the envelope plant was blazing on a layer of roof. The fire was blowing so fiercely that he ran back again and turned in a second alarm. By the time policemen and firemen arrived the three floors of the plant were ablaze and the flames were threatening adjoining dwellings.

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Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes entries for Station, Allentown, Altoona, etc.

FENCIBLES MUST SURRENDER ARMORY TO THE CITY

Dilatory Tactics of Councils Force Vacation of Broad Street Site. Owing to the dilatoriness of City Councils to act on an ordinance providing for the acquisition of the lease of the State Penitentiary building at Broad and Fallowfield streets, that military organization will be compelled immediately to vacate and deliver up possession to the city.

The lease of the armory building expired on March 1 last, and the city declined to renew it. The reason, according to Councils, is that the establishment of the Municipal Court made it necessary for the city to find quarters outside of the City Hall for some of its departments in order to make room for the new court.

After judgment had been rendered on the issue, Mr. Furrh stayed immediate execution by taking a rule to show cause why the judgment should not be opened. A writ of habeas corpus was granted in the Joint Committee of Councils on City Properties providing for an extension of the judgment to the State Penitentiary building.

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POLICE SEEK BODY OF MAN WHOSE WIFE SCOUTS SUICIDE IDEA

Car's Coat Found on Bridge, But Mrs. Carr Says He Didn't Have Enough "Nerve" to End His Life.

Whether Harry Carr, 20 North Tenth street, Camden, is a suicide or not is expected to be determined by a crew from the police boat "Heron" today. The boat will search for the body of Carr, who was last seen on the Schuylkill river early today, but his wife, when it is alleged he tried to kill his wife, says she will "never" consent to take his life.

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NEWS-POST QUILTS; RADICAL PAPER HAD EXCITING CAREER

The News-Post has suspended. The last issue appeared Saturday, but the announcement that the newspaper had ceased publication was withheld until this morning.

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CART CRUSHES MAN TO DEATH

William Tinney Instantly Killed as Wheels Go Over Him. The victim of a runaway cart in the city today was William Tinney, 21st street, who was killed by a cart which ran into the side of the street.

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GENUINE RELICS

A Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and on the highway an aged carrier of his acquaintance with his arm in a sling.

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