

BOARD OF VIEWERS IMPROVEMENT OVER THE OLD ROAD JURY

One Fault of the System Is That Several Sessions Cannot Be Held at One Time by Members of Body

A recent newspaper article reviewed the three years' service of the Board of Viewers, a body of nine men appointed by the Board of Judges in October, 1911, and who took the place of the old road jury.

These men are William H. Shoemaker, 25th Ward; Francis H. Cantrell, 21st Ward; Charles W. Baker, 15th Ward; Alfred Grata, 8th Ward; William J. Kerns, 11th Ward; Robert B. Scott, 14th Ward; James M. Hadditt, 1st Ward; Louis Saller, 17th Ward; J. Parker Norris, Jr., 7th Ward.

The article goes into some detail in regard to awards, that they are fewer in proportion than before and that more speedily, that fewer appeals to higher courts have resulted and that city officials manifest greater confidence, as well as owners, in the awards made.

It goes into detail in regard to meetings, and suggests that if proper accommodations could be furnished all the members could meet or at least two meetings at a time could be held and more business disposed of, and winds up as follows:

"As the members are not bound by the testimony of so-called experts employed by owners, one of the greatest services it could render would be to discourage and utterly wipe out this costly and wasteful process and confine the hearings to a speedy determination of the actual value of the property involved, for the essential purposes of the act creating the board itself was to establish a jury of experts."

FAULTS IN THE SYSTEM. All this sounds most instructive, but the account falls of usefulness because it does not nearly cover the situation.

Naturally, in the choice of the board members figured in the endorsements, and attorneys familiar with road law expressed guarded opinions as to the effect the new departure would have in the premises. It is true that as a whole the board has won not a little goodwill on the part of litigants and lawyers; more dignity has been imparted to the hearings and the rulings of the board in the main have been along the line of protection to all who come before them, and insistence that witnesses should not be bullied, but heard.

One of the great faults of the system is that three sessions cannot be held at once, or at least two, with three members each attending. This would greatly expedite matters and dispose of cases perhaps as fast as awards could be paid. All that would be needed would be three modest rooms instead of the hall of the Board of Education, a large hall not suited for two meetings at the same time.

It must in all justice be said that in many proceedings the board, having arranged with attorneys, holds a meeting after meeting of cases pending as fast as awards could be paid. All that would be needed would be three modest rooms instead of the hall of the Board of Education, a large hall not suited for two meetings at the same time.

THE DIFFERENCES OF EXPERTS. Now, in regard to its value. It is frequently said by judges from the bench in summing up laid damage cases that real estate men called as experts differ so widely that it could be wished there was some other way of getting before the jury the market value of the property before and after the change upon which the action is based. It may be imperfect, but at present it is the best way.

Why has the board been able to show such successful results, not by the evidence offered before them by experts? Such men make a study of the real situation; they are by no means infallible, but they are most useful. The board winnows the chaff from the wheat, and through the presiding officer on each board, who is also a member of the bar, often rule very severely as to the eligibility of witnesses presented by both sides.

It is manifestly asking too much of any set of men to serve on such a board, and that their most important function should be to buy and sell real estate, and to be able to form opinions themselves as to values all over the city.

It is a matter for congratulation that the changes in the old system, which have brought about much change for the better in three years. With the desire to spin out hearings, so that the members could receive \$2 a piece for one more meeting, obvious attorneys were not slow to see that it was "not wise" to shorten the hearings.

All this is now past and gone. Even if some of the members of the board were inexperienced at first, that condition is now succeeded by experience useful both to the city and the citizen.

LESSON. MEN ACCUSED OF CAMPAIGN TO STEAL BLOCK OF HOUSES Set About Removing Them Piece by Piece, Police Declare.

It is not necessary to be a modern Samson to steal a brick house, and it was learned today that two energetic men can steal a block of houses if they have the time. Such a wholesale theft was prevented, according to the police, by the arrest of Frank Kelly and Thomas Kelly, who gave their addresses as 13th and Huttonwood streets.

The testimony of Mr. Kelly is that he and Kelly were given by Frederick Goodbody, a representative of the Commonwealth Title and Trust Company, \$100 and Kelly was arrested by Police Officer Moler as they were leaving a vacant house at 129 Hamilton street. According to Moler, Kelly was armed with a hatchet.

BRILLIANT SPECTACLE MARKS MADE IN AMERICA BAZAAR

Arabian Night Fete, Tableaux and Dancing at Horticultural Hall. The Arabian Night fete and tableaux, followed by a ball and dancing, competition for the benefit of the American Hospital in Paris, to be held tonight in Horticultural Hall, will mark the final feature, with the exception of the Fashion Show tomorrow at the Ritz-Carlton, of the most brilliant and most successful charity affair ever held in this city. It will be a long time before the memory of the "Made in America Bazaar" fades from the minds of those who participated in it.

Last night the hall was thronged with those who came to the Ambulance Ball, and many were the disappointments when it was announced that the piece de resistance of the affair, the Dance of the Eight Kingdoms, to have been given by Miss Frances Hoar, of Boston, and Vinton Friedley, would not take place because the arrangements for the performance were not satisfactory to the dancers.

Give the Dance of the Eight Kingdoms on the common level of a ball room floor in the glaring light of a brilliantly illuminated chandelier? Shades of Terpsichore! It could not be done. According to Mr. Friedley, who the audience suspected of having temperament, to obtain a real artistic effect, a specially arranged stage and softly shaded spotlights were essential concomitants of the performance.

Since these could not be produced on the instant, the Dance of the Eight Kingdoms was left entirely to the imagination. But 'twas a merry carnival, nevertheless. Two Shetland ponies, given by Miss Anne Vaulcan, were won by Judge Morris Dallet and Mrs. D. H. Turnbull.

If the Arabian Night Fete comes up to expectation, it will make Leon Bakst and his colorful creations look like anemic Japanese prints. The program will include the Arabian Night Fete, 11 tableaux vivants and a number of special dancing features.

With an eye to making the posers fit the pictures represented as nearly as possible, Carroll S. Tyson has spent up to time and thought on the tableaux, with the result that Mrs. Charlton Henry will appear as "Madame Lebrun"; Miss Pri-cilla Zohlen as the "Boy with the Rabbit"; Mrs. W. Frazier Harrison, Mrs. Antonio Devereux and Mrs. Alexander Brown as "The Music Lesson"; Mrs. Howard H. Henry, George D. Widener and John R. Fein as "Harlequins"; Mrs. Paul D. Mills and Mrs. Charles A. Munn, Jr., as the "Daughters of the Duke of Marlborough"; Miss Hannah Randolph and Marjorie Roche as "Belshazzar"; Thomas Ridgway as "Lady Conyngham"; Mrs. L. Kearsley Mitchell as a "Greek Lady"; Mrs. John R. Fein as "Madame de Maintenon"; Gardner Cassatt as the "Lady With the Peacock"; Miss Angelica Brown as "1830"; and Mrs. Henry W. Harrison as "Merry Christmas."

An overture composed by Livingston L. Biddle, entitled "Longing," and an address by Mrs. Lawrence Townsend and a song, "Belshazzar," to be sung by Mrs. Franklin Townsend, will precede the Arabian Night Fete proper, of which Mrs. J. Mitchell-Kearsley will be queen. Miss Lillian Emerson, a pupil of Pavlowa, who has appeared before King George and Queen Mary, will dance during the intermission, and Miss Perot and Mr. Taylor, professional exponents of the modern dances, will give exhibitions during the supper, which will be served immediately after the performance at \$2 per plate.

SNEAK THIEVES ACTIVE

Steal Jewelry From Three Homes in Absence of Families. The police were asked today to recover jewelry stolen last night from three homes in the absence of members of the families.

A sneak thief obtained jewelry valued at \$60 from the home of Mrs. C. E. Go-lightly, 1135 Vine street. Another entered the apartments of A. S. Campbell, 2919 Spruce street, and escaped with jewelry worth \$75, while a third entered the home of Edward Frederick, 3207 Jasper street, and carried away jewelry valued at \$74.

TO MAKE NAVY SUPPLIES HERE

Government Officials Expect Favorable Report on Inspection. Government officials in this city expressed themselves today as certain that a report favorable to Philadelphia would be made by the Board of Survey of the Navy Department which yesterday made an inspection of the plant at the Quartermaster's Department of the Marine Corps, Broad and Washington avenues, to determine what facilities the establishment has for the manufacture of navy supplies.

The inspection was ordered by Secretary Daniels following the recommendation of Major General Barnett, commander of the Marine Corps, that the plant be commissioned to make uniforms for the navy in addition to its present work of supplying the Marine Corps. General Barnett said such uniforms could be made more economically at the local plant than elsewhere.

Judgment for Auditors

In an opinion filed in the Municipal Court today, Judge Cassidy directed judgment for \$125 with interest from December 3, 1914, entered in favor of the National Freight Bureau, in its suit against D. B. Martin Company. The claim was under two contracts for the auditing of freight bills of the Martin Company.

LEGISLATION FOR IMPROVED HOUSING STRONGLY FAVORED

Senator Vare Pledges Support to Measure That Will Relieve Condition of the Poor.

Legislation for better homes for the tenement poor will have the backing of Senator Edwin H. Vare, who today said he would support any measure that might be introduced in the next Legislature pertaining to housing. Should the members of Councils' Finance Committee refuse to grant appropriations for the new Division of Housing and Sanitation, it was learned today, another housing measure will be introduced.

Civic workers who fought to have the present department created are planning to introduce another measure, which, if passed, will give dwellers in the filthy, windowless, bathtubs, unventilated and brickless tenements some relief.

The act which created the present division had the support of Senator Vare, as well as Senator McNichol. Senator Vare said today that in view of the uncertainty of the new Division of Housing and Sanitation being placed in actual operation something ought to be done.

"A great deal of the opposition to the act which created the new Division of Housing and Sanitation," said Senator Vare, "comes from property owners who are of the third class. I mean the man who has a little house, owns money, has a mortgage on it and has to pay taxes and other bills in order not to lose his house. This man is opposed to the act because of the many clauses and drastic rulings."

"If the present act is too drastic, something must be done for the poor. I feel certain that when the next Legislature convenes one of the first matters taken up will be the homes of our poor. There is no doubt that a new act will be introduced which will be fair to the little property owner and will give the women, men and children who live in some of the broken-down tenements."

"I am for better homes and you can't make that too strong," said Senator Vare, "and a legislator introduces a measure for bettering conditions I will support it, and will also do everything in my power to bring some relief to those who have been pictured as living in dirty and unventilated tenements. The next Legislature will positively not ignore the present tenements."

The consensus of opinion among certain Republican Organization men was that if nothing was done for the tenement poor during the next session of the Legislature it would hurt the Organization during the coming mayoralty election. To continue to ignore the poor, it was agreed everywhere, would hurt the Organization's candidate running for offices on the Republican ticket.

INDORSED BY C. J. RHOADS. Charles J. Rhoads, president of the Federal Reserve Bank and a prominent member of the Philadelphia Housing Commission, today endorsed the EVENING LEDGER's stand for better homes in the congested quarter.

"Some of the houses in which persons live," said Mr. Rhoads, "are in a disgraceful shape. The houses ought to be reconstructed. There is no question in my mind that a great deal of the sickness and death toll in the congested quarter is due chiefly to the present living conditions."

"There should be windows in every house. Not one window, but several of them. There are thousands of the girls and boys in Philadelphia today who are living in houses which are surrounded by dirt and filth. Filth and bad environment do not help the child. If the children had a courtyard where they could play with their little friends I believe there would be less juvenile delinquency. I believe the EVENING LEDGER deserves great praise for showing the effects on the human system as a result of the present tenement house evils."

"Since the EVENING LEDGER began to show the effects of the present housing conditions many persons have become interested in the subject. Our lawmakers must stop and consider this important problem. This is not a matter which can be discussed or dismissed in a few minutes. Our future citizens who live in the tenements must not be ignored. I trust that the men in whose power it is to bring about a relief will take the initiative and do something for Philadelphia's poor, who must be forgotten."

THE BOOKSHOP Books, Cards, Calendars for Holiday Gifts DAYLIGHT BOOK STORE 17th and Chestnut Sts.

Store Opens 8:30 A. M. WANAMAKER'S Store Closes 6 P. M. A Christmas Shopping Point of View. It is fair to say that this Store offers the best opportunity of comfortable and safe shopping ever known— The construction of the building; The entrances and exits; The excellences of hydraulic elevators; The great wide-open spaces; The constantly replenished stocks. Notwithstanding the large sales of these days there is no depletion of stocks and no nervous wreckage of our attendants. With so many fine things not to be had in any other store for this year, we have added many things for Christmas presents as moderately priced as possible, for goodness of quality. One thing certain, the buyer here gets value for expenditure. [Signed] J. H. Wanamaker December 16, 1914

The Christmas Fashion Sale Is Helpful. For instance, there are suits at \$10, which not long ago sold for much more and which would make particularly good gifts. They include serges, chevots, broadcloths, usually black or blue, and in long and short coat styles. Other suits at \$15, many newly reduced; serges, gabardines, broadcloths and chevots. Lots of short coats; a few fur trimmed. We still have some of those famous evening frocks at \$15; charmeuse, taffetas, chiffons, crepes de chine, in evening colors. Besides cloth dresses for street and house wear at \$15, these being mostly velvet or serge, the latter sometimes combined with charmeuse. A few are altogether charmeuse. There are hundreds such dresses and suits in the clear-away now going on, and any one of them is a good investment for Santa Claus. (First Floor, Central)

A MESH bag will find favor in her eyes. And here is a fine lot of mesh bags to choose from: Gun metal mesh bags \$4 to \$19. German silver mesh bags, \$1.75 to \$18. Gold-filled mesh bags, 10-karat frame and chain, \$30 to \$75. Gold-plated mesh bags, \$8.25 to \$53. German silver vanity cases, \$1 to \$5.75. German silver party boxes, \$5. German silver fitted mesh bags, \$6 to \$18. Another shipment of special German silver mesh bags, \$2 and \$2.75. (Main Floor, Chestnut)

Young Women Wanting Suits at \$7.50, \$10 and \$15 will please notice that for these prices there are several groups of splendidly tailored Winter suits, made in simple, girlish styles, yet very new in their lines. By good rights they should be marked much higher, and all of them have been. The materials are serviceable, good-wearing cloths, in pretty blues, browns, greens and blacks. They are all interlined to make them warm enough for after-Christmas weather, and the sizes are 14 to 20 years. (Second Floor, Chestnut)

The Dress She Meant to Buy for Herself is probably here among these boxed dress goods patterns. They include all such wanted woolen materials as serges, challis, poplins, crepes and mohairs and others from \$2.28 to \$10. Cotton dress patterns, already boxed, from 75c to \$2. (First Floor, Chestnut)

A Good Black Silk Is a Welcome Gift. Wanamaker black silks especially, on account of their high reputation for reliability and general trustworthiness. Messalines start the price list as low as 85c a yard, and from there the choice extends through crepes de chine, crepes meteor, satins, chiffons and velvets up to a distinguished all-silk faille, made in France and used by the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. It costs \$4.50 a yard and has the splendid old-fashioned characteristic of wearing like iron. (First Floor, Chestnut)

About Exclusive Lillian Corsets. If you have some intimate woman friend, or if there is some woman in your family who wears French Lillian corsets, you may feel pretty sure that a new Lillian will be an acceptable gift. No corset so far has been made that is finer in lines and workmanship than the Paris Lillian. Prices are \$8 to \$20. If the corset shouldn't fit, the owner can exchange it after Christmas. (Third Floor, Chestnut)

Two Charming Christmas Waists. One is of cream-colored shadow lace, with rolling collar, vest and half sleeves of embroidered chiffon. This costs \$8. The other is white or flesh-colored crepe de chine with the crispest of tucked organ-die collars and cuffs. Price, \$5.50. (Third Floor, Central)

A Man Likes What He Likes for a Gift. And the things he likes about as well as anything are in the Men's Wear Store. Such things as— Redleaf silk reefers from London. Redleaf room robes from London. Quilted silk house gowns from Japan. House coats of silk or double-faced cloth. Silk pajamas. Silk shirts. And neckties in a bewildering assortment, including a complete showing of the latest styles of London wear. (Main Floor, Market)

Store Notes. "THIS," said he, "is the velour hat I've been looking for." It was a pleased man who came upon our collection of Austrian velour hats. He said he had been all over town and had been shown velour hats of various grades, but nothing so fine and soft and richly colored as these we got from Vienna. He bought one for a gift, and you might wisely do the same. Prices are \$5 to \$8. (Main Floor, Market)

The Lamp That Clings. Another shipment of the new electric lamp, adjustable at any angle, that stays where it is put; it holds on tighter than a barnacle. A vacuum base is the secret. You can fasten it to your shaving glass, or your desk, or on the headboard if you want to read in bed. The price is \$2. (Housewares, Subway Floor, Central)

Five More Boxes of Good Blankets. Ninety per cent wool-filled, cotton-warped, double-bed size, better than usual for the money, \$5 and \$6 a pair. New Wool-Filled Comforts—and mighty good for the money—\$5 and \$6 each. Choice of sateen or cambric coverings. (Fifth Floor, Market)

CUT glass vases and plateaus at \$5, complete. The last lot, newly unpacked. This is the first Christmas we have been able to sell them for so little. (Fourth Floor, Central)

NEW Oriental Rugs That Look Like Pictures, \$9 to \$21. Cabestans, Shirvans, Anatolians, Daghestans (including some Chichi types) in rich, exquisite designs and in colors that glow as with a natural life. Size 3 ft. x 4 ft. 6 inches. Unbaled Tuesday, newly on sale tomorrow morning. (Main Floor, Chestnut)

If Baby Needs a Christmas Dress. There is some very fine batiste flouncing with wide ribbon-run beading made especially for the purpose. You simply cut out the neck and sew up the seams of the kimono sleeves and the sides, and there is extra embroidery for the trimming. Neatly boxed and \$1.25 a dress pattern. For children from \$ to 5. (First Floor, Chestnut)

A Woman Always Wants Dainty Stationery. Latest of fancies is the new "Versailles" with its finely ribbed surface and the delicate tints of buff, pink, blue, gray, violet and white. It is put up in attractive boxes, 35c to \$2.50, and the correspondence cards to match are 35c a box for plain and 50c a box for gold edged. (Main Floor, Chestnut)

NEWTON COAL Answers the Burning Question. We believe that the success of this company is largely due to a fine feeling of business regard that seems to exist between our customers and ourselves. While we aim at increased sales, we discovered long ago that the best way to enlarge tonnage was to think a little more of our customers' needs than of our own need for business. We want a purchaser to trust us; and the constant aim of our service is to justify his confidence. Chute Prices: Egg \$7.00; Stove \$7.25; Nut \$7.50; Pea \$3.50. 25c added if carried. GEO. B. NEWTON COAL CO. 1527 CHESTNUT STREET. BRUCKEN 6400. RACE 3300.

JOHN WANAMAKER