"7. When did the Commission or any

QUESTION BOARD'S FINDING.

should all be advanced approximately on

reasonable

fare charge?

December 157

limited to six months?

come or incresses in rates?

COUNCILS PROCEEDINGS

COUNCILS' \$50,000 DOLE WON'T SOLVE PROBLEM OF POOR

Charity Workers Take Mayor Blankenburg's View That Appropriation Was a Mistake.

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hold.

Charity workers said today that the \$0,000 appropriation of municipal funds for teller of the unemployed, first agitated Iwo months ago by Councilman John P. Connelly and other Organization leaders as a rive-election appeal, which is finally available by Mayor Blankenburg's signature; will not solve the problem.

The Mayor Daued, at the time of signing the measure, a statement relterating his opposition to the principle of giving public money as alms to relieve suffering and declared he signed the bill merely to demonstrate the futility of such ap

pliention of public funds.

He repeated his belief that the municipal revenues should be used in creating work for the unemployed on permanent public betterments. public betterments.
"I approve it because it has not been declared illegal by the t'ity Solicitor," he

Within a few hours after the Mayor signed the measure four of the leading tharitable organizations of the city is-

such a folia statement declining to place their facilities for investigation and dis-tribution at the disposal of the Emer-gency Aid Committee in distributing the

The four societies requiring their co-peration and their representatives sign-ing the statement are the Home Mission-sry Society, Arthur Warner; the Union Jonevolent Bociety, G. C. Purves: the United Hebrew Charities, Max Hersberg, and the Society for Organizing Charity, Stevens Heckscher. The Emergency Ald Committee, through

The Emergency Ald Committee, through which the money is to be expended after being appropriated to the Department of Health and Charitles, includes in its membership a number of Philadelphia society women. Headquarters of the committee, which had planned to use the belilties of the established organizations or charity in distributing the \$50,000, are at 1428 Walnut street.

THE MAYOR'S STATEMENT. Mayor Blankenburg, in his statement, commends the motives of the members of the Emergency Aid Committee, but

"Municipalities should increase their public works so as to give employment to the greatest possible number of those who would ordinarily be employed in private enterprises.

"The money of the city is money raised by taxation, and should be devoted to purely public purposes and not distributed in charitable relief through any private agency, however worthy.

"In times of distress, citizens who are tiessed with more of this world's goods than is absolutely necessary for their well-being should increase their obaritable contributions, even to the point of denying themselves luxuries and comforts which they would otherwise be justified in enjoying." CHARITY WORKERS' STATEMENT.

The heads of the charitable organizations refusing their co-operation with the Emergency Aid Committee repeated their

opposition to the appropriation.

In part their statement said:

"We would deem it unwise to take part in the administration of public moneys. We think that the Emergency Aid, the churches, charitable organizations, om-players and individuals can, by co-opera-tion and the support of a generous public, meet the present situation without city funds, and can quietly and efficiently administer to the individual needs of each

administer to the individual needs of each case as necessity requires.

"Of the first 700 applicants to the Emergency Aid, 800 were already under the care of existing charities. We believe that the experience gained in administering the 12000 fund will show it to be unwise for Councils to make further appropriations for relief. Large appropriations should be made for public improvement, as other cities are doing, thereby giving real work to the unemployed at real wages."

The heads of a number of established organizations for charity have opposed the municipal appropriation since it was first suggested, and several days ago a representation called on Mayor Blankenburg urging him to veto the bill.

The leaders of the charitable organizations say the municipal appropriation is a bad precedent, attracts dependents to this city, tends to diminish the contributions to the societies from private sources and otherwise cripples ther work as well as increases their burdens.

FIRE OPPOSITE STATE CAPITOL HARRISBURG, Dec. 17. — Fire this morning damaged three upper floors of the Harrisburg Masonic Temple, opposite the main entrance to the Capitol, to the extent of \$10.000. Two ledgerooms and the quarters of Pilgrim Commandery, No. U. Knights Templar, suffered most.

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast WASHINGTON, Dec. II.
For eastern Pennsylvania and New
rest; Fair tonight and Friday; not
sure change in temperature; moderate
fresh west winds.

Treats west winds.
The temperatures are slightly lower this mains in the Ohlo basin, upper Michiga in the Ohlo basin, upper Michiga in the Ohlo basin, upper Michiga and portions of New England, while important there has been a moderate but eneral constion to warmer. Along the middle Atlantic slope the rise has been been been been a death of degrees, but in the northern middle Ministers, but in the northern middle Ministers, but in the northern to 10 degrees. The great of the high feedures area to over Indiana, and no rised change in temperature is indicated that the castern portion of the countries for the castern portion of the countries has excurred in the Lake term the seathern Fains States, souther Pares and southern California.

U.S. Weather Bureau Bolletie

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin

44

COUNCILS GETS ESTIMATES

Demands Are \$6,500,000 More Than Probable Revenue.

ON 1915 MAINTENANCE

Councils received today the recommen dations of the Finance Committee on the enance of city and county departments Seventeen of the county office budgets were passed by Councils at the session

hast Thursday.

City Controller Walton says the total available revenue of the city will be \$11,173,000 during 1915. The requests from municipal and county branches for 1915 have reached a total of \$3,000,000.

In the secret sessions of the Subcom-

in the secret sessions of the Succommittee on Appropriations items in the budget estimates have been slanked, municipal departments receiving principal attention. Mambers of the Finance Committee contend that Hems aggregating \$1009,000 are for permanent improvement and should be mot from the loan fund. The city departments saked for amounts surregaring \$15,255,156 for 1915. This year hey received \$15,745,250.

per fal session next Tuesday and the work following to pass all budgets for maintenance of the county and city depart-ments and the ordinances authorizing the \$11,300,000 municipal loan.

DEVICES TO SAFEGUARD TRAVEL ON "L" ROADS

Interborough Manager Thinks Inventions Will Prevent Collisions.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 .- A safety device, hich will render collisions on electrically perated rallroads practically impossible, and another that will eliminate danger of are in the event of a wreck in which wooden cars figure, are being experimented with by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, according to the testimony given by Frank Hedley, general manager of the company, before the Pub-lle Service Commission, which is now investigating two recent L-road wrocks. Mr Hedley said after the first wrock. in which two persons were killed and about 30 injured, he had hit upon a de-vice by means of which any passenger or guard on a wrecked train could turn off the power at the substation by press-ng a button and thus prevent the short incult, which is the cause of fire. The second device is intended to prevent two rains approaching very closely, except at rate of speed which would cause no amage in case of a smash-up. The witness believed that wooden cars

had some advantages over steel cars, absorbing the force of a collision more readily; whereas, he said steel cars might be thrown to the street. He also expressed the belief that the operation of

train from the fourth instead of the ret car was safe in an emergency. "Mr Hedisy," said Chairman McCall. I don't believe you can ever make us believe there is the proper degree of safety in that kind of operation."

\$36,000 FOR TWO SCHOOLS

City Receives Annual Appropriation From State Department.

An appropriation of \$35,000 was received today by City Treasurer William Mc-Coach from the State Department of Public Education as the sum paid annually by the Commwealth toward maintaining the Philadelphia Normal School for Girls and the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy. The appropriation is morged with the general school fund.

FIGHTS COLD STORAGE BILL

C. F. Droste Denies There Is a Butter and Egg Monopoly.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Charles F. Droste, president of the New York Mercantile Exchauge, appeared before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of any in opposition to the McKellar bill, limiting the period of cold storage and foodstuffs. He denied that there was any monopoly of the butter, egg or poultry business. "It is the most wide open competitive scramble in America," Mr. Droste de-diated.

ciared.

N. Y. DEMOCRATS AROUSED

Send Word to White House Urging Harmony.

WASHINGTON, Dec. II - New York State Democrats, it was said today, had sent word to the White House that unless patronage rows between the Administration and Senator O'Gorman were quickly settled harmonious action by the Democratic party in New York State in 1916 would be impossible. Representative Smith, of New York, to-

day conferred with President Wilson over the rejection of the nomination of John D. Lyon as United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. He told the President frankly what New York Democrats thought about the sit-uation and that most of them were in-clined to uphold Senator O'Gorman in his figlit,

ASSESSMENT COST \$48,471

1259 Assessors Paid for Work by County Commissioners.

Assessment of voters in the 1750 election divisions of the city has been completed, and the assessors today made their returns to the County Commissioners.
Each assessor received \$35.50 for his work, payments being made by the Commissioners today. The total amount paid the 1250 assessors was \$45,471.50.

BETTER APPARATUS FOR FIGHTING FIRES ASSURED TO CITY

Reforms Will Be Result of Investigation Conducted by National Board of Underwriters.

Pressure exerted on Councils to correct crious mefficiency of Philadelphia's fireighting system promises to effect reforms after a series of alarming dis-

closures made through investigations. As soon as a printed statement, presared by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and summarizing the defects, is placed before Councils, that body will take action to provide adequate

protection for the city.
This assurance was given by Common Councilman John P. Connelly, chairman of Councils' Committee on Finance, to of Councils Committee on Finance, to Chairman Busch, of the committee on Municipal Affairs of the Board of Trade, and to J. H. Howland, engineer of the Fire Trevention Committee of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, following three days' conferences with Mayor Blankenburg and other city officials. The printed statement will be prepared within

week. Mr. Howland's mission in Philadelphia was to awaken Councils and other officials to the gravity of the situation. Before he left today he expressed himself as encouraged by the conferences and promises. As a sequel to the visit, Director Porter ill have tests made of sections of thich have been in service for more than

The visit was occasioned by complaints of insurance companies said business men, who contend that the system is defective and that if a great fire should once make headway it would sweep the city. Insurance rates in the central part of the city are exceptionally high, and, on the other hand, he insurance companies may true that the risks are yet too great. maintain that the risks are yet too great The fire department has improved since 1911 in the installation of some mo-tor-propelled apparatus and the establishment of drill instruction," said Mr. Howland. "But comparatively little has been accomplished toward carrying out the more important recommendations of

the more important recommendations of our organisation, the object of which is to prevent large fires.

"For example, the ladder service is very weak and additional engine companies and hose companies are needed. The fire alarm system is defective; the box circuits are heavily overloaded, and the underground system should be extended. Higher water pressure and larger mains are necessary, and the excessive per capita consumption of water ought to be stopped. These are some of the most be stopped. These are some of the most important features that require immediate and favorable consideration. "The total amount of hose in service

"The total amount or nose in service here compares very favorably with that in use in New York and other large cities. But 40 per cent. of the hose is more than five years old, which of itself indicates that there is a feature of unreliability there that should be corrected. A great many hoses have burst at fires, and regularized the older here have not here. ar tests of the older hose have not here

LIVE WIRE HELD MAN FAST Six Men Had to Work Hard to Release Lineman.

POTTSVILLE, Dec. 17.—Morris Werner, a lineman, mounted a pole, a dozen squares away from the scene of the fire today, looking for "wire trouble."

He came n contact with a live wire and was held fast on the pole until a half-dozen other linemen supplied with rubber gloves came to his rescue. It re-quired considerable effort to release him from the electric current's embrace. is unconscious and in a critical condition

CITIZENS BETRAVED

ASSERT COMMUTERS

Continued from Page One state Commerce Commission on De-cember 97 "2. Did not your Commission adopt

this scale of revision as the basic of your final order?
"4. Why were the hearings in Philadelphia necessary, and did you con-sider the teatimony taken there in ar-riving at your final conclusion? "5. Wasn't it a violation of your cath

of office to give private hearings to intigants in a case before you? "A How did you conclude from the evidence that the Pennsylvania Railroad, still paying 6 per cent. dividends, and the Reading Railway, still paying 29



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WRIST WATCHES

FOR MEN

New thin models, assorted straps.

Adopted by Officers of the Army and Navy

Practical and convenient.

Chestnut Street

per cent. dividends, needed more in-FIRE DESTROYS BIG BLOCK IN POTTSVILLE

individual commissioner ass George Datine Dixon, or any other agent of the Continued from Page One the fire was discovered the entire square Pennsylvania Railroad, prior to the

was a roaring binge. promulgation of the order of December 12.

'S. How many private hearings or meetings were held with railroad officials or their agents prior to the public announcement of the commission's order of December 12? Where were these meetings held, how many meetings transpired, who was present and what was said?

'S. Why were not counsel for the Sparks were carried for a distance of half a mile and burning pieces of wood a foot in length, were hurled through as air and dropped on the roofs of buildings within a radius of several

The flames spread rapidly from the The flames spread rapidly from the Woolworth store, occupying the leased P. J. Ferguson building, and the Academy of Music and Union Hall were next to go. They were a mass of ruins within a half hour. The Cowen drug store was then attacked by the flames, and next the hat store of C. W. Mortimer, both being burned to the ground.

These buildings were all about the Woolworth, where the blaze had its origin. "3. Why were not counsel for the commuters invited to attend these private hearings? "10. How did your commission arrive at the conclusion that it was fair and

"(a) That 100-trip tickets should be origin.

CHRISTMAS STOCK DESTROYED. "(b) That 115 cents per mile should Just to the north, the fire jumped to be the basis of computation for the 100-trip tickets?

"(c) That the ten-trip tickets be based on a 2-cent-a-mile computation instead of 2% cents, or 30 per cent, of a single fare charge? the largest department store in Schuylkil County, that of J. Mienle & Son, In-corporated.

This, with its immense Christmas

school tickets should be good for 70 days in addition to date of maue?
"(e) That no action should be published regarding the abolition of worklished regarding the abelition of workmen's tickets, package tickets, round-trip excursion tickets or the 50-trip tickets good for one year?

"(f) That the 60-trip monthly tickets should all be advanced approximately on a 25 cents per station basis?

"(g) That the 40-trip school tickets should all be advanced approximately on a 25 cents per station basis?

The jewelry store of W. H. Mortimer and the tailoring establishment of W. H. Warmkessel and the dental quarters of a 30 cents per station basis?
"11. Why was it necessary for the railroads to receive advance information

Warmkessel and the dental quarters of Dr. J. T. Flaig were also damaged to the extent of thousands of dollars. The properties of John Lagun, a res-tauratour; Mrs. Herman Rabens and Wil-liam Reiff were also badly damaged. The big business firms will claim 80 per cent on their stock alone from insur-ance companies, it is said. of the commission's final order?
"12. Why was it necessary for the railroads to file new schedules before "13. To what conclusion did you come relative to the claim of improper post-

'14. Did you consider the evidence The Pennsylvania National Bank is also destroyed. On account of the great heat all overhead wires were melted and teleinting to collusion? the Philadelphia rates and limitation of privileges, when it was admitted that New York commuters from New Bruns-wick and intermediate stations are graph and telephone and electric wire poles have fallen, together with the walls of the doomed buildings.

walls of the doomed buildings.
This made it hazardous for the firemen to fight the flames and several of
them had narrow escapes. Many industrial establishments are unable to work
because their machinery is run by elecprivileged with a 10-trip family ticket good for one year?" Seek Assurance of Snow's Removal tricity, all power being cut off tempor-Local newspaper plants, which depend

A delegation of business men from the vicinity of 52d and Market streets called on Director Cooke today requesting that snow-removal work of the city this winon motor power, have been hard hit and experienced great difficulty in getting out their editions. The fire had its origin in the same building where about a year ter be extended to include several blocks on each of those thoroughfares. The Di-rector told the delegation an effort will ago the Woolworths had a heavy loss during the holiday season. be made to comply with their request.

MURPHY'S STORY READ AT HIS TRIAL FOR FISHER MURDER

Accused Man Causes Excitement in Court and Refuses to Have Anything to Do With His Counsel.

MT. HOLLI, N. J., Dec. 17 .- Repeatedly with a alise and umbrella and hid them along the Taylor's Lane road. I guess I had been the top of the taylor's Lane road. I guess I along the Taylor's Lane road. I guess I had been the taylor's Lane road. I guess I along the Taylor's Lane road. I guess I glore the Taylor's Lane road. commenting on the testimony given by refused to have anything to do with his me he was some to see his girl. I knew that was at Wilhsim's house. I waited they had anybody coming along them. I had nothing on my mind about Herman. Nobody brella along the Taylor's lane road, just where he had told them he had left them on the day of the murder, and mentioned that a letter addressed to Ella Goldy, of Camden, was among the contents, Murphy called put:

"Phat letter was not taken from my coat pocket at all. What's the useo f lying about it that way. I never told Powell no such thing."

Sheriff Jordan testified that after the umbrells and suitcase containing Mur-phy's clothing had been brought to the jail the prisoner was shown the con-tents.

Jordan, Prosecutor Atkinson and Clifford R. Powell, stenographer, said before Mur-R. Powell, stenographer, said before Mur-phy made his confession he was warned that anything he might say volunarily would be used as evidence against him. After a legal battle over the admission of the confession, Justice Kadisch ruled that, as it was voluntary, it was accepti-ble as testimony, and it was read by Assemblyman Robert Peacock, who is assisting the prosecutor. It covers 19 pages. In it Murphy said: In it Murphy said:
"About three or four years ago I was

> Have a Real Santa Claus in Your Home Give the Kiddles a real treat. Santa Claus costumes, wigs and beards to hire, reasonable.

RELIANCE CO.

run over by a wagun, and ever sloon I have been bothered with pains in my head. I get spells and don't knew what I am doing. On Saturday my head began burting and I didn't know what f was doing. If I killed Harman Fisher I didn't know what I was doing then. I didn't know what I was doing then. I didn't know what I was doing them. Two days before that I had a spell, got the gun and hid it in the woods and left it there until I used It. I waited for Herman slong the like of the fence. When he came along I pulled the trigger, I did. I had such a spell that I could have pulled the hair out of my own head. When I was going home with the gun I met George. Herman's brother, and my common sume seemed to come back.

"I went home with the gun, got a revolver and went out with him to bunt for Herman. I knew what had become of Herman, but didn't tell him. We found the body. That afternoon I started out with a alise anyd umbrella and hid them along the Taylor's Lane road. I guess I

ing on my mind about Herman. Nobody knew I was going to do it. I just got up, and shot, but heard nobody come along, it just happened to be Herman was lit. I had three shells and shot twice. Every-

thing I say is true."

Many other things of minor importance and already brought out by witnesses were included in the confession.

Fire in Baltimore Factory BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.—Fire in the showcase factory of F. X. Ganton, South Baltimore, caused \$10,000 damage this norning.

Useful Christmas Gifts PERCOLATORS . CHAFING DISHES

FIREPLACE FIXTURES The Prices are Not High and the

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