



SCENE AT SENATORIAL COMMITTEE'S HEARING TODAY ON THE RAPID TRANSIT QUESTION



The photograph was taken this afternoon in the chambers of Common Council. In the foreground John P. Connelly, chairman of Councils' Finance Legislative Committee, is addressing Chairman Edwin H. Vare, who is fourth from the left in the central row of seven State Senators. At the left end of this row is Senator McNichol, sitting next to Senator Patton. Occupying chair at the end of this row are Director A. Merritt Taylor, with thumbs in armpits, and Director G. W. Norris, who is writing on a pad in his lap. Others who may be noted are W. Clayton Hackett, E. E. Beidleman, Charles J. Magee, H. M. Kephart, Marshall Phipps, Richard V. Farley, Augustus F. Dix, Jr., and Horace W. Schantz. Seated at the president's desk are W. W. Smith, Owen B. Jenkins and Clarence Buckman.

RUSSIANS DRIVE FOE OUT OF LODZ AND INSTERBURG

Important Bases in Poland and East Prussia Lost by Kaiser — French Admit Argonne Casualties.

German evacuation of Insterburg, in Northeast East Prussia, and Lodz, in East Central Poland, are reported in dispatches from Petrograd. Residents are fleeing from Insterburg, capture of which gives the Czar a foothold 35 miles inside the East Prussian border and brings the column driving on Koenigsberg 60 miles from the provincial capital. Loss of Lodz deprives the Kaiser of a fortified base of supplies in the Poland campaign. The German staff is reported at Kaunas, just inside the Poland border from Silesia, whither stores and ammunition have been hurriedly removed.

THE WEATHER



FAIR

Perhaps, now, you thought you were going to have a winter afternoon. Well, you were right. This winter stuff is only a dash in the pan. It's going to be very warm again. How do we know? We don't. It's all up to Mr. Bismarck, who says the thermometer is 44 in Chicago, 40 in Pittsburgh, and that 25 is entirely too low for Philadelphia under these circumstances. Which is just another indication of the dominance of these western cities. But with Philadelphia as the world's greatest city, we can afford to yield precedence on such small matters as temperature and other climatic details. Anyway, we suppose it is going to be warmer. To tell the truth, we do not mind a bit. Writing on the weather has one compensation at least. It's much easier to knock than to be knocked.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity: Fair today and tonight. Much warmer this afternoon and tonight. For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia

Table with 2 columns: Time and Temperature. Rows include 5 A.M., 8 A.M., 11 A.M., 2 P.M., 5 P.M., 8 P.M., and Maximum and Minimum.

Almanac of the Day

Light to be lighted: 6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. (except on days when the moon is full or new). Lamps to be lighted: 6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

45,000 STORM TABERNACLE FOR FAMOUS SERMON

Sunday's Topic, "Amusements," Draws Record Crowd—"Billy" Preaches a "Double Header."

More than 40,000 persons, anxious to be among the first to hear "Billy" Sunday deliver his famous sermon on "Amusements" in Philadelphia, stormed the tabernacle between noon and 1 o'clock today and confronted the noted evangelist with a task which only one of rare vitality and quick judgment could accomplish. Scenes of excitement seldom before witnessed in this city were being enacted outside the big wooden temple as men and women clamored for admission, although every seat in the place was occupied and hundreds of persons stood. Police were being sent to the tabernacle posthaste when Sunday, after leaving the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, who he had addressed 20 society folk, heard of the outpouring of Philadelphia. Forty-four persons, mostly women, fainted in the crush. They were treated in the tabernacle hospital. He had a glass of milk for luncheon. "I'll see you later," he said to callers, and in a few minutes was on his way to the tabernacle.

GERMANS EVACUATE INSTERBURG IN PRUSSIA

Battle on 50-Mile Front Centres at Lasdehnen.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 11.—Dispatches received here from Berlin say it is rumored there that the Germans have evacuated Insterburg, East Prussia, and that the inhabitants are fleeing in panic before the Russians. Insterburg is an important town of about 22,000 population, 35 miles from the Russian frontier. It is less than 60 miles from Koenigsberg. Germans and Russians are locked in battle over a front of 50 miles stretching southward from the Memel River. The heaviest fighting is now in the district about Lasdehnen. This town is now held by the Russians, but the German front is in the form of a half circle, west of Lasdehnen. On the plain between the Memel and the Schuppel the Germans have dug six rows of trenches that can be taken by assault only with heavy losses.

OTHER WAR NEWS ON PAGE 4.

REPORT RESOLUTION TO PROBE PENROSE ELECTION

Senate Will Act on Committee Recommendation Tomorrow. (FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Senator Kern today reported the resolution providing for an investigation into the elections of Senators in Pennsylvania and Illinois and other States where fraud is believed to have been in the election.

Vare Urges Immediate Action on Transit and Election in April

State Senator Edwin H. Vare, in an official statement, indorses the Taylor transit plan today. He advises immediate action by the Finance Committee of Councils to report favorably the \$30,000,000 transit loan measure. He wants Councils to pass these bills calling for a special election. He wants this election to be held in April. Senator Vare's statement follows: "Last night, at a meeting of my friends in the Finance Committee of Councils, as well as my friends in the Senate from this city, it was agreed that the best way to clear up this situation would be to pass immediately the \$30,000,000 transit loan, give Director Taylor about \$5,000,000, which would be all he could properly spend this year, and then go to Harrisburg and pass the amendment, which would give about \$60,000,000 more for transit and port projects. This \$60,000,000 could also be used immediately after the election this fall, when approved by the voters. "The balance of the \$30,000,000 loan, which is \$22,000,000, and other available moneys on hand at present, as well as the \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 each year that could be borrowed on the present 7 per cent. basis and used for other permanent municipal improvements, would come very near meeting all requirements. "The Taylor plan will, in the end, have to be approved by Councils, and later if Councils found any parts of the Taylor plans were not advisable they need not be approved, and the money for those not approved need not be borrowed. "After all, the entire plan, or any part of the plan, is up to Councils to approve, reject or change. Unless there is a better proposition made, this will be our stand. "Under these conditions, I shall urge an early meeting of the Finance Committee, so as to have the election as early as possible in April." Senator McNichol was immediately shown the statement issued by Senator Vare. He was asked whether he would announce that he also would favor an April election. He declined absolutely to make any comment upon the Vare statement or to define his position.

GANG ORDERED FROM COURT

Tenderloin Habitués Too Much Interested in Accused Assailant's Case. A stir was caused at the hearing of Jacob ("Reddy Jake") Melnicoff, the Tenderloin gang leader, in Magistrate Renshaw's Court today when, upon the application of Charles Edwin Fox, Assistant District Attorney, the Magistrate ordered 25 tenderloin characters from the courtroom. Mr. Fox declared that these men and others have followed him for three days, ever since the affairs of Melnicoff, now under parole, have taken a new turn. Melnicoff was held in 1909 for court on a charge of assaulting and stabbing "Young Jack" Hanlon on the night of November 29, 1914. The hearing followed the action of Judge Barrett earlier in the day of refusing to sentence Melnicoff as a parole violator, he holding that the stipulation banishing the gang leader from the city is illegal. The hearing was interrupted frequently by wrangling between the attorneys and the objection of Senator Samuel Salus, Melnicoff's lawyer, to Hanlon giving testimony. Hanlon caused a surprise when he repudiated the affidavit he had signed in the District Attorney's office yesterday to the effect that Melnicoff stabbed him. He said today that he did not know what he was signing.

BRIBE TAKING LAID TO COP

Witness Says Special Officer Accepted \$300 Vice Money. A special policeman of the 12th and Pine streets station was accused of accepting \$300 to permit the reopening of a disorderly house at 400 South 9th street he previously had raided, before the Police Board of Inquiry today. The policeman is David McBeth. He and Martin E. Lyford, the other special officer of the 12th District, were brought before the board on charges of false arrest made by Samuel Merino, a tailor, of 330 Dixon street. Michael Pennella, of 727 Christian street, a witness for Merino, caused a sensation by declaring McBeth had repeatedly sent him to Merino with offers of money to drop the false arrest case. He then declared he had paid money to the special policeman to reopen the house. Three instances were cited by Pennella, in the first of which he said he paid McBeth \$50, and in the second \$100. He did not name the sun paid the third time, but declared the arrangements were made in the saloon of Victor Hamilton, a Washington party leader, in Lombard street, and in the presence of Hamilton. The case was continued because a woman named Rose Persons, wanted as a material witness, was not present today.

HARBOR CHOCOLATE WORKS BURNED

HATBORO, Pa., Feb. 11.—The American Chocolate Company's mills at Fulmer station, a half mile south of Hatboro on the New Hope division of the Reading Railway, were destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock this morning. The origin has not been learned, but the flames are believed to have started from an over-heated stove. The loss is \$25,000, partly covered by insurance, according to Elmer E. Brede, the treasurer, who lives at 216 North Broad street.

M'NICHOL YIELDS APRIL TRANSIT VOTE, THREATENING SUIT

Charles Seger, at Public Hearing of Senate Committee, Agrees to Hold Early Meeting of Councils' Finance Committee and Act Favorably on Bill. Obstructionists' Chief Fight is Made in Attempt to Divert Increased Borrowing Capacity to Municipal Improvements Other Than Transit and Port.

Confusing complications in the rapid transit situation came late this afternoon in the hearing before the State Senate Committee on Municipal Affairs in City Hall. They were: Charles Seger, chairman of Councils' sub-committee on Finance, promises that the ordinance providing for the special election to vote on the transit loan would be reported favorably to the next meeting of Councils. This would insure an April election and an actual start on transit construction this summer. Senator McNichol threatened to test in the State Supreme Court the constitutionality of the act allowing the city to borrow on the personal property assessment, upon which the proposed transit loan, to be voted upon at a special election, was to be based. Director Norris replied to the suggestion of Senator McNichol to test the constitutionality of the personal property act by declaring that the Supreme Court in 1913 had approved the large municipal loan largely on the greater borrowing capacity allowed by increased personal property assessments. Director Norris read the following from the decision of the Supreme Court: "Our reason for now passing on this question is that it is sure to arise again in the near future." Senator McNichol, however, still insisted that the Supreme Court should again pass upon the matter. CITES JOHNSON'S OPINION. Mr. Norris further said: "No lawyer in Philadelphia will say there is anything questionable in this act, and, furthermore, the people will know that a bill introduced to question this act is introduced for no other purpose than delay." Here the audience in the Council chamber broke out into loud applause. McNichol then asked Norris if he had obtained an opinion from John G. Johnson, Norris replied to the contrary, and McNichol then said: "Well, we have heard from him so strong a statement that the committee is inclined to consider whether this act is constitutional." David H. Lane, Republican City Chairman, denounced the Senator as a demagogue and, shaking his fist at him exclaimed: "Hah, Hah, Hah!" Director Taylor, prior to Senator McNichol's threat, voluntarily agreed to ask for \$6,000,000, instead of \$30,000,000 at the special election, provided he was given assurance that the pending amendment to the State Constitution providing for increasing the city's borrowing capacity from 7 to 10 per cent. be not amended so that the money might be used for purposes other than transit and port. John P. Connelly chairman of Councils' Finance Committee, attempted to shift the responsibility from his own shoulders and those of the Organization for holding the special election ordinances in "pickle" since January 7. Connelly said that the Taylor transit plan would be on a paying basis after a term of years. Seger said that Councils' Finance Committee would meet either Monday or Tuesday of next week to consider the ordinance providing for a special election to authorize the \$30,000,000 transit loan. Seger said the Finance Committee would report the ordinance favorably at the next regular meeting of Councils, Thursday, February 18. CONNELL TRIES TO SHIFT BLAME. That he was responsible for the long period of delay and inaction on the part of Councils' Finance Committee was vigorously denied by Chairman Connelly, who shifted the blame for the delay upon the City Controller in reporting the status of the municipality's finances. While the concrete question before the Senate committee was consideration of the proposal to amend the pending amendment to the State Constitution so that the funds accruing to the city from increasing the borrowing capacity from 7 to 10 per cent. could be applied to projects other than transit and port development. Concluded on Page Five

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—On Saturday evening, February 6, 1915, a black and white dog, about 12 months old, was lost near 12th and Pine streets. Reward, \$10.00. If found, please call at 1212 N. 12th St.