

MACLAUGHLIN WILL BAR 'RED TAPE' IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT WORK

Law or Incomplete Inspection Will Not Be Permitted When He Takes Charge as Director

PRaises NEW CABINET

This is the second of a series of interviews with the new Directors selected by Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith, concerning their plans for the administration of their departments.

Law or incomplete inspection of supplies, and "red tape" will be the first targets of the new Director of the Department of Supplies, Joseph S. MacLaughlin. The new Director, selected by Mayor-elect Thomas B. Smith to head this important branch of the city's government for the next four years, today outlined his plans for the conduct of the work, with which he is familiar because of his former connection as assistant director of the department.

His aim is to give a progressive, economical and business-like administration of the Department of Supplies, said Mr. MacLaughlin. "It is common with the other members of the new cabinet, I believe, that this administration has a golden opportunity to make Philadelphia a better place for everyone, a modern city that will not be lagging behind others in any respect."

It is a little difficult to outline plans for the department before actually taking the job, but from what I know of it I would say that two of the most important necessities are a measure to expedite the handling of small accounts and a better system of inspection.

WANTS QUANTITY AND QUALITY. I intend to give strict attention to the inspection of supplies, to see that the city gets both quality and quantity for the money expended. No matter how small the specifications may be, if supplied, they must be furnished in accordance with them, the city is bound to be improved in these two respects. Nothing destroys open competition so quickly as a lack of rigid inspection.

It is obvious that when a contractor places the inspection will not be thorough and vigilant, he may bid below a fair price in order to get the contract and endeavor later to make his profit by the use of shoddy materials. When the trade sees a contract go at a price that it knows is below the market value, other contractors withdraw from the bidding and competition is destroyed.

WILL URGE CHANGES. The matter of getting away with red tape in the small accounts of the Department is looked upon by the new Director as one of the most important tasks he is facing. This will be a matter for legislative action, and he probably will introduce a bill to bring about the desired changes.

It was pointed out by Mr. MacLaughlin that under the present laws it is impossible for any body of a big public office to run that office in exactly the same way he would run a private business. Certain methods of meeting certain contingencies are prescribed by law. The office holder has no authority to do otherwise.

In the case of small accounts, this means that it costs the Department of Supplies just as much in office expenses to handle \$20 worth of meat as it does to place a contract for a half million dollars. That is more important, it means an enormous waste of time every week.

There are measures that can be taken to bring the attention of the Legislature, said Mr. MacLaughlin, "to expedite small business matters. As the work now conducted small claims must go through the same procedure as the large accounts. This has, in the past, brought the department in for severe criticism from many merchants not familiar with the legal conditions surrounding city contracts."

TO OVERCOME DELAYS. If the Legislature gives the director discretion in these matters many of these delays can be overcome. The result would be beneficial not only for the merchants but also for the city, as it would save money for the department and would enable the expeditious handling of the city's business in that department.

Mr. MacLaughlin, like the rest of the cabinet, puts himself on record as "thoroughly in accord with the policies set forth by Mayor-elect Smith." He believes the new Mayor has picked out a cabinet that should accomplish great things. In his opinion, the new directors are united in every way to work together.

For two years under the present administration Mr. MacLaughlin was assistant director of the Department of Supplies. He also was assistant director of the Department of Public Works under the Bayburn administration, and is familiar with city affairs. He is a lawyer, was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and was admitted to the bar in 1908. He has been assistant park commissioner and assistant city collector.



JOSEPH S. MAC LAUGHLIN

UPPER WISSAHICKON MAY NOT BE OPENED TO AUTOS

Plan to Use the Sugar Loaf Road to Obviate It

It is expected that at a meeting of the Fairmount Park Commission late this afternoon Theodore Justice will offer a resolution calling for a survey and an estimate of the cost of opening Sugar Loaf road to obviate any necessity for the opening of Upper Wissahickon drive to automobiles. The two roadways traverse practically the same section, and it is said that the Sugar Loaf road would answer the purpose of automobiles in that section of the city.

The question of opening the Upper Wissahickon drive, which has aroused so much adverse comment from persons and associations anxious to preserve the natural beauties of the driveway, can only be raised through a discussion of the protests received during the month. Jesse Vodge, chief engineer of the Park, and the official instructed to make a survey of the drive, together with an estimate of the cost of the change, has not completed his work, and if any report on the subject is made it will be a tentative one and not one that could be acted upon at this time.

TILEFISH GAINS FAVOR

Dealers in Seafood Report Increasing Popular Demand

The tilefish is becoming a popular fish in Philadelphia, according to the testimony of dealers in seafood in the Reading Terminal Market, who say they have had quite a large demand for the fish of late. The tilefish has been on sale in the Reading Terminal Market for the last month.

The Commissioner of Fisheries at Washington has been boosting the tilefish of late, and has been praising its edible qualities. The tilefish is known scientifically as the lopholatilus chamaeleleon, but in order to buy some of the meat it is not necessary to know the scientific name.

The tilefish was thought to have been exterminated, and it is only recently that the Commissioner of Fisheries has determined that they had "come back" in sufficiently large numbers to be of commercial value.

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WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PHILADELPHIA? ASK E. J. CATTEL

He Will Be Retained as City Statistician by Mayor-elect Smith

This is E. J. Cattell's birthday anniversary. Nobody knows how old he is except Mr. Cattell himself, and he admits that he isn't quite sure. In fact, nobody cares how old he is in years, because Cattell the man and the personality is so young that his time on earth is seldom recorded.

It may be necessary to assume that there are in Philadelphia a few individuals who have never heard or seen or read about him. It is, therefore, here explained that Edward James Cattell is city statistician. But that title is so inadequate as to be almost useless. Mr. Cattell is a statistician, and some people believe he is one of the best in the country, but he exercises many functions, officially and otherwise, through which he is known throughout Philadelphia and the rest of the United States.

Not the least important is his record as one of the best amateur baseball players in Philadelphia. In the summer he plays at least once a week, and whenever a business association needs a team that will fetch a champion from another club, he is the man to call. He is elected an honorary member. The next step is to make him captain of the baseball team. It has been said that Cattell has played in games in which he has not made a home run, but if there were such real instances they have been proverbially few and far between.

HAS SPOKEN AT 5000 BANQUETS. The role in which he is most widely known is that of after-dinner speaker. In the last 15 years he has spoken at 5000 banquets in all parts of the United States, England and France. As he was cutting his birthday cake at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel today, he remarked:

"I have been making speeches ever since I was a boy a hundred years ago. I have even been known to talk in my sleep. Sometimes the audience has been very tolerant and sometimes indignant, but in less charitable circles they have proven the efficacy of carols for other than eating purposes by actual demonstration."

The fact is that Edward James Cattell—he refuses to be called Doctor Cattell in spite of the fact that at least a half dozen universities have given him the right—in one of the most enthusiastically applauded orators in America. At more than one banquet he has been carried about on the shoulders of the diners, like a football hero after a Thanksgiving Day contest. To enumerate all of the organizations that have elected him honorary member after hearing him speak would be a usurpation of space



Photo by Gutzman. "HOW OLD IS E. J.?"

in the news columns that should be devoted to the European War. It may be sufficient to say that if you want to know anything about Philadelphia that is worth while knowing, you can consult Edward James Cattell, in his office on the second floor of City Hall; that if you belong to a Sunday school, a commercial organization, have ever attended commencement exercises or dedication ceremonies and don't know Edward James Cattell, your education is lacking as much as if you were never enrolled in a primary school.

Cattell physically is as much a marvel as Cattell mentally. His ruddy face and white beard would make him a graceful figure in any ballroom or at any official reception in Washington. He has never declined an invitation to make an address because of ill health. He has never denied himself a single meal because of indigestion, and he has never failed to eat at least some part of a dinner at which he has been a speaker.

Unlike many men of prominence, he does not attribute his health to careful self-discipline. He refuses to hold him-

self up as a model for youth to follow, and admits that he is a heavy smoker, that he sometimes smokes more than is good for him, and that more than once he has eaten mince pie before retiring.

It is so with his personality. It would be impossible to describe him thoroughly and definitely. He is so versatile in his talents and has a nature that is so variant and adaptable that to call him one thing or characterize him in any one way would be to misrepresent him. If he is anything more than another he is Edward James Cattell, optimist extraordinary.

He will be retained as statistician by Mayor-elect Smith for the next four years. Mr. Smith made an announcement to that effect yesterday, declaring that he had "been an asset to the Blankenburg administration and I want him to be an asset of mine."

FINDS WIFE DEAD ON FLOOR

Asthma Victim's Lifeless Body Discovered in Gas-Filled Bathroom

Mrs. Minnie Sloan, for 15 years a sufferer from asthma, was found dead on the floor of the bathroom of her home, 218 North 11th street, early today. The room was filled with gas when her husband, John Sloan, a plumber, broke down the door. They had been out walking last night, and Mrs. Sloan was in good spirits when they retired at 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Sloan had said nothing about suicide, although in the past she had often complained that the suffering from her chronic illness made life unbearable. At 3 o'clock this morning her husband missed her and searched the house. He noticed the odor of gas and suspected that it came from the bathroom. His wife had been dead several hours.

Six Strike Pickets Arrested

Six persons stationed at the Rosenau Brothers shirtwaist factory, 31 street below Market, as pickets during the strike which has been called at that plant, have been arrested accused of raising a disturbance, and are held in jail for further hearing. They are Mary Blitstein, Cecelia Rubenstein, Elizabeth Bartoo, Clara Golden, Isaac Gardich and Benjamin Rubinstein. The arrests were made last night and preliminary hearings were given the prisoners at the night court.

NOW "BILLY" IS BACK!

Biked It to Rahway, N. J.—Read the Tale!

Fourteen-year-old "Billy" Framley wanted to go to New York. Not to see Broadway—this he stoutly denies—but to visit friends. So, without saying anything to his relatives, he left his home on Tasker street above 7th. He hired a bicycle and was ferried over to Camden. That was Monday.

Today he was brought to this city from Rahway, New Jersey, which is about 13 miles from Newark and 20 miles from New York. He faced Henry P. Richardson, superintendent of the House of Detention, rather shamefacedly. He declared that he didn't care a hang about seeing his friends in Gotham, and pleaded to be allowed to remain forever at home.

He said that he "biked" from Camden to Burlington, from there to Trenton, and thence to Rahway. When almost within sight of his goal he was arrested by suspicious constables at the last place. He slept at farmhouses the two nights he was on the road. He admitted that he had attempted to reach New York once before, but the first attempt was by walking. He gave it up in disgust when he reached Burlington and returned to Trenton.

Will Organize Arms Workers

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 8.—Announcing that he came to this city solely to organize the machinists employed in the plants making munitions, Charles Gehl, of Washington, arrived in town this morning. None but the men employed in the six factories engaged in making war supplies are to be visited according to Gehl, who declares that he simply wants to strengthen the union.

Dollar Scarfs for Xmas Gifts

Thousands of new, rich, heavy, beautiful silks at this popular price. A tremendous stock of special Christmas neckwear.

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Centemeri Gloves. Finest Quality French Kid, 16-Button, \$3.50. There is nothing a girl appreciates more than a pair of Long Gloves—Centemeri for choice always. Xmas selections will be packed in an XMAS BOX FREE. Delivered Anywhere—Any Day. Our Gloves Are Always Exchangeable. 1223 Chestnut Street.

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Put a smile in your holiday buying! It isn't alone the tiresome rush and bustle of down-town; it's the saving of time and trouble which makes the Bell Telephone the way to shop.

You've a gift list—daily newspapers and your telephone directory will give you stores—and your Bell Telephone completes the circle for early—and easy—buying! To-day—and every day—Use the Bell. Image of a woman talking on a telephone.

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