

DATESMAN FACES BIG PUBLIC WORKS TASKS AS HEAD OF BUREAUS

Smith's Choice for Director Says Greatest Project Next to Transit and Water Is Sewage Disposal

WOULD RUSH PARKWAY

He Asks Tolerance and Support When He Takes Up Reins of Office

This is the third in a series of interviews with the new Director of Public Works, appointed by Mayor-elect Smith, on his plans for a greater Philadelphia.

Three or four days after his appointment as the new Director of the Department of Public Works, George E. Datesman, now first assistant engineer in the Bureau of Surveys, has a grasp on his new job that affords a good idea of what kind of a director he will be. In a half-hour conversation for which he had made no preparation, Mr. Datesman touched briefly on every one of the six bureaus in the department he will head under the Smith administration.

Mr. Datesman, with his present chief, George S. Webster, is proof of the statement that the appointive lightning struck twice in the same place. Like that of Mr. Webster, his appointment is conceded generally to be non-political. Throughout the country engineers are holding these two appointments by the Mayor as the most signal recognition ever given technical men in the history of the city.

The Department of Public Works will be the biggest job in Philadelphia within the next four years, with the possible exception of Rapid Transit. It will control the expenditure of a large part of the \$20,000,000 loan and other loans that will be made later. Mr. Datesman's basic plan is to be decided when he delivers his statement to the Evening Ledger. He is not in touch with the action of the city against the Philadelphia Electric Company, and hence does not discuss that phase of the activities of the Department of Public Safety.

SETS FORTH HIS VIEWS.

That the suit will go on, however, is indicated by Mr. Datesman's suggestion that in its present state it will take care of itself. He looks upon his future policy in regard to Philadelphia electric as something to be decided when he delivers his statement after assuming office. The statement on other matters follows:

"I am placed somewhat at a disadvantage in speaking of the accomplishments hoped for in the Department of Public Works during the coming administration, in that there remain many very important matters for consultation and determination before the present administration retires, assignments which will engage my attention and the attention of Morris L. Cooke, the present Director.

"We live in a metropolis which during the last few years has been rapidly advancing from the formative to the progressive stage. When the municipal value and benefits to be derived from the so-called luxurious in municipal life, they will be most insistent in their desire for a broader outreach to satisfy their appreciation of civic improvement in the way of better street developments, progressive civic centres, commanding public buildings, rectified and sanitary streets, harbor improvements, superior water supply, transit facilities and everything which makes for a better municipal life.

"Development plans have been progressive according to present-day ideas, but the expansion in the municipal plan proposed, and the greater borrowing capacity, new and enlarged plans for development will be required.

PROBLEMS TO FACE.

"In the Department of Public Works the Director must cope not only with the problem of providing enlarged water supply, but year by year the problem of maintaining and renewing large pumping units is more insistent.

"New and improved pavements made necessary by the great increase in automobile traffic, especially heavy trucking, are being brought out and tried to meet these new conditions. The extension of improved street pavements, renewal of old, are classed as one of the greatest of the public works, because with them the whole public comes in contact. Efficiency in the collection of garbage, ashes and in street cleaning must be maintained because the people consider that the department in this regard is the servant of the individual.

Comprehensive plans for the development of the city plan upon lines which obtain in many foreign cities have been formulated and demands are now being made for consummation, as a campaign of education has convinced a number of progressive builders that it will be not only artistic, but also profitable to operate on these new wide streets.

"The parkway and boulevards must be completed with a rush. The expansion of transportation must be opened up through the built-up portions of the city. The center of the main traffic north and south to one avenue (Broad street) is an anomaly that would not be tolerated in the centres of any of the world's great capitals. New and wide avenues for this increased traffic must be opened up at an expense which may appear to be, at first sight, prohibitive, but which will, when opened, by reason of increased tax-revenue, return to the city not only the first cost, but a handsome profit for all time, provided they are financed in accordance with the plans which have been so successful abroad and in some of our other American cities under beneficent legislation.

EXPANSION IN BUILDING.

"The expansion in the building business which must precede the actual construction of the Rapid Transit lines, will very much increase the activity in the building of other even more monumental bridges than those now built in other American cities under comparable topographical conditions.

"It makes no difference to the use whether it brings down a big tree or a little. Same with us on orders—big or little—it's all in the day's work!

Edward F. Henson & Co. Structural Lumber and Timber Poplar St. Wharves, Phila.



GEORGE E. DATESMAN Who will be Director of Public Works in Mayor-elect Smith's Cabinet.

sewer building, for models of which this city has been long famous. While these structures are buried from the sight of the public, builders will say that they are one of the greatest assets of the city, because without them there is no development, with them their first cost is returned and continuing value is collected by the city.

"The greatest project, in my view, next to those of providing adequate water supply and means of rapid transit, is that of the sanitary collection, treatment and disposal of the sewage of the city. In European cities, on account of the more concentrated populations, smaller streams for water supply and the necessity of safeguarding public health, sewerage treatment and sanitary disposal are absolutely necessary to make the cities livable. American cities have been prodigal of their natural water supplies, but they must be conserved by avoiding the discharge of crude sewage into our rivers. This can be accomplished by collecting, treating and purifying it as far as may be before returning the liquid portions to the rivers. What follows sewerage treatment will be the rectification of our river banks, the metamorphosis of public dumps into pleasure drives and parking areas, so striking to the visiting American in European cities. This one thing is eventually to become one of the greatest assets of the people at large, comparable only with the pleasure, comfort and health which thousands of our people derive from our own inimitable Fairmount Park.

"The city of Philadelphia has for years been making consistent progress in the matter of abolishing grade-crossings, and in today the leading American municipality in its accomplishments in this regard. Bigger demands, however, are now made, plans formulated, contracts being entered into to change the whole face of the country in South Philadelphia, to enlarge the harbor facilities and railroad terminals, which will permit of the construction of a new city on modern lines in the southern section which will be a model of its class. The removal of these grade-crossings with others is essential, and can be consummated in a large measure with the funds to be provided from the proposed loan.

"The solution of a very old problem, hitherto unsolved, that is, the development of the southern section of West Philadelphia, should receive my most earnest consideration, as I have pronounced ideas that if carried out I feel sure will enable this part of the city to develop satisfactorily and creditably in comparison to other sections not laboring under its physical disadvantages.

"Probably few subjects in municipal development have engaged the attention of inventors and scientists of recent years more than that of improving and developing, both by gas and electricity, the art of lighting. This art is undergoing changes which are revolutionary. Municipalities must be in advance of these matters, and must look forward to making extensive expenditures. Those who know realize that the impressions of a visitor to a city are largely controlled by the appearance it presents in the matter of effective illumination.

"The interests of the public always appear to me to be personal in the matter of public buildings. Therefore, good housekeeping, proper repairs and effective service are required in this direction. The small parks and market houses involve problems along the lines of sociology, for in them the department comes in close contact with the great mass of the people. Civic betterment associations and those interested in housing are giving much thought to improvements and have and will no doubt render help.

"Just a glance over the public works enumerated above should convince the public that a man in the position of Director of the Department of Public Works should be deserving of their tolerance and support, instead of condemnation for every shortcoming which may be unavoidable."

ROBINSON TO KEEP HIS POST AS HEAD OF THE CITY POLICE

Captain Davis, His Present Subordinate and Prospective Superior, Intercedes for Superintendent

CAMERON LIKELY TO GO

Superintendent of Police James Robinson will be retained in his present position by the incoming administration, but several captains and lieutenants are slated to either go or be demoted, according to the gossip in political circles around City Hall.

Captain of Detectives Robert D. Cameron, who was appointed to that post by Director Porter, is persistently mentioned as one of the first victims of the political guillotine. Although he is regarded as one of the most efficient heads the Detective Bureau ever had, the rumor is current that Captain Cameron incurred the displeasure of "Dave" Lane by moving out of his ward.

Of late the report circulated about City Hall that Lane has reconsidered his objection, and that Cameron would be retained. In the event that Captain Cameron is removed, Detective Frank O'Connor is mentioned as his successor. O'Connor is a close personal friend of the Mayor, besides being one of the best detectives on the staff. When the rumor of Captain Cameron's removal first flashed through City Hall, several aspirants immediately began "pulling strings," but thus far O'Connor is regarded as the "best bet."

Police Captain, Nicholas J. Kenny is also mentioned as having incurred the disfavor of the powers that be. But, like Captain Cameron, he is eligible to a pension and does not seem agitated over the rumor.

To one political deponent, who regarded the foregoing rumor as absolutely correct, this question was put: "Were not repeated assertions made that the police would be kept out of politics?" He smiled, winked one eye and turned on his heel.

At first the report was circulated that Superintendent Robinson would be displaced. But when Mayor-elect Smith announced that William H. Wilson and Captain Harry C. Davis would be Director and Assistant Director of Public Safety, respectively, all doubts of Robinson's retention were dispelled. The police chief has for many years been a personal friend of the Mayor. He is also very friendly with the next Director of Public Safety, but the friendship between the Superintendent and Captain Davis is regarded as inseparable. Davis' promotion to captain by Director Porter was at the request of Robinson. Immediately upon his promotion, desk room was given to Captain Davis in the inner office at police headquarters, and in the absence of Superintendent Robinson, Captain Davis was regarded as the acting head of the Police Department. It is rumored that even before his appointment as Assistant Director of Public Safety, Captain Davis, upon learning that several candidates for police chief were trying to undermine Robinson, personally called upon Mayor-elect Smith and requested that his friend be retained. This display of loyalty for his superior officer is said to have been responsible for Captain Davis' appointment as Assistant Director.

"Prosperity" Theme at Banquet

"Prosperity" was the theme of all the speakers on the occasion of the banquet given by the Association of Manufacturers' Representatives of Philadelphia to the wholesale grocers of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, at the Bellevue-Stratford last night. More than 200 persons were present. E. E. Betteiman, president pro tem. of the Senate, spoke, as did former Governor Tener and E. J. Cattell.

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Aged Woman Dies of Heart Disease Mrs. Anna McCarthy, 73 years old, of 3204 East York street, died early today from heart disease in a room at her home. Mrs. McCarthy had been in ill health for six months.

Columbia May Sail for Panama Today The scout cruiser Columbia, which has been fitted out, will probably leave League Island today for the Isthmus of Panama, where she will be the flagship of Admiral Grant.

Lodging Dwellers Flee From Fire BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Dec. 8.—Property loss estimated at from \$75,000 to \$100,000 was caused by a fire which early today started in the hardware store of Lyon & Grumman, gutting the four-story building and almost completely wiping out small adjoining stores. One fireman was overcome by smoke. Lodgers in a house east of the building made their escape after the discovery of the fire, as it was feared for a time that the hotel would catch fire.

Beautiful Christmas Gifts. STORE CLOSES 6 P. M. FILL THE VAN SCIVER STORE TO OVERFLOWING. We Offer a Display Remarkable for the Extraordinary Variety and Number of Individual Articles Suitable for Christmas Giving. This Roomy Store Makes Shopping a Delight. Prices as Always, Exceptionally Low. Arm Chairs, Clothes Trees, Sec'tary Bkcs, Sideboards, China Closets, Electric Lamps, Desk Chairs, Children's Chairs, Hall Racks, Umbrella Stands, Smokers' Stands, Hall Mirrors, Muffin Stands, Tabourettes, Serving Trays, Music Cabinets, Fire Screens, Wood Baskets, Scrap Baskets, Sofa Beds, Table Scarfs, Cedar Chests, Writing Tables, Library Tables, Piano Stools, Mantel Clocks, Davenport, Box Couches, Andirons, Fire Sets, Bureaus, Sofa Cushions, Bed Quilts, Tea Tables, Lace Curtains, Couch Covers, Portieres, Table Leathers, Carpet Sweepers, Oriental Rugs, Rush Seat Ro'k's, G'd't'r Clocks, Dressing Tables, Chiffoniers, Marble Figures, Framed Pictures, Japanese Baskets, Fld. Card Tables, Sewing Tables, Piano Benches. Carpet Size Gift-Rug Specials: \$48 Royal Wilton, \$35 Seamless Wilton Velvet, \$20 Tap. Brussels, \$12. Extra Gift-Rug Special: 67 Seamless Wilton Velvet Rugs, one size only, 8.3x 10.6; perfect goods; Oriental patterns. Regular \$32, Special \$19.75. Small Royal Wilton Rugs Reduced: Good selection in choice Oriental patterns; perfect goods; broken lines and discontinued patterns account for the great reductions. Reg. \$5.00 quality, \$8.00. 27x54 in., \$2.95; 36x63 in., \$4.75. THIS COLONIAL PEDESTAL fluted column and scroll base; top 13x13 inches, height 35 inches, choice of mahogany finish or quartered golden oak, \$6 value, \$3.75. OTHER PEDESTALS, \$2.50 to \$12.75. Ladies' Desks: 145 different patterns. Oak, Mahogany, Walnut, Maple, White and Ivory Enamel, \$6.25 to \$98.00. Take Market St. Ferry from Phila. Goes direct to Van Sciver's, Camden, N. J.

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