

BETTER, RICHER CITY, BLANKENBURG LEGACY TO INCOMING OFFICERS

Despite Parsimony of Adverse Councils, Improvements of Vast Magnitude Have Been Made

SOUTH SECTION HELPED

When Mayor Blankenburg on Monday announced the terms of office to his successor it will be with satisfaction resulting from the knowledge that, despite the parsimony of an adverse Council, he and the members of his cabinet have achieved more in the nature of permanent municipal improvements than any previous city administration.

The closing year of his administration marked the start of the great rapid transit improvement, which when completed will place Philadelphia in the forefront of American cities, in so far as transit facilities are concerned. This undertaking, because of its immensity, stands out prominently, but it is by no means the only municipal project started in the last 12 months that will result in lasting and far-reaching benefits to the more than a million and a half residents of Philadelphia.

SAID SOUTH SECTION. The section of the city that perhaps will benefit most directly than any other through work done in 1915 is South Philadelphia. The start of work on the elimination of grade crossings, work on the Southern boulevard, the widening of the water supply line to make living conditions south of Market street more bearable.

The achievements of the Blankenburg Administration during 1915 are so closely allied with achievements in the earlier years of the administration that it is difficult intelligently to separate those that by reason of their magnitude overlap a number of years. This fact is instanced in the present budget system in use in all departments at the present time is taken into consideration. The regular system has been operative for some time, and its efficiency was most clearly shown during the present year. The same is true of the system of specifications for receiving and awarding bids, which makes correct awarding of contracts a matter of course.

One noteworthy piece of legislation to become effective this year was the bill forcing an increase in interest payments by banks on city deposits. Already this piece of legislation enacted in March, is being attacked by members of Councils, who are working to have the lower rate restored.

The paving of South street and Chestnut street with white block was completed comparatively recently, and important progress has been made on parkway work. Development work is under way at Cobb's Creek Park, the Northeast Boulevard and the Southern Boulevard, Leasague Island Park and in many less important public projects.

The elimination of grade crossings in South Philadelphia and in Northeast Philadelphia is a project of long standing, and by reason of agreements now becoming effective between the city and the railroad corporations.

Recently the fine municipal pier at Dock street was completed, and work is under way on the Loyalism pier. Other waterfront improvements planned during the year are left to be completed by the incoming administration.

A new sedimentation basin at the Torresdale water works has been planned, while the water system has been extended and modernized to a point little dreamed of by the men in charge of this branch of the city's government a few years ago.

A new water pipe system has been laid in West Philadelphia and in South Philadelphia, and the pipes for the subway in the center of the city have been located.

The new housing code and reforms in treatment of congested districts have become effective. The Municipal Hospital for contagious disease and general care of the indigent has been reorganized and other improvements have resulted from the administration during the year.

As a legacy to the incoming officials, Mayor Blankenburg and the members of his cabinet leave a city that is better equipped and plans for improvements made impossible until this time through the lack of Councils' co-operation.

MULFORD STOCK 'A WAR BRIDE'

Drug Company's Shares Advance 100 Per Cent.—Big Profits Made in Serums Sales

Philadelphia investors have uncovered a new "war bride" in the H. K. Mulford Company, the shares of which have advanced a full 100 per cent. in price since last spring.

Sales of this closely held stock were made at auction Wednesday at 35. Yesterday 90 : as paid for it in the "outside" market, and the quotation at the close was 90 bid leave 85 asked. Only a few months ago the stock could have been purchased at \$5 a share. There is now spirited demand for it at the much higher price.

The company is reported to be making extraordinary profits as the result of the war due to the great demand and the large increase in price for drugs, serum and antitoxin products in which it specializes. Current profits are understood to be running so high as to be equivalent to 100 per cent. on the outstanding stock, which would mean more than \$1,500,000 per annum. For the 12 months ended December 31, 1914, the company had \$284,067, after charging off for depreciation, etc., so that present profits show a full \$1,500,000 above the 1914 results.

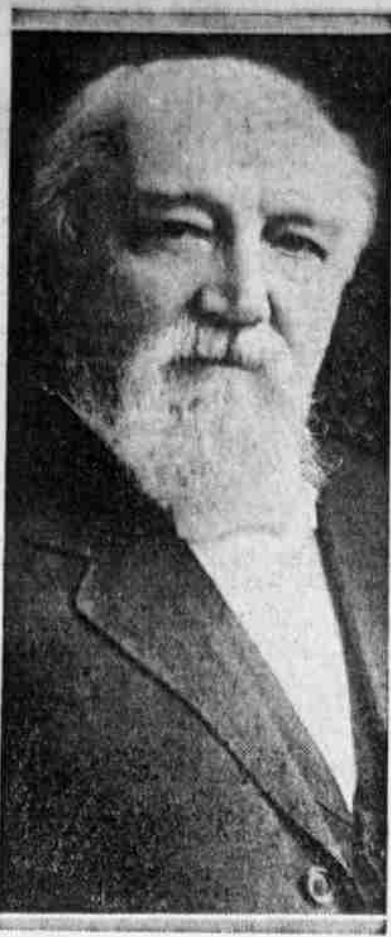
The employees of the company shared in the general prosperity. Every employee who has been with the company for a year or more received a full week's pay on the payday before Christmas and every employee of six months or more and less than a year received half a week's pay as a Christmas present.

At the close of 1914 the company was exceptionally well established as a financial position, showing a surplus of \$1,000,000; cash on hand of \$7,500 and accounts and bills receivable and inventories of more than \$1,500,000. From the fact that the earnings for this year have increased four times higher than those of 1914 its present financial position above this time last year may be imagined.

Two years the company has been paying 8 per cent. dividends, and on December 15 paid a special extra dividend of 10 per cent., thus distributing more than \$150,000 among the stockholders. It was stated yesterday that in view of the extraordinary profits, the company some time early next year may declare a stock dividend. Milton Campbell is president of the company and H. K. Mulford is vice president. They also are directors and the rest of the board includes E. V. Pechin, Edward J. Durban, L. P. Faust, C. K. Haywood and H. H. Whyte. The company was incorporated in 1891.

Three-mile Fence at Powder Plant. TAMMQUA, Pa., Dec. 31.—The Atlas Powder Company is placing a wire mesh fence, six feet high and three miles long, around its plant south of town. After the fence is completed guards will be stationed at frequent intervals in order to prevent the plant from intruders.

REWARDS NOTICES. Reward for information leading to the arrest of the following persons: John J. ...



HIS LAST DAY Mayor Blankenburg, from his most recent portrait.

POPE SAYS END OF WAR DEPENDS ON ENTENTE

Pontiff Quoted in Interview as Putting Peace Up to Allies

ROME, Dec. 31.—The Tribuna prints an anonymous interview with "an exalted personage" in which Pope Benedict XV is quoted as saying:

"If the Entente powers were willing peace negotiations could begin tomorrow."

The author of the interview declared that the Pontiff gave utterance to that expression a few days after the recent consistory. At the same time Pope Benedict said he was determined to continue his efforts for peace despite their fruitfulness to date.

The Pontiff was credited with the statement that the Central Powers had subscribed their willingness to accept mediation by the Vatican, but the Papal overtures were rejected by England, France and Russia.

The Tribuna's informant said that Cardinal von Hartmann had come to Rome from Germany as a peace emissary at the time of the consistory, and went so far as to offer Pope Benedict the presidency of the peace congress. Cardinal von Hartmann also brought word to the Vatican that he had secured assurances from Turkey that the persecution of Christian Armenians would cease.

Emperor Franz Josef, of Austria, sent word that Austro-Hungarian troops would respect Roman Catholic places of worship everywhere and would see that no damage befell them.

RETIRING PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD OFFICIAL HONORED

Assistant Purchasing Agent G. H. Grone Recipient of Gifts

After 35 years in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad, George Henry Grone, assistant purchasing agent, today celebrated his last day in his present position. He will leave tonight for New York, where he will engage in what he terms "commercial business."

The office of Mr. Grone was filled with flowers presented by friends as a token of their esteem and appreciation for his services. In addition to this the retiring official was presented with a silver tea set by fellow workers in his department.

The set was presented by Samuel Forcher, purchasing agent, on behalf of the other employees. Mr. Forcher has been associated with Mr. Grone for many years in the service of the company. The farewell gifts this morning were in the nature of a surprise to Mr. Grone, who responded briefly, especially as the members of the department's baseball team last week gave him a splendid signet ring for the active interest he took in the athletic affairs of the department.

Mr. Grone was born at Harrisburg on April 23, 1881. He received his early education in the public schools and Eyster's Military Academy, of Harrisburg, and later pursued further studies in the public schools in this city.

He entered the service of the railroad on June 15, 1897. On May 1, 1894, he was appointed assistant chief clerk of stationery and printing in the purchasing department, and on June 1, 1900, he was promoted to chief clerk of stationery and printing. Two years later, in 1902, he was appointed chief clerk of the purchasing department; assistant to the purchasing agent in June, 1905. He received his last promotion on October 1, 1909, when he was made assistant purchasing agent, which position he will hold until tonight.

Tamaki Miura and Pavlowa Tonight. The farewell appearance of Anna Pavlowa and the Imperial Ballet Russe, in conjunction with the Boston Grand Opera Company this season, will be made at the Metropolitan Opera House this evening and tomorrow afternoon and night.

"Madame Butterfly" with the Japanese prima donna, Tamaki Miura; Ricardo Martin, Thomas Chalmers and Elvira Leonov, and "Snowflakes," with Pavlowa, will be given tonight.

A special matinee is presented tomorrow afternoon, with "L'Encole en Crimine," Puffenfee (the Fairy Doll) and divertissements. In the evening "Pagliacci," with Maggie Teyte as Nedda, Zenitillo as Canio; George Baklanov as Tonio, and "Coppelia" will conclude the bill.

Norwegian Ship Sunk by Mine. LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Norwegian steamer Risi, of 1215 tons, from Charleston for Gothenburg, with a cargo of oil casks, has been sunk by a mine. The crew was saved.

Advertisement for Crescent Compound roofing, featuring a diagram of a roof and text: 'Your ROOFS Are They Leaking? TRY Crescent Compound. It is reliable and economical. Let our experienced workmen give you an estimate without charge. We do all other kinds of roofing. Real Estate Roofing Co. 2343-2345 Wallace St. Tel. 1-1000-1001. 127-1289-1000-1001-1002'

MAYOR BLANKENBURG GRATIFIED BY CITY'S RISE FROM PARTISAN MIRE

The effort to give Philadelphia a business administration, free from partisan politics, has been as successful as, with many obstacles encountered, even the most sanguine could expect. Faithful observance of the merit system in the civil service has been of material help in the good accomplished. The results are before us and I am sure politics will never again strangle any earnest effort to give our city honest, efficient and progressive government.

Success has been largely due to the spirit of comradeship and mutual helpfulness between all city departments, from the highest to the humblest department officials. This spirit, fostered and continued, will constitute one of the most promising assets for future growth and advancement.

To my successor, the Honorable Thomas B. Smith, I wish, through the EVENING LEDGER, all possible success in the arduous work before him. In this wish, I am sure, all citizens of Philadelphia will heartily join. To him and his administration, Godspeed! If I can, at any time, be of service to Mayor Smith, I am at his command.

RUDOLPH BLANKENBURG, Mayor.

AUSTRIA BACKS DOWN IN REPLY TO UNITED STATES DEMANDS

Continued from Page One. fired 18 shells at the steamer, of which thirteen succeeded in hitting the steamer only stopped after the third hit, whereupon the commander ceased firing.

Approaching nearer, the commander of the submarine said that a great panic prevailed aboard the steamer and that he had before him the passenger vessel Ancona, an account of which he gave those aboard more time than was necessary to leave the vessel in lifeboats. At least ten lifeboats were still aboard, which would have been more than sufficient to rescue the persons still on the vessel, but as no other preparations were made to hasten out the boats, the commander decided, after the expiration of 45 minutes, to torpedo the vessel in such a manner that it ought to remain afloat for a still longer time in order to buy sufficient opportunity for the people still aboard to be rescued.

Shortly afterward a steamer became visible, which steamed toward the submarine. As the commander of the submarine, who believed the steamer to be an enemy cruiser, had to reckon with an torpedo, he submerged at 12:35. Rins a torpedo into the foremost cargo hold of the Ancona. No more boats aboard the vessel were lowered, although persons were still visible aboard.

The steamer sank so slowly that the submarine commander at first doubted whether the steamer would sink. Only at 1:20 o'clock did it sink, bow first.

CREW BLAMED FOR LOSS OF LIFE. During these further 45 minutes, it is averred, all the persons aboard could have easily been saved with the available boats. From the circumstances that this did not occur, the commander concluded that the crew, contrary to all rules of the sea, accomplished their own rescue in the first boats and left the passengers to themselves.

The entire loss of life, the note sets forth, cannot be attributable to the first instance to the sinking of the vessel, but in some degree to the dropping of the first boats while the steamer was proceeding at full speed and to the fact that the crew only thought of their own safety and did not rescue the passengers from the capsized boats, though also to the shells which hit the vessel.

But the death of the persons drowned with the sinking vessel must, above all, be ascribed to the culpable behavior of the crew.

The Austrian reply then states that the American note in several points is based on incorrect suppositions, and describes as incorrect statements that a shell was at once fired, that the submarine, on pursuit, overtook the steamer, that only a short time was allowed for those aboard to enter the boats and that several shots were fired on the steamer even after it had stopped.

The commander of the submarine, the note repeats, allowed the steamer more time than was necessary for the passengers to take to the boats, and then torpedoed the vessel in such a manner that it would remain afloat as long as possible to enable the passengers to disembark.

"An object which would have been attained if the passengers had not been forsaken by the crew."

"Fully appreciating the attitude of the commander who had in view the rescue of the passengers and crew," says the note, "the Austro-Hungarian naval authorities have arrived at the conclusion that he apparently neglected to take sufficiently into consideration the panic among the passengers, which rendered disembarkation more difficult, and the spirit of the regulations that Austro-Hungarian naval officers should refuse assistance to no one in distress, even an enemy. The officer was, therefore, punished for violating the instructions embodied in the rules in force for such cases."

"The Austro-Hungarian Government must suppose that the Washington Cabinet is able and willing to communicate to the Austro-Hungarian Cabinet the necessary information referring thereto. But the reply declares that the Ancona did not stop when signaled to do so, but tried to escape, which caused the submarine to open fire.

The reply holds that some parts of the United States note were based upon incorrect information. It was assumed here that the official text of the Austrian reply would be under consideration by President Wilson and Secretary Lansing on Friday, and that the Austro-Hungarian Government would know by the middle of next week in what spirit it was received by the Washington Administration and the American people.

WASHINGTON GRATIFIED AT VIENNA CONCESSIONS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31. There will be no break with Austria. Danger of a severance of diplomatic relations between Austria and the United States is past. Austria has "substantially" complied with United States demands regarding the Ancona case.

This was the official, authoritative and virtually unanimous view taken in Washington today. It lacks only the final approval of President Wilson, after he reads the Austrian reply. Further reaching concessions made by Austria, but only on minor points regarding reparations for American lives.

The chief issues are met by Austria. The Austro-Hungarian Government has shown a desire to make a severance of relations with America impossible. The Austrian reply also bears out dispatches from Vienna and Berlin that Austria would meet the American demands and go as far as possible to preserve peaceful relations.

The three demands of the United States, disavowal of the Ancona's sinking while passengers were still aboard, punishment of the submarine commander and reparations for American lives lost, officials declare, have been in effect granted by Austria.

Officials were especially elated over the fact that Austria went even further than the United States demands—by giving assurances for future conduct of her submarine warfare according to international law.

This, in the State Department officials' opinion, is the most important and far-reaching concession made by Austria, a pledge even more definite than yet secured from Germany for legal conduct of submarine warfare. The Austrian assurances apply to all "enemy" ships that come direct from the Austrian Government, while the only pledge from Germany is the note of Ambassador Bernstorff, and that is applicable only to "liners."

The President is not expected to insist to the point of an open break upon specific and definite disavowal of the Ancona attack. Officials hold the view that Austria has substantially disavowed the act of its submarine commander by admitting he erred in torpedoing the vessel while passengers were still aboard and ordering his punishment for this dereliction. This officials regard as substantial disavowal by repudiation of the commander's act.

The probable effect upon Germany and the Lusitania case was also regarded as of importance. Popular German sentiment is believed to have delayed full settlement by Germany of the Lusitania case. Now Germany's ally has subscribed to international law in conducting her submarine warfare, presumably backed by Austrian public opinion, it is hoped the way is cleared for similar action by Germany.

ZWIEDINEK THINKS REPLY WILL SATISFY WASHINGTON. WASHINGTON, Dec. 31. Baron Zwiedinek, Austrian representative in the United States, believes the Austrian note on the Ancona, the official text of which was made public today, will satisfy the demands of the United States.

"I sincerely hope and trust that our reply will convince the United States that we wish to abide by the principles of humanity and to do the utmost to be fair in dealing with the United States," he said.

"I have felt all along that the Austrian reply would be just. Of course, I could not attempt to forecast the action of the Vienna Foreign Office. But knowing the character of my people I have never doubted in my heart what their action would be."

Although Baron Zwiedinek would not say whether he considered the note satisfactory to the State Department, the impression gained at the Embassy was that he believed so.

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CHESTER E. ALBRIGHT. Eminent civil engineer named to succeed George S. Webster as Chief of the City's Survey Bureau.

SURVEYS CHIEF NAMED

C. E. Albright Will Be Head of Bureau—Other Appointments

With the approval of Mayor-elect Smith, the new Director of Public Works, George E. Dateman, has announced that he will appoint on Monday Chester E. Albright as chief of the Bureau of Surveys. Other appointments made public include four real estate assessors and a clerk of Common Pleas Court No. 5.

George W. Geesey, of 1234 Girard avenue, for many years a tipstaff in Common Pleas Court No. 5, has been named to succeed Harry W. Mace, as clerk of the court when Mace leaves on Monday to become assistant Director of Health and Charities.

BONUS FOR EMPLOYEES

Oppenheim, Collins & Co. to Distribute \$15,000 to Workers

Employees of Oppenheim, Collins & Co. will receive about \$15,000 today, and the firm carries out its profit-sharing plan. At 3 o'clock each of the 225 employees of the Philadelphia store, Chestnut and 13th streets, will be handed an envelope containing his or her share in the bonus.

The plan is a comprehensive one, embracing all six stores, located in New York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Newark and Cleveland. By making the requisite period of employment as little as three months, an opportunity is given virtually all employees to share in the bonus. At the same time, length of service is most important in determining the amount of each one's share, so that in many cases the older employees, although they may be holding minor positions, will receive the maximum amount.

Mother and Son Buried Together. A double funeral, that of mother and son, who died only four hours apart, was held today from 5383 Manton street. The death occurred on Wednesday, James T. Killion, 45 years old, the son of tuberculosis, and his mother, Mrs. Mary Killion, 68 years old, of pneumonia. They were buried together in Holy Cross cemetery.

George Randolph Chester. has made this story, "In Pursuit of Pyrramine," a delightful bit of high finance. Woman's intuition versus man's acumen—the stake a million dollar war order.

"Little Lady Cut-In" January. Hearst's Magazine. —and "The Story of Susan Lennox" by David Graham Phillips.

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"I would rather own his God-driven pen than Rockefeller's and Morgan's combined fortunes."—Thomas W. Lawson.

Advertisement for Thomas W. Lawson's book 'God-driven Pen', featuring a portrait of Lawson and text: 'Think of it! A pen worth more than the wealth of the richest man in the world! Do you believe such a thing possible? Here is the word of Thomas W. Lawson. Others equally eminent confirm his judgment. Read all about it in SUNDAY'S PUBLIC LEDGER.'

Advertisement for The United Gas Improvement Co., featuring an illustration of a man in a suit and text: 'A Bright New Year! "U. G. I." Service ushers in 1916 with promise of bright gas light to lend its nightly cheer to Philadelphia homes. We invite you to use this service freely—we consider it a privilege to serve you. The United Gas Improvement Co.'