

CONFRONTED BY ITS GREATEST DEFICIT SINCE '79

Municipal Financiers See Shortage Between \$4,000,000 and \$6,000,000

RETRENCHMENT OR TAX? One of Two Methods Needed to Solve Vexing Problem

The city of Philadelphia is beginning the year 1916 with an operating deficit in its system of finances greater than any which city financiers have had to face since 1879.

The causes of the present deficit, according to officials in City Hall, are many and cumulative, but the immediate results and the solution of the problem for the future are in the hands of the Mayor, the City Controller, the Finance Committee of Councils and others who control the city's budget.

In plain figures, as shown in the Controller's annual report, the current expenses of the city for 1915 were considerably more than \$2,000,000 greater than the total of the various revenues for the same year.

It is estimated by members of Councils Finance Committee that the expense of running the machinery of the municipal government for 1916 will exceed the known revenue by an amount varying from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000.

The problem therefore is: How shall the city's books be made to balance? There are only two solutions offered.

The first is to prune salaries, retrench in all incidental expenses of the city and county departments. This is the theory, it is admitted, could be done, but it is not a practical solution, the city authorities all agree.

The other solution is then to increase the city's source of revenue. This is the theory, it is admitted, could be done, but it is not a practical solution, the city authorities all agree.

Although the 1915 Legislature passed enabling legislation to permit an increase in the city's borrowing capacity from 7 to 10 per cent on taxable property, which translated in terms of dollars means about \$7,000,000, this additional borrowing capacity is available only for permanent public improvements, and for the present it is limited to transit and port improvements.

Further, it has been the policy of the city officials to meet current expenses from current revenues. In other words, the various city departments must be self-supporting and loans shall be floated only for permanent public improvements.

The law was then fixed so that debts should be paid as they accrued. For years there was no difficulty in doing this, as the city's income met the city's expenses and there was a balance to be applied to permanent public improvements.

But from January 1, 1912, to September 30, 1915, when the Controller made his annual budget statement, instead of a balance for public improvements, loan moneys to the amount of \$1,318,672.22 had been required to meet current expenses of the departments.

With this amount likely to increase each year the city authorities at the beginning of the Smith regime found themselves facing unexpected obligations of upwards of \$2,000,000, due to a decision of the State Supreme Court. The Court in a Pittsburgh case held that all the loans taken for city purposes at once became a debt upon the city in as far as their purchase price is concerned. This decision makes it possible for the Courts to issue mandamus against the city for amounts involved in the respective transactions.

Under a recent order of Controller Walton no mandamus are being paid. But they are entered against the city and are being interest at 10 per cent, which is generally satisfactory to the holders of the mandamus.

No mandamus will be paid until a mandamus fund is provided in a councilmanic bond, which is authorized until the exact amount of the city's borrowing capacity is ascertained and the financial problems facing the city's financiers have been solved, at least in part.

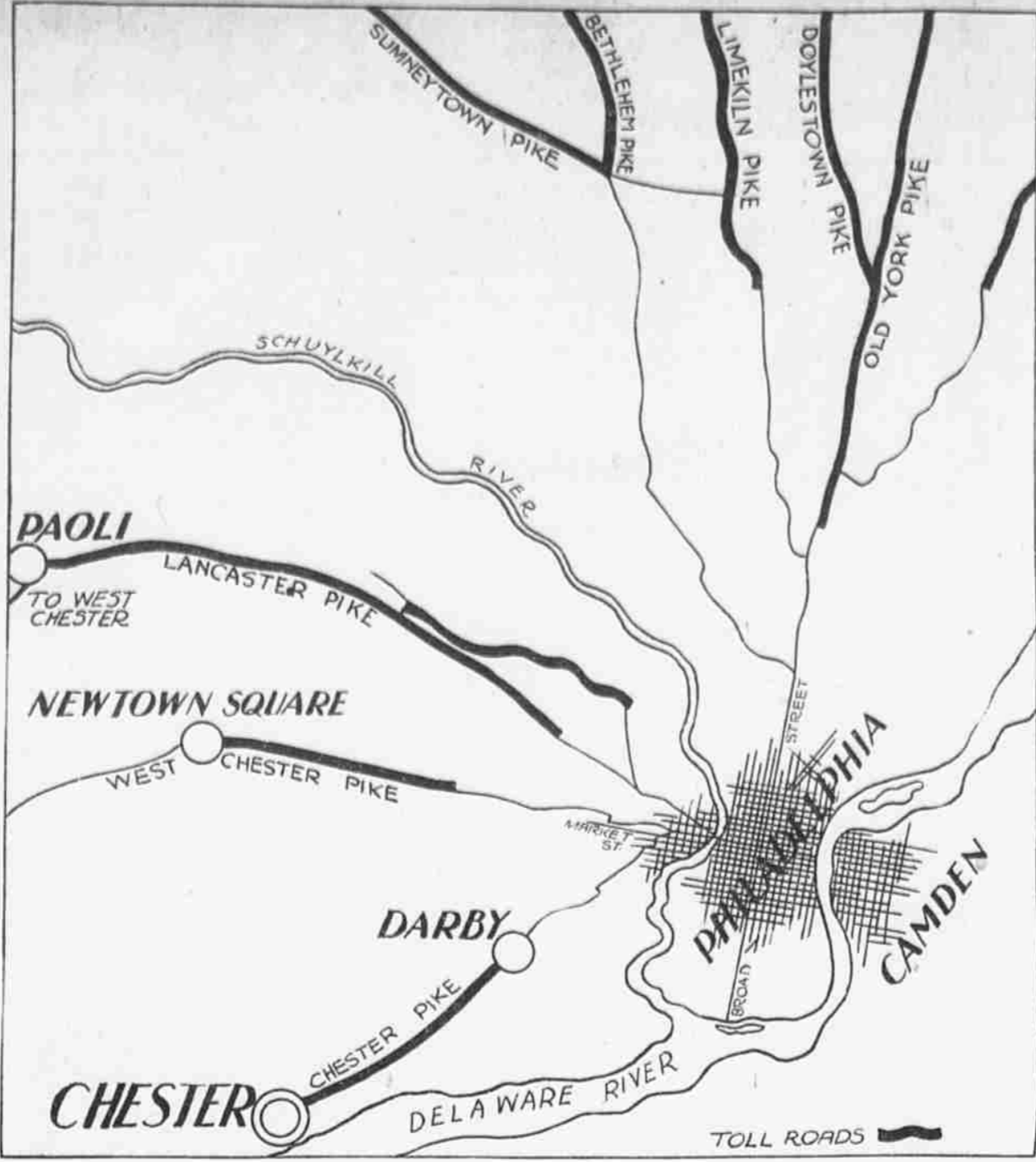
N. Y. Artist Wins Gold Medal

Artists and sculptors in Philadelphia and vicinity today are interested in the announcement that the gold medal of honor of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts has been awarded to J. Alden Wier, president of the National Academy of Design in New York.

Corner at 54th and Market Sold

The two-story store and apartment at the southwest corner of 54th and Market streets, but is sold by H. Greenfield, Inc., for Louis Dennis, to H. Greenfield, Inc., for a price not disclosed, subject to a first mortgage of \$100,000.

MOVE TO END TOLL ROAD NUISANCE



State Highway Commissioner Cunningham opened negotiations yesterday with the Lancaster Avenue Improvement Company of Philadelphia for the purchase of the part of Lancaster pike from City Line, Overbrook, to Paoli.

NINE BARELY ESCAPE DEATH IN GAS FUMES

Little Boy, Staggering to Porch, Saves Five Overcome in House

Nine persons narrowly escaped death by coal gas early today. Six of these are members of one family. All the persons overcome were discovered in time to make recovery possible.

When a little boy staggered out on the porch of his home early this morning and faintly he attracted the attention of two young girls and thereby saved the lives of five others in his family.

The second household overcome by coal gas early today was that of A. H. Twibill, a lawyer, with offices in the Franklin Building. He was aroused at his home, 550 North 19th street, shortly after 4 o'clock by the pungent fumes.

Mr. Twibill fainted twice before he reached the street—once in the vestibule of his home and again on the front porch. A broad wagon passed and an automobile, but neither driver or each vehicle evidently thought Mr. Twibill drunk and did not heed his cries for help.

Miss Holland and Mr. Twibill were taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, where the latter was soon revived and discharged. Miss Holland's condition is said to have passed the critical stage and she is expected to recover.

Mrs. Blanche McAllister, 41, of 423 Olive street, was overcome this morning by gas escaping from a faulty jet. She was found by neighbors, who summoned Policeman Moffitt, of the 20th and Buttonwood streets police station.

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RAIN AND HAIL TURN INTO SNOW AND SLUSH

Weather Unsettled and Forecaster Cannot Indicate Atmospheric Movements

Snow, in big, damp flakes that melted as soon as they struck the wet earth, began falling today at noon, after several apparent efforts which took the form of rain and hail. It may continue until tonight, it was said at the weather bureau, but it will not amount to much.

The morning grew slightly cooler at 11 o'clock when hail began to rattle on rooftops. The hail soon changed to snow. With the temperature 35 degrees, very few of the flakes survived although in gusts it showed heavily on the roofs.

"YELLOW BRASSERS," BOY THIEVES, LOOTED DOWNTOWN SCHOOLS

Stole Plumbing Fittings to Get "Swell Eats" and Go to the "Movie" Shows

Every new member must do a "job" alone before he stands in. Keep your mouth shut all the time. Always stick to the same story. Don't trust nobody. Don't mix in with kids.

DEMOCRATS PLAN 4-DAY CONVENTION

National Conclave to Sit From June 14 to June 17, Inclusive. No Night Sessions

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 9.—Despite the fact that President Wilson is virtually certain to have a runaway for the nomination at the Democratic convention here in June, the conclave will be in session four days.

CAMBRIA STEEL DEAL REVEALED TO PUBLIC

Midvale Company Announces Details of Purchase and Distribution of Stock

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company announced this afternoon that the purchase of Cambria Steel Company stock at \$1 a share would be arranged in the following manner.

HELD FOR "FIXING" EVIDENCE

Leon Del Monte, Claims Adjuster, Accused of Coaching Witnesses

Leon Del Monte, "adjuster of claims," was held under \$1000 bail today to await the action of the Grand Jury. He is accused of having coached Pleas Martella, 307 South 12th street, and Vincenzo Simone, of the same address, in a story the two men told in a claim for damages against the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company.

KILLS WIFE; CUTS DAUGHTER

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Feb. 8.—John Hayes, 59 years old, a farmer living near Shickshony, killed his wife early today by slaying her throat, then attacked his adopted daughter and escaped.

DOG BITES BENEFACTOR

The dog she fed and petted every time he appeared near her home jumped up and bit Mrs. Anna Branner in the face today as she was leaving her house, 181 West York street. Now, a collar owned by John M. McInroy, Howard street, York, is wanted. Mrs. Branner's mouth and nose so severely she was taken to the Episcopal Hospital.

SECRET SERVICE TRAPS PLOTTERS BY DICTOGRAPH

Teuton Conspirators Move Headquarters to Boston, but Are Soon Located

AIR OF MUCH MYSTERY

Conferences in Office Building Overheard — British Ambassador Gave Information

BOSTON, Feb. 9.—That alleged German agents, chiefly active against Canadian and American munitions plants, have changed their headquarters to Boston was reported today, following activities of Secret Service men here.

The information believed to have been furnished by Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Federal Agent Schmidt trailed the suspected men to a Milk street office and stated it is said in making dictograph records of conferences held there Saturday afternoon and Sunday. It is believed that the conversations thus secured led to the hasty departure of John Howard, assistant to Schmidt, for Canada.

That the alleged German agents who are under Federal espionage went to their new headquarters in a Mil street building in a house owned by a prominent Boston man, whose name is said to be known to the authorities, was learned today. The man in the said to be in such a position that he can buy quantities of dynamite without causing suspicion.

So serious are the Federal authorities taking the publicity given the investigation of alleged plotters that they probably will advise the Grand Jury to probe into the source of information.

Almost secrecy has surrounded the incidents and Agent Schmidt refuses even to listen to reports that he was conducting an investigation of that dictograph records had ever passed through his hands. However, because of the sudden "visit" of Collector of Customs Edmund Hillins and United States District Attorney Anderson to the said building, interest has been given to the situation.

Because other parts of the country had become too hot for conferences, it is hinted that Boston was picked for further moves against Canada.

So far there are two versions of how the suspected German agents came under investigation.

Policemen calling at the offices along State street and attempting to sell tickets in their annual ball are said to have walked into an office which had a group of men sitting at a table. The men, after asking their sale and being hastily ushered from the place, became suspicious and reported the incident.

The other version is that "assistants" of the British agency stumbled upon men in Boston they had known in other cities as being German sympathizers. Their report to the British Embassy is said to have led to the British Embassy to inform the federal authorities.

VETERAN POSTMAN ACCUSED OF TAKING MONEY FROM LETTERS

Charles W. Karns, 35 Years in U. S. Service, Said to Have Confessed Rifling the Mail

SON ILL IN HOSPITAL

Grief over the illness of his son and the desire to obtain money in order that the best medical attention could be had for him, led Charles W. Karns, a letter carrier, attached to the middle city station, to open letters and extract money from them after a clean record of 35 years' honorable service in the employ of the United States Government.

Karns is 69 years old. He entered the mail service when 25 years old and continued to wear the gray ever since. During all that time, said officials today, he has been an efficient, trustworthy employee, and was regarded as one of the most dependable men in the Middle City station.

Recently reports have come to the headquarters of the Postmaster that letters passing through the Middle City station, on 11th street above Chestnut, have been opened. Inspectors set to work, and a search investigation, fastened their suspicions on Karns.

They arrested him today, shortly after the 11 o'clock distribution in the center of the city, and accused him of having opened five letters, extracting \$2 from each one of them. The postal inspectors said that Karns took the letters from the racks of other men, in order to divert suspicion from himself. The arrest was made by Postal Inspector Matthew McVicker, Jr.

"I took the money because I was half crazy over the illness of my boy," Karns is declared to have said when questioned. He said that his son, 27 years old, was seriously ill in the Jefferson Hospital.

The gray-haired man was a pathetic figure when brought before United States Commissioner Edmunds. He was held in \$1000 bail for court.

Karns lives at 2512 Carpenter street.

HIGHWAY BID REJECTED

Estimates for Moorestown Pike Improvements to Be Received March 1

The Camden County Board of Freeholders today rejected the bid of W. Penn Corson, road contractor, for the repaving of Moorestown pike from 30th street, Camden, to the Pennsylvania line.

Corson was the lowest bidder for the work, but the members of the board said that his bid contained conditions which did not comply with the requirements of the State Highway Department. Bids for the work on Moorestown pike will be reopened on March 1. The board accepted the bid of John R. Bates for repaving one and one-half miles of Glenloch road. Bates' bid was \$25,577.

CHICAGO'S NEW ARCHBISHOP

Mgr. Mundelein Youngest Churchman of His Rank in United States

CHICAGO, Feb. 9.—George William Mundelein, the youngest Catholic Archbishop in the United States, was installed today as head of the Chicago diocese, one of the largest and most influential in the world.

Ceremonies attending the installation of Archbishop Mundelein, who is 43 years old, were attended by hundreds of church dignitaries, including Cardinal Delegate Bonanno.

BUFFALO MAN INDICTED FOR MOTHER'S MURDER

John Teiper Accused of Killing Parent and Brother in Auto

BUFFALO, N. Y., Feb. 9.—John Edward Teiper, young business man, college graduate and former football star, must stand trial on the charge of first degree murder.

An indictment charging him with killing his mother, Mrs. Agnes M. Teiper, on January 26, was returned today before Justice Marston in Supreme Court.

Teiper was immediately arraigned and entered a plea of not guilty.

Man Found Dead From Apoplexy

Michael Larkin, 57 years old, was found dead today at the bottom of a flight of stairs at his home, 248 North Franklin street. His back was broken, and it is believed that he fell down the stairs after a stroke of apoplexy, brought on by the exertion of climbing to the fourth floor. Larkin lived in the Franklin street house with his two sons, both of whom are actors.



HER LOOK IN One woman loves to look into other women's homes and see how they are furnished. All right. The LADIES' HOME JOURNAL lets her look into two or three hundred other women's homes every year.

Another woman likes to go into the shops and see the new things. All right again. The LADIES' HOME JOURNAL has a new department to which twenty clever women, who go into the best shops at the last moment, send whatever they see! Over five hundred ideas in a year!

So you can look into homes and shops in every number of The Ladies' HOME JOURNAL



It is a clearing-house for ideas for women. Buy the current number and see if this isn't so. It's only 15 cents

Rich Richards Almanac. The world's most famous masterpiece would be of little note had it not been hung in the art gallery. The "best yet" advertisement must be seen in the RIGHT PAPER by the RIGHT PEOPLE to produce RIGHT RESULTS.

TOO LATE FOR CLSIFICATION DEATHS WILSON—Suddenly, at Washington, N. J., Feb. 9, 1916, at 10:52 a.m., died Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, at 330 p.m. Interment, St. Mary's Churchyard. Kindly omit flowers.

HELP WANTED—FEMALE OFFICE GIRL—Young girl about 16 years of age, address 2512 Carpenter St., Lehigh Office.