

**'HAVE DONE NO WRONG,' SAYS MAYOR, OF BOND COMPANY CONNECTION**

**Executive Declares He Could Have Concealed Position From Public, but Did Not So Choose**

**ORDERS LISTS PREPARED**

Mayor Smith said today, speaking of his retention of his stock holdings in the Thomas B. Smith Bonding Company, that he was having his directors and departmental heads prepare lists of all city officials bonded by the company, of which he was president up until a few months ago.

The Mayor has taken the position that had he chosen to withhold from the public his connection with the bonding company, which, as agent for the National Surety Company, does more city bonding than any other one concern, he could not only have resigned his \$10,000 place as president, but could have transferred his stock to an outsider to hold for him during his four-year term as Mayor. The fact that he resigned from the active management of the concern, he asserts, shows his desire to hide nothing from the public.

**FRUITS OF 'YEARS OF LABOR'**

In discussing the bonding situation, the Mayor said, "I am perfectly willing that every one should know of my business interests. Every one knew that I was president of the Thomas B. Smith Company when I was candidate for Mayor. I spent the best part of my life making that company a success. I resigned the presidency, but surely no sane person expected me to give up my holdings in the company, the fruits of years of hard labor, simply because I was going to take a temporary office in the government of the city of Philadelphia.

"I doubt very much whether any of the firms which have been bonded by the National Surety Company since I have been Mayor were influenced by my presence in office. In fact, in the list of contractors already published, there are few, if any, who have not been doing business with the Thomas B. Smith Company for years, long before I had any hopes of becoming Mayor.

"Do you think," continued the Mayor, "that if I supposed I was going to be attacked for deliberate and wilful wrongdoing and was at the time bent on law-breaking for profit, I would not have adopted methods to safeguard myself from criticism? Was it not entirely feasible for me to have transferred my stock, to be held in another name, for my interests. I did no such thing. That would have savored of turning sharp corners and had it become known I could justly have been criticized. I cannot see that I come within the law. I feel certain that I have done no wrong."

**COMMISSIONS 30 PER CENT.**

In explaining the bonding business, the Mayor said that although the Thomas B. Smith Company, of which it is by far the heaviest stockholder, has written bonds for more than \$2,000,000 since last December the amount that actually came into the concern because of that business was comparatively small. He said that the Smith Company's commissions on premiums from the National Surety Company were 30 per cent.

Frequently, he declared, business comes in through surety brokers, who must be paid a commission of 15 per cent. This leaves 15 per cent. on such business for the Smith Company. Out of this, the Mayor explained, office rent, salaries and other expenses must be met. This explanation was made by the Mayor because he felt that the public might confuse the amount of the bonds written with the actual return to the Smith Company.

Select Councilmen Harry J. Trainer and Charles Segar, at a recent meeting of the Finance Committee, attacked the custom of forcing small clerks and low-salaried officeholders, who handle none of the city's money, to give bonds. Councilman Trainer is expected to introduce in Council, in the near future, bills repealing ordinances requiring the general bonding of small placeholders and certain classes of municipal contractors.

**Divorces Granted Today**

- Court of Common Pleas No. 5 granted the following divorces today:
- Bertha May Morris from Edward Morris.
- Edith Viola Wilson from Harry H. Miller.
- Edith Crawford from Matthew R. Crawford.
- Hilda Nickles Harmon from Myron L. Harmon.
- Charlotte M. Price from Clinton F. Price.
- Margaret E. Moody from Rufus F. Moody.
- Mary Violet Wolcott from William R. Wolcott.
- Marjorie Urban from Catherine Rebecca Urban.
- Evel Hickey Evans from Frank Evans.
- Carroll M. Brown from Ezra Brown.
- Edith M. Reid from Percy L. Reid.
- Elizabeth T. Gallagher from Thomas Gallagher.
- Edna Penlaw from Freda Penlaw.
- Edward Stiles from Florence M. Stiles.
- Louis Meyer from Annie Meyer.
- Edna G. Niver from David M. Niver.
- Mary A. Heron from Bernard H. Heron.
- Pauline Hilling from Edward Hilling.
- Morris Polakoff from Esther Polakoff.
- Estelle P. Jones from Lawrence Jones.
- Passualo Tomasiello from Antonietta Tomasiello.
- Harry W. Hambo from Cora Hambo.
- John Campbell from Jennie Campbell.
- Lang T. Thomas from Clifford E. Thomas.



**MISS BESSIE STRAUSS**  
Who is distributing matzoths among the poor Jews of the city that they may observe the Passover properly.

**GIVES MATZOTH TO POOR**  
Girl Distributes 1000 Pounds of Passover Food to Destitute Jewish Families of City

One thousand pounds of matzoth were distributed today by 17-year-old Bessie Strauss, of 428 South street, among destitute Jewish families for their use during the eight-day feast of Passover. She began this custom seven years ago and repeated this practical charity every year since.

The Passover will be ushered in tonight with a seder or home service and commemorates the emancipation of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage under the leadership of Moses.

Within the last few years the price of matzoth has increased steadily. This year the prices range from 7 to 15 cents per pound, according to quality. As the average family consumes at least 20 pounds during the eight days, the strain on the poor man's purse is apparent.

When Bessie Strauss was 10 years old she was sent by her teacher to the home of a classmate to learn why the latter was absent from school. Bessie found the girl ill, her family in destitute circumstances, and, although Passover was only one day off, there was no money to buy matzoth or other articles of food required for the proper observance of the festival. She used the contents of her savings bank to buy matzoth for the family.

It then occurred to her that many other families might also be suffering. Although she had been saving money to take a course of music in Europe, she resolved to continue her musical education in this country and used the money to buy matzoth for suffering Jewish families in the southern section of the city.

**MAN SENT TO PRISON FOR ANNOYING GIRLS**  
Pupils of School in West Philadelphia Cause Arrest of Tormentor

On the accusation of having appeared beneath the windows of a private school at 3305 Arch street and annoyed some girl students by his actions, Philip McCue, Warren street near 37th, was sentenced today to 30 days in the county prison by Magistrate Harris, at the 82d street and Woodland avenue station.

Four girl students testified against McCue. They are Agnes Ayles, Maynor Parker, Edna King and Carrie Allison, all of 3305 Arch street. The girls testified that McCue had appeared under their windows on several occasions. Yesterday they notified the police of the 32d street and Woodland avenue station that he had appeared again, and Policeman Conway was sent to the scene. McCue started to run when he saw the policeman. Conway is stout and a poor runner, and it is certain that McCue would have escaped had not several boys joined in the chase. The boys were right at McCue's heels when he opened the kitchen door of a house on Ludlow street and ran through the house, much to the consternation of the inmates. The boys tackled McCue on the front porch and held him until the arrival of Policeman Conway.

Magistrate Harris wanted to send the case to court so that "a stiff" sentence could be imposed upon McCue, but the girl students were reluctant to press it further, and so the Magistrate settled the matter with a 30-day sentence.

**Woman Burned by Gasoline**

YORK, Pa., April 17.—Gasoline set fire to the dress of Mrs. Wilbur E. Laumaster and she was severely burned. She poured a basin of gasoline she had used to clean gloves into a hole in the ground where her husband had tossed a lighted match.

**ASKS RELIGIOUS AID FOR 12,000,000 YOUTHS**

**Rev. Dr. R. W. Beach Tells Presbyterian Clergy That Many Are Without It**

That there are between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 boys and girls of school age who have no religious instruction whatever, was the assertion made today by the Rev. Dr. Robert Wells Beach at the meeting of the Presbyterian Ministers Association, held in Westminster Hall, Witherspoon Building. Doctor Beach is secretary of Religious Education of the Presbyterian Board of Education.

Equally surprising to his hearers was Doctor Beach's estimate that only 30 per cent of the Presbyterian families in the United States hold any kind of family worship in their homes or attempt any systematic instruction of their children in religious matters. This latter assertion evoked protests of "Too high! Too high!" from Doctor Beach's hearers. "Then make it 20 per cent," he replied. "Twenty per cent. Just that!"

Doctor Beach's topic was "Education in the Local Church." He held it to be a primary responsibility of the church members to provide religious instruction for children. "The State," he said, "takes care of training in citizenship. It is the duty of the church to provide opportunity for every child to become a Christian. To this end the instruction in religious matters should begin in the home."

"True, there are 18,000,000 children in our Sunday schools, but there are 11,000,000 or 12,000,000 boys and girls of school age who have no religious instruction whatever and it is our duty to provide for them in the same manner as the State cares for its future citizens."

**ITALIANS TAKE ADVANCED POSITION ON CARSO FRONT**

**Austrians Compelled to Evacuate Mountain Trenches Southeast of Lovico**

ROME, April 17.—A statement issued by general headquarters last night says: "There was considerable artillery activity and movement of enemy troops in the zone between the Lagarina and Sugana Valleys. We repulsed small attacks against our positions at Sogio d'Aspio and Mlegrobo, on the upper Astico. In the Sugana Valley we compelled the enemy to evacuate his position at Monte Carbonio, southeast of Lovico, which we maintain under a curtain of fire."

"In Carnia there were artillery duels along a portion of the front from the upper Degano to the upper But."

"On Miral, Friday night, the enemy directed machine gun and rifle fire against positions he had vainly assailed on Thursday."

"In the Carso a bold advance of our infantry east of Sels and Monfalcons gave us possession of new advanced positions. We took 20 prisoners, together with ammunition, bombs and canteens."

**AUSTRIANS ABANDON VALONA OFFENSIVE**

**Activities on Russian and Italian Fronts Reason for Quitting**

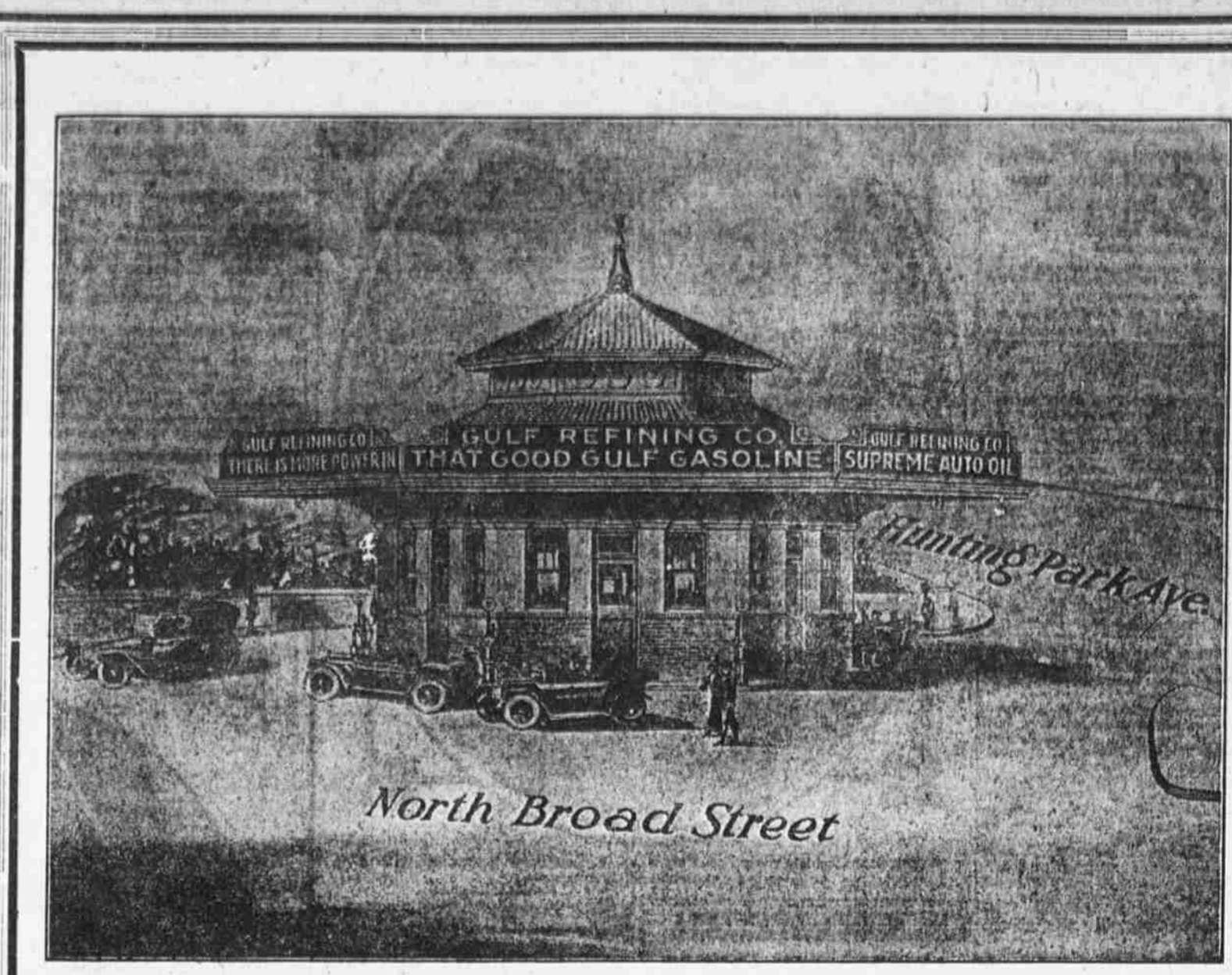
ROME, April 17.—Plans for an Austrian offensive against the Albanian port of Valona have been abandoned because of activities along the Italian and Russian fronts, it was learned here today.

The Austrians were moving troops southward through Albania when the Russians and Italians simultaneously attacked Austrian lines. The troop movements were stopped and part of the Austrian forces were sent back to the lignano, where they have been seen in action.

General Porro, second in command of the Italian army, has returned from an inspection of the Italian defenses of Valona.

**Rubber Found in Coffee Bags**

CHRISTIANIA, April 17.—A large quantity of rubber was found to be concealed in coffee bags on board the Lyngholm, which sailed from New York, March 17, for Bergen. The entire consignment of 250 bags was seized. The rubber was discovered through the bursting of one of the bags while the steamer was unloading.



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North Broad Street and Hunting Park Avenue  
**Open Monday, April Seventeenth**

THE liberal patronage of our West Philadelphia Service Station, in Chestnut Street, Thirty-third and Woodland Avenue, and the number of requests from the North Broad District have prompted us to build another service station, which will be open to the public Monday, April 17, 1916.

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The same perfect day and night service which characterizes and popularized our Chestnut Street Station will prevail at this new station. Courteous attendants will supply you—cheerfully pump your tires or fill your radiator, side or tail lights, free of charge.

THAT GOOD GULF GASOLINE and SUPREME AUTO OIL and GREASES will be handled exclusively, which in itself is a guarantee of satisfaction.

**Free Sample Can of SUPREME AUTO OIL**

During the opening week, Monday, April 17, to Saturday, April 22, inclusive, we will give free a sample can of our SUPREME AUTO OIL to every patron of the station who purchases five or more gallons of THAT GOOD GULF GASOLINE.

**Free Sample Can of Supreme Auto Oil**

**BRING THIS COUPON WITH YOU**

The free sample can of SUPREME AUTO OIL will be presented to every purchaser of five (5) or more gallons of THAT GOOD GULF GASOLINE who brings this coupon to our North Broad Street and Hunting Park Avenue Service Station.

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