

CROSS-TOWN CAR LINE ON FIFTY-SIXTH STREET VIRTUALLY ASSURED

F. R. T. Will Be Asked to Build Road—If Latter Refuses Private Capital Will Back Project

LOAN IGNORES SECTION Councilmen, Business Men and Residents Organize to Support Plan

The much-needed cross-town line on 56th street, between Lancaster avenue on the north and Paschal avenue on the south, is now virtually assured. Definite announcement of just what steps are to be taken to obtain the line will be made on Friday night, at a meeting of the Allied Business Men's Association, of West Philadelphia, by John N. McGarvey, chairman of the association's Railway Committee.

West Philadelphia Councilmen, business men and residents of the section which will be benefited by the line last night organized the South Fifty-sixth and Spruce Streets Business Association, in order to lend their support to the project as a body. The co-operation of all other business organizations along the route of the proposed line has also been pledged.

Two alternate ways by which the line may be built were explained today by Mr. McGarvey. The first would be to have the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company build the line upon the petition of Councilmen and to operate it in conjunction with its present system; the second would be to build the road with private capital and lease it to the transit company for an amount just sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds, depreciation and all fixed charges.

The business men and Councilmen from West Philadelphia intend to try the first method first, and if that fails sufficient money has already been pledged to assure the construction of the line. An ordinance calling upon the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company to build the line was introduced in Councils several weeks ago by Select Councilman Dr. William D. Bacon, of the 14th Ward, and was referred to the Committee on Street Railways.

ASK PUBLIC HEARING. A public hearing on this ordinance has been asked and it is expected that it will be granted within two or three weeks. Aside from pointing out the need of the line, the West Philadelphia business men will ask the passage of the ordinance on the ground that their section of the city has been virtually ignored in the big municipal loan bill. Favorable action on the ordinance by Councils will give the Transit Company 90 days in which to decide what course it will take.

CONSTRUCTION ASSURED. If the Transit Company fails to announce its intention to build the road at the end of the 90-day period, the business men, Mr. McGarvey explained today, are ready to step in and organize the 56th Street Cross-town Railway Company. The line, as planned, will be a little more than three miles in length and is estimated that it will cost about \$300,000.

According to statistics compiled by the Railway Committee of the Allied Business Men's Association there are 12,000 people in the territory which the line will serve. Estimating that the assessments on these will increase by \$600 on the average, the city will derive from this territory an additional \$6,000,000 in real estate as a result of the construction of the road.

The movement to have the line built was begun nearly seven years ago. After five years of indifferent success the movement of the project organized the Allied Business Men's Association of West Philadelphia with the specific aim of working for the road. Negotiations with the transit company were begun and a verbal promise that the line would be built was secured from E. T. Stotsenburg. No steps were taken by the company, however, and the present plans to secure the line were then evolved.

COUNCILMEN CRITICIZED. At the meeting of the South Fifty-sixth and Spruce Streets Business Association last night, Mr. McGarvey criticized the West Philadelphia Councilmen for their failure to have provision made for the construction of the line in the \$60,000,000 transit and port loan bill. He pointed out that provision had been made for a line through a sparsely populated section to Byberry, while a thickly populated section had been neglected. The Councilmen excused themselves on the ground that West Philadelphia has only one representative on the Finance Committee of Councils.

Hospital Ship Arrived WILMINGTON, Del., April 19.—The hospital ship Helen G. Julliard, built at the local plant of the American Car and Foundry Company for the St. John's Guild of New York, is aground, but not damaged, off Carney Point.

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CAPT. CHARLES H. HOLTUM Old Philadelphia trader, known to hundreds in this city, who witnessed the destruction of the German fleet off the Falkland Islands. He was at that time in command of the British steamship Benbrook, which was being used as a transport collier. He is now in this port in command of the British steamship Masario.

LEAVES HOSPITAL FOR DRILL Private in Company G Refuses to Remain Away From Inspection

With his head, arms and hands wrapped in cotton and bandages, Paul Baker, a private in Company G, First Regiment, N. G. P., got out of bed at the Garretson Hospital last night and walked to his regimental armory, Broad and Callowhill streets, and went through company inspection.

BUYS BIG TRACT IN LOGAN Benjamin R. Hoffman Will Cut It Into 126 Dwelling Lots

Benjamin R. Hoffman has made settlement for the block of ground between 7th and 8th streets, Lindley avenue and the Camb street, 495 feet on 7th and 8th streets and 408 feet on Lindley avenue and Ruscomb street.

Will Spend \$1,250,000 for Box Cars COLUMBUS, O., April 19.—The New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad (New York Central lines) has been authorized by the Ohio Public Utilities Commission to issue \$1,250,000 equipment trust certificates with which to buy 1000 additional steel box cars.

MAYOR ASKS SUPPORT FOR TWO LOAN BILLS

In Speech He Pictures Philadelphia as Probable Greatest City in World

Support for the two proposed loan bills at the polls on May 16 was urged by Mayor Smith last night at the 20th annual banquet of the Frankford Business Men's and Taxpayers' Association, in Masonic Hall, Womrath and Paul streets.

Making an urgent appeal for favorable action upon the loan bills at the polls the Mayor asserted that they are "open and above board" and were drafted after weeks of earnest and careful consideration.

Touching briefly upon the subject of his Administration and the attacks which have been directed against it, or against him personally, the Mayor said: "My Administration is honest and will remain so despite any attacks made upon it. We are working to make Philadelphia the greatest city in the country."

MERION FLOWERS BRING \$700 Sale Nets Twice Amount Needed for Day School Garden

More than twice the amount needed to establish the Merion Country Day School garden was cleared by the Flower Sale given Saturday on the school grounds by the Women's Committee of the Merion Civic Association.

A special teacher will instruct the youngsters in how to make things grow. An artificial "bird path" will be placed in the center of the garden. The surplus money obtained through the sale will be applied to a permanent school garden fund.

FIGHTS WAY FROM HOSPITAL TO GO TO GUARD INSPECTION

Militiaman, Injured by Live Wire, Conquers Doctors

Uncle Sam need have no fears for the future if all his soldiers are made of the same stuff as Paul Baker, of 1893 Ridge avenue, and a member of Company G, 1st Regiment, N. G. P. Baker is employed as a fireman at the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

At 8:30 o'clock last night he fought off nurses and doctors and walked to the armory, where inspection was taking place. When fellow-members of his command observed him swathed in bandages they asked: "What are you doing here?"

WILLIAM GIBSON DIES Politician and Real Estate Dealer Succumbs at Fifty-seven

William Gibson, a real estate dealer and well known in political circles, died on Monday at his home, 440 North 32d street. He was born in this city 37 years ago.

Mr. Gibson was a delegate to the Republican convention at Chicago in 1912, and when the Progressives went out he was elected an alternate delegate to that convention the same year.

Big Ship Bought to Carry Tobacco SAVANNAH, Ga., April 19.—The American steamship Vigilance, of 2924 tons, has been sold by the Walker-Armstrong Company, of Savannah, to Gaston, Williams & Witmore, of New York, for approximately \$500,000, according to an announcement here.

"POISON PEN" LETTERS NAME SOCIETY WOMEN

Scandalous Anonymous Notes Evidently Written by One of Same Sex

A number of Philadelphia women, prominent in society, particularly some residing in the immediate vicinity of Rittenhouse Square, have been annoyed by anonymous defamatory letters lately. Several fashionable residents along the Main Line also have received scurrilous missives in the same handwriting.

The matter has been placed in the hands of James B. Corleyou, Chief Postoffice Inspector here, and a vain effort made to identify the writer of the letters. This task has proved difficult, the envelopes showing that they were mailed at various parts of the city and invariably in street boxes.

The letters, it is said, were, without doubt, written by a woman, who has made an effort to disguise her real penmanship. Members of one well-known family have been so annoyed that the services of a leading lawyer were enlisted. A daughter in this family was married in New York some time ago to a well-known young man.

For a short time the family received no more letters, but within the last few weeks they have been arriving daily. A representative of this family said last night that one of the members once incurred the enmity of a Philadelphia woman and that they have reason to suspect that she has been writing the notes, which are described in some instances as being malicious.

Just how many letters have been written cannot be ascertained, but it is known that 19, all written by the same hand and to as many different families, were posted last week. One was mailed at a street box in West Philadelphia, another at Broad and Chestnut streets and others in the vicinity of Rittenhouse square.

STETSON CHORUS IN CONCERT

Eighth Annual Program Elaborate and Well Presented

The Stetson Chorus held its eighth annual concert last night in the Stetson Auditorium, 4th street and Montgomery avenue. The affair was under the direction of Dr. Adams Gilbert. It was assisted by 30 members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, led by H. J. Chopourian.

An elaborate program was given in two parts. The first included many classical selections given by the orchestra, the chorus and the soloists. The second part was a cantata, "The Nativity," the music of which was written by Doctor Gettel. The proceeds of the concert will be donated to the Stetson Hospital benefit.

MEASLES EXTENDS VACATION Princeton President Adds One Week to Easter Holidays

PRINCETON, N. J., April 18.—President John Grier Hibben of Princeton University, caused a notice to be posted yesterday afternoon, stating that the Easter vacation, which will begin at noon on Wednesday, would be extended for a week. The cause of which was written by Doctor Gettel. The proceeds of the concert will be donated to the Stetson Hospital benefit.

\$1,000,000 War Building Boom SOUTH BETHLEHEM, Pa., April 18.—George Zbojovsky has awarded a contract to Butz & Clader for the erection of 10 three-story houses in Northampton Heights, a suburb. The sum of \$110,000 is involved. Riegel and Schall also contracted this week to erect 12 houses on the West Side to cost \$60,000.

"The Defender of Verdun" is the name earned by Pétain, the French general who stemmed the German tide. Alden Brooks, who wrote "The Parisian" gives us a vivid picture of him in this week's Collier's THE NATIONAL WEEKLY

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