COLBERT MURDER BAFFLES SLEUTHS

Doesn't Know Who Killed Model, Captain of Detectives Confesses

SECRECY CLOAKS BURIAL

Guards Keep Back Curious Crowds to Shield Mourners at Bair Parlors

Captain of Detectives Tate admitted this afternoon that the police do not know who killed Mazie Colbert.

The murder evidently is as much a mystery as it was on the day the body was found, despite rumors to the contrary.

Captain Tate was asked pointblank:

"Do you know who killed Mazie Colbert?"

"No, I don't," he replied. "If I did, the person would be here under arrest."

This was after Captain Tate had called out the entire force of the Detective Bureau and assigned the men to the case. He told them that the reputation of the bureau depended on a speedy solution of the murder. After urging them to action, he said that the murder "was one of the toughest nuts the bureau has had to crack in years."

PAWNED HER DIAMONDS

It was also learned that the girl pawned a diamond la valliere for $50 shortly before her death to make a Christmas present to a Philadelphia politician.

Secrecy shrouded the burial today. Funeral services were held in the undertaking establishment of Oliver H. Bair, 4826 Chestnut street, but only a few intimate friends were admitted. Guards were stationed at the doors, and every effort was made to keep the identities of the mourners unknown.

A large crowd gathered at the front door several hours before the funeral, and it required several policemen to keep back the curious men and women, who pressed forward, eager for even a glimpse of the casket.

Those in charge of the funeral foiled the efforts of the crowd by taking the casket out through a rear door. Twelve automobiles carried the mourners to Holy Cross Cemetery, where interment was made. The automobiles all had the blinds drawn, and a large screen placed near the rear door of the undertaking establishment hid the mourners from view.

BODY IN WHITE SATIN

It is known that the body was clad in white satin. White was the girl's favorite color. There were several handsome floral tributes, and it was said that nearly all of these came without cards.

Among those grilled by the police today was C. Emory Tillman, widely known in club circles here. He was closeted with Captain Tate and, according to the police, admitted that he knew the girl, but could throw no light on the murder.

It developed today that the Colbert girl was engaged to be married about a year ago, but her fiance died suddenly. This man is known to have given her an automobile which figured in a collision uptown.

The police have found two women (sisters), who were accompanied from the Bellevue-Stratford by a young man in a taxicab last Thursday night. After leaving the young women at their home, the young man instructed the chauffeur to drive him to Fifteenth and Poplar streets.

Dr. George S. Bricker, police surgeon at the Nineteenth and Oxford streets station, believes that two men might have been concerned in the crime. This information was laid before Captain Tate, and he ordered that every chauffeur in the city be placed under surveillance in order to learn if any of them have been missing since the girl's body was discovered.

The doctor bases his belief on the condition of the body and clothing. He said the rooms were not in turmoil, and that reports that signs of a terrific struggle could be found on every hand were false. The apartment, he insisted, was disturbed only as much as would be the case in nearly every home. The conditions he found, the doctor says, indicate that when the body was carried from the dining room to the bed, one man held the head while the other carried the feet.

POLICE 'FLIER' ASKS ARREST OF MAN WHO HIRED TAXI

Accused of Swindling Driver Out of $19 on Thursday Night Last

A flier calling for the arrest of Bernard W. Lewis, son of Wenman Lewis, a prominent Pittsburgh lawyer, on the accusation of having defrauded a taxicab driver of $19 in fares last Thursday night, was sent to all police departments in the country today by the Detective Bureau at City Hall.

Lewis, it is said, was until recently a representative of the British Government in Philadelphia in the matter of the purchase of ammunition and other war supplies. A warrant has been issued for his arrest. In the police flier he is described as being thirty-five years old, with black hair, black eyes, "refined and cultured, and a patron of cafes and all-night restaurants."

Detectives Hodge and Farrell said today that Lewis has been in town until yesterday when he disappeared. According to the police Lewis met two sisters, Mabel and Ethel Kye, school teachers, of 424 West Springhurst street, Germantown, at Broad Street Station, last Thursday night. He had made an appointment with them by telephone from New York. The police say he had been introduced to them sometime previously by a mutual friend.

Lewis, the detectives say, accompanied the sisters to a theatre, after which he entertained them at a supper at the Bellevue-Stratford. At about 12:30 p. m. Lewis is alleged to have called a taxicab in which he accompanied the sisters to their home in Germantown. From Germantown, the police say, Lewis journeyed to Fifteenth and Poplar streets.

He left the taxicab, telling the driver he would be back in a little while. The driver is not certain that Lewis went into an apartment house, opposite which the machine had stopped, according to the police. The driver waited eight hours for the return of Lewis, it is charged, the taxicab bill running up to $19. At last the driver became tired of waiting and drove away and notified his office that he had been beaten out of $19.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN DIES OF HEROIN POISONING

Overdose of Narcotic Drug Proves Fatal to Participant in "Snow Party"

An unidentified man died at the Pennsylvania Hospital today from an overdose of heroin, alleged by the police to have been taken at a "snow party" held in a house occupied by negroes on Eleventh street below South.

Soon after the man staggered out of the house, shivering and trembling as if attacked by palsy, police from the Twelfth and Pine streets station swooped down on the house and arrested three inmates, John Foster, James Green and Ora Hill. They were held in $800 each by Magistrate Perech. According to the police, the dead man had been sniffing heroin for several hours before he collapsed. He stumbled out of the house and fell to the pavement. The negroes, it is said, tried to revive him with water from a hydrant. The police had him removed to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

GENERAL SAKHAROFF
Commander of the Russian forces in the Dobrudja, whose army is reported to be in peril from a Teutonic movement that would endanger the whole Russian line northward.

WOULD CLOSE PAINT WORKS AS NUISANCE

Injunction Sought Against Harrison Plant—Foul Odors Basis of Plea

City Solicitor Connelly filed a petition today in Common Pleas Court asking for an injunction against the paint works of Harrison Brothers, at Thirty-fourth street and Gray's Ferry road, on the grounds that the plant as now conducted was a common nuisance and should be closed.

A petition states that the fumes from the plant have been the bane of many complaints to health authorities from residents in nearby sections of both West Philadelphia and those east to Seventeenth street.

The petition continues "the instance of the vile, irritating, foul-smelling, sickening odors from the Harrison plant during portions of the day and night, when those affected thereby are endeavoring to sleep, constitutes in the opinion of the Board of Health a nuisance and was so declared by a resolution of the Board. Residents within the affected district are not able to permit their windows to be opened either day or night and as a result their homes are deprived of ventilation and fresh air, which deprivation seriously affects the health of the occupants of the houses."

Connelly also served the company for failure to adopt modern devices which, he says, would eliminate the odors. The complaint probably will be heard on January 10 before Judge Shoemaker. Officials of the company declined to comment on the petition when informed of the action.

MAN IN CAMDEN SAVED BY UNUSUAL OPERATION

Hole Successfully Drilled in Would-Be Suicide's Skull to Remove Bullet

A delicate operation as a last resort to save a man's life, in which a bullet was removed from the brain, was performed today by Dr. Paul M. Mecray, resident physician at the Cooper Hospital, Camden. The operation was successful and the man is expected to recover.

The patient, Benjamin Harriat, fifty-four years old, 3735 North Marshall street, Philadelphia, attempted suicide New Year's afternoon at Second and Mickle streets, Camden, by shooting himself in the head with a revolver. He has been at the point of death ever since in the Cooper Hospital. He has a wife and several children.

The bullet entered the back of his head on the lower right side, passed upward along the brain and lodged against the skull. An X ray picture was taken and it was found impossible to save his life unless the bullet was removed.

A hole was bored through the skull directly over the bullet, which was then removed with a pair of delicate forceps. It was also necessary to patch a number of severed blood vessels.

When he recovered consciousness Harriat was profuse in his thanks to the surgeon and to the hospital authorities. He promised to go home as soon as he was able and begin life over again. He had been employed in the Custom Appraiser's store, Second and Walnut streets, Philadelphia. Despondency over the loss of this position caused the suicide attempt, but the old job has been promised him and he expects to be able shortly to resume his former duties.

HOUSE STARTS HUNT FOR LEAK TOMORROW

Wood, Who Introduced Resolution of Inquiry, to Be First Witness

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Investigation by the House Rules Committee of the note leak charges will start tomorrow with Representative Wood, of Indiana, as the first witness, the committee announced today, following a two-hour session.

Wood introduced the original resolution demanding a probe of reports that "high Administration officials or relatives of high officials" profited in Wall street through advance information of the President's note to belligerents.

Thomas W. Lawson will be subpoenaed by wire.

Marriage Licenses Issued in Elkton

ELKTON, Md., Jan. 4.—Couples procuring marriage licenses in Elkton today were Joseph Thomas and Anna Rapp, Walter Pitterson and Mary Riley, Samuel Miller and Jeannette Cohen, all of Philadelphia; John F. Miller and Florence E. Moore, Roxbury, Pa.; William E. Messick and Alice L. Jones, Dover, Del.; Elmer Fouratt and Rena Ricks, Trenton, N. J.; John Jattros, Reading, and Lucy Wagner, Lewisburg, Pa.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

John Holmes, 1933 S. 20th st., and Lucy A. Burke, 49 W. Hortter st.
James H. Adams, 2302 Pierce st., and Anna Tazzari, 634 S. Bambrey st.
William Posternock, 2148 Carlisle st., and Gladys Lidestrand, 3021 W. Norris st.
George E. T. Gray, 2501 S. 12th st., and Nellie M. Lonas, 2553 Bartain st.
Robert H. Baker, 859 Beechwood st., and Anna Greenall, 139 N. 7th st.
Louis A. Chernesky, 408 Fairmount ave., and Margaret Lomnitzer, 1432 Walnut st.
Alphonso Colombo, 934 Dickinson st., and Susie Di Giacomo, 934 Dickinson st.
John A. Datz, 1844 N. 22d st., and Ruth H. Taylor, Riverside, N. J.
John H. Geser, 2119 N. Orianna st., and Ethel M. Davidson, 2811 E. Plum st.
Edgar Russel, 802 N. 44th st., and Agnes McGraw, 796 N. 27th st.
Daniel J. Kennedy, 32 Armat st., and Beulah V. Moore, 457 High st.
Joachim Gomez, 606 S. Hancock st., and Franciska Zakrowska, 306 N. 13th st.
Samuel Rubin, 1733 N. 33d st., and Sadie Kurtz, 1540 N. 32d st.
Thomas Tilghman, 49 N. 58th st., and Sophronia H. Moore, 1884 Ellsworth st.
Frank J. Vulcan, League Island, and Carrie B. Rowland, Cleveland, O.
George Rose, 730 N. Juniper st., and Vira Kostrasser, 730 N. Juniper st.
Howard A. Fisher, Devon, Pa., and Emily M. Wilkins, 1437 N. Park ave.
Reuben H. Geiger, Ft. Davids, Pa., and Lucy A. Sutton, Warren, Pa.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

MRS. HELEN GALLATIN WELSH in her divorce suit against Charles N. Welsh, the millionaire broker and clubman, has filed a petition in Court No. 3 asking leave to amend the libel. The amendment is not disclosed in the petition, but it undoubtedly will be revealed tomorrow when the matter comes up for hearing.

CITY APPOINTMENTS today include William Byrnes, 2629 North Twenty-fourth street, inspector, Bureau of Highways, salary $1000, and Linda E. Ayer, 5231 North Warnock street, teacher, Board of Recreation, $80 a month.

DEATH AS THE RESULT of a free-for-all fight at Twenty-fifth and Gerritt streets, on the night of December 23, occurred at St. Agnes's Hospital late last night, when Richard Beadle, 1128 Wisler street, succumbed to wounds inflicted by an 18-inch stiletto and a magazine gun. Dominick Festa, 928 Reed street, was held without bail to await the Coroner's action.

GENERAL HUGH L. SCOTT, Chief of Staff of the United States army, has accepted an invitation to speak at the annual Poor Richard Club banquet, which will be held on Benjamin Franklin's birthday, January 17, at the Bellevue-Stratford.

JAMES F. COOPER, of Germantown avenue above Girard avenue, transcribing clerk in the office of the Register of Wills for thirty-three years, and for many years a member of the Republican executive committee of the Sixteenth Ward, today resigned his position and made application to receive the benefits of the Municipal Pension Fund. Applications were also received today from seventeen other city employes for pensions.

WILLIAM C. SCHULTZ, of 731 West Moyamensing avenue, was appointed to the post of Deputy Coroner by Coroner Knight today. His salary will be $1200 a year, succeeding John John Mehring, who was elected to the State Legislature.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS has elected officers for 1917 as follows: Dr. Richard H. Harte, president; Dr. William J. Taylor, vice president; Dr. Francis R. Packard, secretary; Dr. John H. Roberts, treasurer, and Dr. Frederick P. Henry, honorary librarian.

PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS COMPANY will give its employes life insurance policies for an amount equal to their annual salaries. Only those who have been employed by the firm more than three years are eligible.

A BONUS TO EMPLOYES will be paid by the Philadelphia Local Telegraph Company, of 135 South Second street. Those in the employ of the company for one year, or more, will receive a bonus of seven per cent if they are earning less than $1200, and six per cent, if earning more.

QUALMS OF CONSCIENCE, according to the police, caused Louis White, eighteen years old, of 6114 Norwood street, to surrender at the Twelfth and Pine streets station. The police say he admitted stealing $110 from a nurse to have "a good time." He was an orderly at the Germantown Hospital.

FOUNDRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION elected officers for 1917 at the two hundred and sixty-third meeting of the association at the Manufacturers' Club. The following were elected: President, Thomas Devlin; vice president, George E. Davies; treasurer, Joshua Thompson; secretary, Howard Evans; executive committee of five members, Walter Wood, Thomas H. Eynon, H. L. Haldeman, Walter T. MacDonald and William T. Dunning, of Chester, Pa.

SPLASHING BY ACID may cost Benjamin Dover, a dyer, fifty years old, of 1815 Orthodox street, his eyesight. He is in the Frankford Hospital. The man was carrying a pail of dyestuff when he slipped and was splashed by the burning liquid.

POTH ESTATE has made an exchange of equities with Kahn & Greenberg in properties owned by both parties. The Brantwood and Edgeton apartment houses, on Parkside avenue, and other properties on Parkside avenue, as well as several houses on Memorial avenue, were transferred by the Poth Estate in exchange for the automobile salesrooms 2300 to 2312 Chestnut street, the premises 615-17 Market street, southeast corner Fifth and Market streets and the premises 1223 Arch street.

ADELPHIA HOTEL is made the subject of a deal whereby a first mortgage of $2,600,000 has been taken on the property by the Philadelphia Company for Guaranteeing Mortgages. The Land Title and Trust Company also has become trustee for an issue of second mortgage bonds on the property amounting to $400,000. Both mortgages are made by D. V. Provan. They replace a first mortgage of $1,500,000, a second mortgage of $350,000 and third mortgage bonds amounting to $500,000.

CAMDEN

HIT OVER THE HEAD with a water pitcher by a woman, John Farrell, 21 North Third street, Camden, is in the Cooper Hospital, with concussion of the brain. The police are searching for his assailant.

THE CAMDEN ROTARY CLUB has elected officers as follows: President, William J. Strandwitz; vice president, Volney G. Bennett; treasurer, Bernard F. Schroeder; secretary, William A. Stewart; sergeant-at-arms, J. F. D. Morgan.

LIQUOR AT BALLS and other entertainments will not be served after 1 a. m., according to a decision of the Camden Excise Board, which becomes effective on March 1. All bars now are forced to close at 1 o'clock, but in the past special licenses were granted to serve liquor after that time at balls or other entertainments. The board granted 290 of 295 retail license applications.

A VERDICT of $8000 was awarded Joseph C. Metzgar for an injury to his left foot against the Strang Electric Company by a jury before Judge Lloyd in the Camden County Circuit Court late yesterday. The verdict was the largest awarded in more than ten years. Metzgar, employed as an electrician, was injured in a fall from a scaffold while working on the Buffalo, N. Y., City Hall in 1914. He was represented by Judge William C. French. The injury, it was alleged, caused permanent lameness in the left leg.

CALLED A HYPOCRITE because he "hit the trail" during the Lyons campaign, James F. May, of 534 Ray street, caused the arrest of William Parks, forty years old, of 517 Borton street. Arraigned before Alderman Sheridan, Parks denied the charge, but was ordered to pay the costs in the case.

THE FIFTH WARD Republican Club election resulted as follows: President, Amos Stants; first vice president, Robert Henry; second vice president, Joseph C. Maull; recording secretary, George W. Nichols; financial secretary, Charles H. Elfreth; treasurer, Kirby Garwood; trustees, Peter B. Carter, David Rankins, Harry Day, Albert Denies, John Staw; house committee, Charles H. Fitzsimmons, Sr., Frank W. Grech, William Lazarus, John Gilbert and Frank Truax.

RESIDENTS OF FIFTH, Mickle and Stevens streets slept in cold houses last night because water from the Hitchner wallpaper fire, at 201 South Fifth street yesterday flooded their cellars and disabled the heating plants. The water damage has not been estimated by the insurance companies.

Democrats Aid Move Against Brumbaugh

Continued from Page One

tween the Vares and John R. K. Scott, Congressman-at-Large, over the conducting of the Cox campaign.

One of the Vares is quoted as saying to Scott: "This is the last time you will get me into a thing like this." This remark is said to have been made when the Vares realized that Cox's battle was hopeless. They intimated that "Scott failed to deliver the goods."

Two former members of the Legislature are seeking the post of Superintendent of Public Grounds and Buildings, vacated recently by Samuel B. Rambo at the request of Governor Brumbaugh. They are William S. Toulis, of Harrisburg, who served in the House in 1909 and 1911, and Robert Smith, of Philadelphia, a member of the House in 1893, 1895 and 1897.

One of the reasons for the unusual three weeks' recess of the Legislature, it was said, is to determine finally whether the impeachment talk is to be realized into fact and action. One thing appears to be certain, that the impeachment bill will be put up to the Penrose majority in the House by the Democratic leaders. The Democrats, both Old Guard and representation, will support the bill; the former to help the Republican Old Guard, and the latter to provide material for the gubernatorial fight of 1918.

In answer to all this the Vare leaders have been asserting that Senator Penrose could not control enough votes in the House to pass any bill, to say nothing of a bill to impeach. They said that the ninety-five votes which Baldwin received in the speakership caucus represented the high tide of Penrose strength. A majority of the House, on the other hand, is 101. But Penrose leaders said that it had not been necessary to call on their support in the caucus, that a number of Penrose men covered up by voting for Cox.

The official Penrose figures are that 125 members of the House, or twenty-one more than a majority, will vote for what Penrose wants. These are Republicans, it was asserted, and did not include Democrats and others who could be got on the log-rolling or reciprocity basis. The Penrose leaders said they felt confident even of getting the two-thirds vote in the House which would be required to pass bills over the gubernatorial veto. They said the Senate was absolutely anti-Brumbaugh and anti-Vare.

That Penrose is determined upon reprisal created some surprise. For in the past factional fights were never carried into the distribution of jobs. The precedent in the Organization is that when a fight preceding the organization of the Legislature has ended all wounds have been considered healed and recognition accorded the supporters of the defeated cause in both patronage and committee assignments.

If reports from Harrisburg are true, Penrose will carry his antagonism into the matter of committee assignments as well. First consideration in this important phase of the organization of the Legislature will be given in the Senate, it was reliably reported.

Senator Penrose will confer with the official heads of the Legislature in Philadelphia on Saturday, when the matter of patronage and committee assignments will be gone over. Speaker Baldwin, Senator Beidleman, President pro tem. of the Senate; Chairman Sproul, of the Senate State Committee, and Chairman Woodward, of the House State Committee, are expected to attend the conference. The presiding officer of each house names the committees. The state committees choose the jobholders. Woodward, by the way, will undoubtedly be continued as chairman of the House Appropriation Committee.

Accused of Starting Five Fires

READING, Pa., Jan. 4.—J. M. McFarland, of Harrisburg, a deputy State fire marshal, investigating the five recent stable fires attributed to incendiaries here, has had a warrant issued for Joseph Closeman, twenty-eight years old, the suspect held by the police, on a charge of arson. Closeman is also known as Clawson, and is believed to be either deranged or a dope fiend.

$6,000,000 to Improve U. S. Navy Yard Here

Continued from Page One

tural shop will place the Philadelphia Navy Yard on par with any of the best private shipbuilding yards.

The structural shop, necessary for battleship building, will be 700 feet long and 200 feet wide. The outlay of $1,000,000 reserved for it will make it a notable addition to the city, officers said.

The building slip will be 550 feet long, its steel overstructure, which will be similar to that of the New York Shipbuilding Company, will permit work during inclement weather, and will give the Philadelphia yard better facilities for constructing warships than those of any other government yard.

Work on all of the improvements will be rushed simultaneously, said Admiral Harris, who before becoming head of the Bureau of Yards and Docks was commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. It is expected that actual work on the new equipment will begin before February 1.

"The equipment provided by the outlay will make League Island one of the best navy yards in the country," he said. "We expect to have every improvement completed so that the keel of the first ship can be laid in March, 1918."

At Commandant Russell's office at the Philadelphia Navy Yard it was said that the improvements would be installed in the western end of the yard, which now is undeveloped.

LOCATION OF DRYDOCK

"The 1100-foot drydock will be placed just west of the present dock" was the statement. "Beyond that, according to our plans, the slip will be installed. The plate shop, machine shops and other shops will stand at the head of the docks."

Ever since summer the naval officials here have been in close communication with the Navy Department and many conferences over the proposed improvements were held. Architectural engineers at League Island submitted sets of plans to the department and for several months these plans have been under examination. The final decision of the department caused League Island officers to express their elation.

Glee was caused among the machinists and other workers by the announcement of the advance in wages, which goes into effect the first of the year. The increases granted to the Philadelphia and New York yards were larger than those at other government naval bases, inasmuch as the prevailing labor scale existing in private and similar lines is higher in these cities.

BIG WAGE ADVANCE

Boilermakers, sheet-metal workers, pattern makers and riggers are among those who enjoy the greatest advances in wages. Chief among the maximum advances are:

Carpenters from $4 to $4.32.
Joiners from $3.76 to $4.
Molders from $4.16 to $4.24.
Plumbers from $4 to $4.40.
Sheetmetal workers from $3.52 to $4.
Shipsmiths from $4 to $4.24.
Helpers from $2.24 to $2.48.
Boilermakers from $3.84 to $4.24.
Coppersmiths from $4 to $4.24.
Machinists from $4 to $4.32.
Patternmakers from $4.24 to $4.32.
Riggers from $3.28 to $3.76.
Shipfitters from $4 to $4.24.
Laborers from $2 to $2.24.

Instructions have been issued to the commandants of the Philadelphia and New York yards not to take men on at the minimum wages at this time while the labor market is high. A rate between the minimum and maximum will be paid.

Asks Reward and Is Jailed

After Herbert Gilmore, nineteen years old, of 811 Tioga street, it is alleged, tried to obtain a reward from Charles H. Spaeth, of 632 Olney avenue, for having recovered his automobile, which was stolen on New Year's Day, he was arrested on suspicion of having been the thief. He had a preliminary hearing in the Central Police Court before Magistrate Mecleary this morning and was held in $600 bail for court.

TRANSIT HEARING SET FOR JAN. 24

Public Service Commission Will Sit on Public Convenience Writ

MEANS EARLY ACTIVITY

New Draft of Argeement Between P. R. T. and City Will Be Made

The Public Service Commission today notified Transit Director Twining that a public hearing would be held Wednesday, January 24, at Harrisburg, upon the city's application for authority to proceed at once with the construction of the entire system of high-speed lines with the exception of the Darby elevated and the spurs on the Broad street tube.

The application for a writ of public convenience granting the city such authority was presented to the commission last Friday by Assistant Transit Director George T. Atkinson. The application asks authority to proceed at once with

The Broad street subway from League Island to Olney avenue.

The subway delivery loop in the central business district.

The Parkway-North Twenty-ninth street subway-elevated to Rexborough.

The three-mile extension of the Frankford "L" from Bridge to Bhawn street.

The only part of the Taylor plan not included in the applications are the Darby "L," the Germantown spur of the Broad Street Subway and the section of the Frankford "L" from Callowhill to Market street.

Applications to proceed with the Darby "L" will be made as soon as engineering designs have been completed by the Transit Department. No steps can be taken on the spurs of the Broad street tube until Councils have defined the respective routes.

The completion of the Frankford "L" southward from Callowhill street hinges upon the signing of the agreement between the city and Rapid Transit Company.

Pending the final action of the Public Service Commission on the agreement, Director Twining is going ahead with the construction work on the general system. Today he began advertising for bids for the delivery loop in Arch, Eighth and Locust streets. The work will be divided into three contracts, known as contracts Nos. 201, 202 and 203. The cost of the work will be approximately $6,300,000. Bids will be opened February 6.

In advertising for new bids Director Twining has explained that the letting of the bids is contingent upon the action of the Public Service Commission.

There have been rumors of opposition to the granting of certificates for the building of the three-mile extension north of Bridge street. The extension was tacked on to the original Taylor plans in Councils through the influence of Congressman Costello. It has been charged that it was put through to benefit politicians and landowners. Neither former Director Taylor nor Director Twining has ever given it his indorsement.

As a result of a series of questions submitted to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company by Transit Director William S. Twining, Ellis Ames Ballard, chief counsel for the company, has been instructed to draw up a new draft of the proposed agreement between the company, more in detail than the proposition submitted to the municipal authorities two weeks ago following the conferences between company officials and former Transit Director A. Merritt Taylor.

The original proposal was merely an outline of the essential points which will be embodied in the lease of the high-speed lines. Director Twining, in the course of his analysis of this proposal, found several points which were vague and ambiguous. To clear up all points he submitted a list of questions to the transit company.

At the conference, held in the office of the Mayor late yesterday, President Thomas E. Mitten, of the company, agreed to have the answers to the questions put in writing, and to this end Mr. Ballard was instructed to prepare a more detailed agreement.

When this has been completed it will again be submitted to Director Twining for his analysis, and if found satisfactory will be sent to Councils for consideration and action. The actual lease, which will probably be drafted by City Solicitor Connelly, will follow the lines of the new proposal.

In discussing the latest step in the transit situation the Mayor said:

"All parties to the conference are hopeful of an early and satisfactory solution of the problem of preparing a fair and proper lease. A form of agreement is being drawn up by the attorney for the company more in detail than the outline that it has supplied, and this should be ready in about ten days, and the city's report and analysis of it should be ready for presentation to Councils in about thirty days."

FEEBLE OLD MAN FREE, BUT SCORNED BY KIN

Herman Billik, Convicted of Poisoning Vrzal Family, Gains Pardon

JOLIET, Ill., Jan. 4.—Herman Billik, feeble and stricken from the terrific strain of having been in the shadow of the gallows five times, will leave the penitentiary here today, pardoned by the State.

Billik, overjoyed at hearing of his pardon, announced he would go to Cleveland tonight, where his wife and daughter reside. But when informed by long-distance telephone of Billik's intention they were horror-stricken.

"We can't have him here," Mrs. Billik said.

"We don't want him," broke in Edna, the daughter. "How did he know we were here?"

Ignorant of the torn family ties, Billik planned today that his daughter Edna should be married to "Jerry" Vrzal, whose testimony convicted him of murder. Billik's wish to take Vrzal into his family followed Vrzal's testimony before the State Board of Pardons last week, when he repudiated his testimony which sent Billik to prison for the murder of Martin Vrzal, "Jerry's" father, and four daughters.

Young Vrzal said he was forced by the police to testify he had seen Billik poison the coffee that was said to have killed the Vrzals. Jerry was fifteen in 1907, when the crime was committed.

Billik was arrested after the death of Martin Vrzal, a milk dealer, and his daughters Mary, Tillie, Rosie and Bertha. The insurance was collected by Mrs. Vrzal. After being taken to the police station and questioned she was allowed to return home, where she died suddenly. The police said suicide.

Billik, a Bohemian fortune teller, was alleged to have influenced Mrs. Vrzal to turn over more than $6000 to him. "Jerry" Vrzal testified that he had seen Billik poison his father.

Bonus for Columbia Workers

COLUMBIA, Pa., Jan. 4.—The A. M. Byers Company has announced that all the salaried employes of the company will receive a bonus equal to ten per cent of their salaries, to be paid in monthly installments.

Greek Envoy Resigns

HAVRE, Jan. 4.—Spyridon Levidis, the Greek Minister to the Belgian Government, has resigned the Minister not being in agreement with King Constantine's policy.

AUSTRIAN ENVOY TO SAIL
Count Tarnow-Tarnowski, the new Ambassador of the Dual Monarchy, will leave Amsterdam on January 13 with assurances of safe conduct.

CARRANZA NOW SEEKS PRESENCE OF U. S. FORCE

First Chief Springs Surprise in Further Parley on Protocol

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—Venustiano Carranza, through his legal adviser here, today made a plea for the continuance of the American-Mexican joint commission. The first chief also threw more light than ever before on his attitude toward the Atlantic City protocol, upsetting many of the beliefs that have been entertained here.

The appeal of General Carranza to continue the commission to settle the many differences between the United States and Mexico will be forwarded to the American members of the commission. It will be acted on after the President has been consulted.

General Carranza has communicated here the surprising statement, it became known today through Mexican sources, that he believes there is more need for a protocol under which an arrangement could be made for a definite stay of the American troops in Mexico than for the withdrawal of the troops. This statement is explained here by the fact that the de facto Mexican Government never has recognized officially the presence of troops on Mexican soil.

Carranza representatives sprung another surprise. They declared that the Mexican members of the commission had repeatedly suggested joint policing of the border and the establishment of a neutral zone there, but that the Americans had rejected the suggestion, stating that each country must take care of its side of the border, while tacitly reserving to American troops the right to pursue "hot trails" of bandits into Mexico.

Another of General Carranza's objections to the Atlantic City protocol, it was learned, was the provision that, should a border raid occur during the forty-day period after ratification of the protocol, while the American column was withdrawing, it grant the American soldiers the right to remain indefinitely. This loophole to leave the American troops in Mexico, the Carranza objection pointed out, would surely result in bandits making a raid on the American border, to keep the American troops in Mexico and embarrass the de facto Government.

The Carranza suggestion that the joint commission be kept alive has not yet reached the American commissioners.

Their action on it, as well as the action of the President, is, of course, problematical. Carranza representatives here received dispatches today stating that information had reached de facto authorities in Mexico making it positive that the Administration plans to withdraw General Pershing and dispatch Ambassador Fletcher to his Mexico City post. It is on this information that General Carranza's suggestion that the commission be kept alive was based.

TWO HURT, $100,000 LOSS IN FIRE CAUSED BY BLAST

Flames in Pittsburgh Plant Spread to Seven Adjoining Houses—Several Blocks Endangered

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 4.—Two men were injured seriously and damage estimated at nearly $100,000 was done by fire, which resulted from an explosion shortly before noon today in the plant of the Holliday Chemical Company.

The explosion shattered windows for blocks around. The flames swept through the plant and spread to seven adjoining houses. For a time it appeared as though several blocks would be devastated.

Chris Huber, an employe of the plant, was badly burned by the explosion, and Robert McIntyre, a fireman, was badly hurt fighting the flames.

COUNCILS FACE MASS OF SMALL MEASURES

Bills of Financial Importance Will Not Appear Before End of Month

Measures providing for sewer and highway construction during 1917, and others defining the location of gasoline and gas lamps, were introduced in Councils today. Not until the latter part of the month, when Controller Walton opens the books of the city for the new year, will bills of financial importance make their appearance.

The usual mass of comparatively unimportant measures, which turn up the first of every year, will provide business for committees during the next few months, but as the city has no money to spend, the labors of the members of the Finance Committee are likely to be light for some time to come.

One of the financial measures taken up was a resolution authorizing the payment of the increase in wages resulting from the decision to pay laborers at Torresdale $2.50 a day instead of $2. The men struck for more money. This piece of legislation amended appropriations already made so as to make possible the increased payment.

Among the measures passed today were several that provide for grading streets in the suburban section of the city, improving a score or more country roads, placing on the city plan many streets that have long been in general use, and others that revise the lines and grades of streets already on the general plan of the city.

Entire Russian Front in Grave Danger

Continued from Page One

fore Focsani and Braila, which screen Galatz, are under Teuton fire.

The result of the fighting of the next few days will tell whether the Teuton drive can be stopped at this point or whether Braila and Focsani are to fall and a retreat is to be made beyond the Sereth.

Unless the Teuton advance can be stopped within the next few days the whole Russian front will be in grave danger. The front in Moldavia, constituting the left wing of the whole Russian line, is now its weakest point. If it were turned the whole Russian line would have to fall back and Galicia, the Bukowina and all the Austrian soil Russia now holds would have to be abandoned.

CUTS OFF SONS WITH $1 APIECE

Will of Eliza A. Manning Probated by the Register

Two sons of Eliza A. Manning, 3335 D street, are cut off with bequests of one dollar each in the will of their mother, probated today. The estate, valued at $3200, is left to relatives.

Other wills probated were those of Dr. George W. Bailey, 3904 Walnut street, which in private bequests disposes of property valued at $30,000; Caroline Mehlan, 1905 Brunner street, $11,350; John Armstrong, 6194 North Twenty-first street, $5700; Esther P. K. Keen, 2121, Hunting Park avenue, $5200; John Kelly, 173 Calumet street, $4600, and George W. Cecil, 3017 North Twenty-second street, $3800.

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

DEATHS

GLOCKER.—Jan. 1, GUSTAV ADOLPH, son of Charles W. Glocker. Services at father's residence, 730 Northeast Boulevard, Fri., 2 p. m. Int. private.

GRISWOLD.—Jan. 3, ELIZA TRACY, widow of William A. Griswold. Funeral services, Fri., 4 p. m., Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany, Int. Erie, Pa.

WERNER.—Dec. 3, WILLIAM, husband of Sophia Werner, aged 66. Relatives and friends, V. F. D. A. Post No. 2; Admiral Prince Heinrich Yearly Benefical Association and the Liederkranz invited to funeral, Sun., 2 p. m., 2136 N. 2d st. Int. private, Greenmount Cem.

GARRITY.—Jan. 3, MARGARET GARRITY, widow of Edward Garrity. Relatives and friends, also Sacred Heart Society of St. Ann's Church, invited to funeral, Mon., 8:30 a. m., 2664 Ritter st. Solemn requiem mass at St. Ann's Church, 10 a. m. Int. New Cathedral Cem. Auto funeral.

HALSTEAD.—Jan. 3, EMMA O., wife of William H. Halstead, of Malvern. Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, Sat., 2 p. m., 1719 N. 19th st. Int. private.

FAUCETT.—Jan. 3, ALEXIS S. FAUCETT, aged 78. Relatives and friends invited to funeral, Sat., 113 E. Market st., West Chester, 2 p. m. Int. private.

HULL.—Jan. 4, at 5:30 a. m., MARGARET K. HULL, aged 84. Due notice of funeral from 308 N. 49th st.

SITUATIONS WANTED—FEMALE

STENOGRAPHER, exp., some knowl. of bookkeeping, high school graduate. 826 Reed st.

COMPANION—Young English woman desires position as companion to lady or young girl; no objections to traveling or country. P 727, Ledger Office.

HELP WANTED—FEMALE

GIRL, for general housework; experienced; good wages, small family; reference required. Call 4914 Cedar ave.

HELP WANTED—MALE

BUTLER and housman, white, for small family in country; references required. Call 4500 for details and appointments.

AUTOMOBILE WASHER—Public garage; only sober, experienced man with references for ability need apply; wages $13 per week.

DEWEES, 1122 Chestnut st.

STOCK SALESMAN—Reputable concern wishes several salesmen to place a portion of its capital stock; liberal commission and permanent position to producer. Apply 1001 Commonwealth Bldg., 8:30 to 10, or 5 to 6.

BOARDING—WANTED

LADY employed desires board in strictly private family; give rates. P 726, Ledger Office.

Niederman

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Knowing as you do the exclusive style and value of our shoes—as well as all about the advance in the cost of shoes—you will certainly appreciate the exceptional opportunity offered during this semi-annual reduction.

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