

PENROSE PLANS FIGHT TO FINISH

Senator and Aids Confer to Push Brumbaugh Probe Bill

LAUGHS AT COMPROMISE

The Penrose "war board" opened conference today in the office of Senator Penrose in this city to make plans for trying to force the Sprout investigation resolution through the Senate when the Legislature reconvenes next Monday night.

The senior Senator returned unexpectedly from Pittsburgh last night. He declared his intention to appear personally before the Senate if it should be deemed necessary to insure the passage of the probe measure. He added, however, that he was confident of at least thirty votes for the resolution when it comes up for final passage in the upper house of the Assembly.

Penrose also emphatically denied that any compromise suggestion had been made to the Vore-Brumbaugh forces. It was reported yesterday that Penrose representatives had informed Governor Brumbaugh that if he would get rid of Attorney General Brown Penrose would confine the probe to the departments of the State Government and leave the Governor alone.

"The probe will go on," said Senator Penrose. "There will be no halting or compromise. If I thought there was any doubt about the passage of the resolution calling for an investigation, I would go to Harrisburg and ask the privilege of addressing the Senate and House in joint session. When I would get through with my statements of fact I do not believe there would be a single member of the entire Legislature who would have the temerity to vote against the resolution calling for a probe of the Brumbaugh Administration."

Concerning the proposed compromise offer, Penrose said: "I do not believe any such proposition was made. Of course it would be a logical thing to get rid of Brown as a salve. I will recall that Jonah was tossed to the whale. But there is no intention to compromise or to drop the investigation of the Governor."

Penrose asserted that more than \$200,000 has been pledged by citizens of the State for the expenses of the investigation if the Sprout resolution should not pass. A concurrent resolution, which will not carry with it an appropriation, and which will not require the Governor's signature, will be introduced at once if the Sprout measure is defeated, he said.

The Vore-Brumbaugh leaders also are busy today drafting their final plans for fighting the Sprout probe resolution in its present form. They will probably make an offer to the Penrose forces to support the investigation bill if it is amended so that it specifies just what individuals and departments are to be investigated and requires that a report be made to the present Legislature and that the commission be appointed in some other manner than by the Penrose president pro tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House.

City Appointments Announced
City appointments today include Oswald T. Fredrick, 3719 Cedar avenue, clerk, Department of Transit, salary \$1000; James Donaldson, 3720 Knorr street, fireman, Bureau of Water; \$500; Nicholas Dole, Byberry, fireman, Bureau of Charities, \$500; Grace Rieker, 1921 Fairmount avenue, laboratory helper, Bureau of Health, \$500; William Moore, 11 Kimball street, janitor, Board of Recreation, \$720; Anna Brenner, 2332 Lombard street, and Elizabeth A. Clark, 2063 East Arizona street, janitors, Bureau of Surveys, salaries \$480 a year.

HOW CAN YOU GET OUT WHEN YOU NEVER WERE IN?

Which Is the Question Arising When Dr. Moses Stearn Says He Is Through With Politics

The campaign for more bathhouses received a severe jolt today when Dr. Moses Stearn announced his retirement from active participation in politics.

"I am done for good." Thus spoke the Lib. Sun. Law candidate, his rusty face cracked in a smile that obliterated for the moment his black choker.

"I am henceforth and forever more going to devote my time to cattle growing. I am going to raise goats, and the first one is going to belong to Superintendent Robinson. He wouldn't let me talk on City Hall Plaza."

The venerable Doctor denied that his defeat for Congress last fall was related in any way to his decision to leave the quixotic political field to Pierson Stackhouse and John Callahan.

WILL ERECT 500 HOMES

Twentieth and Passyunk Avenue Deal Will Involve Expenditure of \$2,000,000

More than 500 dwellings will be erected in the vicinity of Twentieth street and Passyunk avenue, adjoining the Girard estate. They will involve an expenditure of more than \$2,000,000. The work of construction will start within the next few days.

The announcement was made by Burton C. Simon, a real estate broker and builder, who said that at last he was about to realize the ambition of his life in building what will be virtually a small town. He has had that ambition since a boy, he said. His father was a truck farmer.

Title papers have been prepared. The lots will be 16 by 91 feet.

TO CONTINUE S. P. C. A. FIGHT

Defeated Progressives Will Ask Court to Invalidate Election

Action against the victorious conservative faction of the Women's Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will be brought today by the progressives defeated at the recent election.

An affidavit will be filed shortly after noon in the Court of Common Pleas, contesting the election. It is signed by members who are socially prominent. It contains names of thirty-four women, all of whom are life members. It is expected that a time will be fixed for a hearing within the next ten days.

Porch Climber Confesses

LANCASTER, Pa., Feb. 1.—Confessing numerous house-breakings in Lancaster in the last six months, Edward J. Mullen, fifty-nine years old, has been committed for a hearing before Alderman John P. Hainth, whose house he unsuccessfully attempted to rob the night of January 21. Some years ago Mullen served twenty-nine months for looting J. R. Goodell's home.

Western Fruit Men End Convention

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 1.—Houston, Texas, was selected for the 1918 convention and H. M. Well, of Shreveport, was elected president of the Western Fruit Jobbers' Association at the closing session of the annual meeting here. R. H. Jones, of Kansas City, Mo., was chosen treasurer.

Believe Laborer Footpad Victim

READING, Pa., Feb. 1.—Lying unconscious on the street in Oakbrook, a suburb, Harry Rollman, an iron worker, was found by a street-crow. The top of his head was crushed in and he is expected to die. Two squares away his lodge card was picked up. Rollman is believed to have been assaulted by a footpad.

COUNCILS TO GET "SKELETON" BILL

Measure Suggesting Need of Bigger City Debt Up Today

SUM MAY BE \$10,000,000

Final Shaping of Legislation Waits Upon Report on Taxes

The first step in a move to increase the city's indebtedness will be taken today when Chairman Gaffney, of Councils' Finance Committee, will introduce in Common Council a "skeleton bill" announcing the desire to increase the debt of the city, but naming no figure for a loan nor any detail of the uses to which it is planned to put the money. It is understood the amount will be fixed at \$10,000,000 when the unfinished measure comes before the Finance Committee for final shaping.

Mayor Smith had planned and hoped to have introduced today a measure that would outline in detail proposed loan legislation this spring. This was found to be impossible when Controller Walton reported that he had received assessment figures on realty and personal property from the Board of Revision of Taxes too late to fix the borrowing capacity of the city which the loan will have to be based. It was with the understanding that such figures will be forthcoming soon that the blank loan legislation was prepared.

WALTON GIVES WARNING

An increase in the tax rate to at least 12 is inevitable next year to meet the running expenses of the city and the schools unless Councils call a halt on further loans and expenditures and are more careful in passing land condemnation bills. This dark outlook is predicted in the preliminary financial report that Controller Walton submitted to Councils today.

His warning as to cautious procedure in the future came as a surprise to many members of Councils who believed they had available at this time some \$800,000 that might, in a pinch, be used for salary raises to slave off possible labor troubles in municipal departments. The controller briefly shows the members that their surplus is approximately \$70,000, a sum insufficient to be of any real service to the members of the Finance Committee. Enforcing his prediction that an increased tax rate will be necessary next year, City Controller Walton says: "Seven cents additional to the new 1917 tax rate of \$1.23 for city and county purposes, other than schools, or \$1.32 per \$100 of valuation, would have been required to provide sufficient appropriations to the City Treasury for the lawful obligations of 1917 if the Sinking Fund Commissioners had not come to the assistance of City Councils by agreeing to pay the principal and interest on the sinking fund debt due in 1917 out of the surplus reserve of the sinking fund that had been accumulated over a great many years. Such a procedure cannot again be resorted to, and it will, therefore, be necessary for City Councils to add seven cents to the 1918 tax rate for this purpose."

The speed with which the preliminary loan legislation is rushed through the Finance Committee and returned to Councils will fix the probable date for an election to place the loan proposal before the voters. The tentative date of April 10, that was agreed upon a week or so ago, probably will have to be abandoned for a day later in April, as the necessary advertising will require a month and the passage of the bills several weeks.

No matter what the borrowing capacity

is found to be, the sum will be a disappointment to many city officials who had hoped to be able to care for badly needed bridge, sewer and highway construction from any loan decided upon this year. Because of an item of \$2,461,684 of unfunded debt that must be provided for, to say nothing of other items of a similar nature providing millions for the completion of Convention Hall, an Art Museum and similar undertakings, the amount that will be available for general improvements is bound to be small. It is understood that not less than \$3,000,000 of the total will be allowed for water plant extensions. This sum is admittedly less than one-half the amount needed to place the city's \$60,000,000 worth of equipment in condition to serve all sections of the city at all times.

City employees advocating an increase of salary for many classes of labor are anxious that an item be included in the loan to provide funds to cover in part at least the more than \$1,000,000 salary demands now resting in the Finance Committee. That no such item will be included is certain, as it would mean a return to the old system of borrowing for current expenses, which has been condemned by all.

Mayor Smith will answer the appeal today for Philadelphia co-operation in the Camden bridge scheme, by sending Councils a message, accompanying the draft of an ordinance, to provide \$15,000 for the use of the commission authorized by Councils months ago to prepare plans and provide estimates of cost of the structure. The plan is to have the city commission cooperate with the New Jersey Commission.

No transit legislation will appear in Councils today, but each member will be given a copy of the latest proposal of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company to lease city-built lines, to study until such

time as the Mayor shall have prepared and be ready to submit his final recommendations as to leasing the lines.

Bills scheduled for passage today include measures appropriating \$25,000 to Director Krusen for employment of nurses to work among the poor; \$4000 for the employment of a supervisor by the Board of Education; \$75,000 of loan moneys to Byberry work; for the purchase of pier No. 8, North Wharves, by the Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries from the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company for \$40,000, and the naming of two parks and playgrounds in South Philadelphia after Mayor Smith and Director Wilson, respectively.

Acid Phosphate Order for Holland

ATLANTA, Feb. 1.—The closing of a contract with the Netherlands Government for \$2,500,000 worth of acid phosphate to be used by Holland farmers for fertilizer was announced by a local firm. Shipments will begin about March 1, next, it was said. The phosphate sold for \$11 a ton f. o. b. American ports, it was reported, but freight transportation and other costs will bring the total expenditure to about \$35 a ton.

No Funds to Care for Consumptives

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 1.—On account of the Levy Court having failed to make an appropriation for Hope Farm, the tuberculosis sanatorium near this city, it may be necessary to send twenty-seven patients to their homes, as the institution is without funds to care for them. It may also be necessary to send home ten patients supported by the State, as the State appropriation is about exhausted.

BALDWIN'S MEMORY JOGGED

Suffragist Leader Advises Him to Recall Last Referendum Election

MEDIA, Pa., Feb. 1.—Mrs. J. Claude Bedford, chairman of the finance committee of the Pennsylvania Woman Suffrage Association, fears that Speaker Richard J. Baldwin has forgotten what he heard when he had his "ear to the ground" in Delaware County in 1915. Mrs. Bedford also is a resident of Delaware County, her home being at Media.

"I have read," Mrs. Bedford said yesterday, "that Speaker Baldwin has 'wondered' if there is enough sentiment in favor of another woman suffrage referendum in 1920. All Mr. Baldwin need do, in addition to recalling that we carried thirty-three counties and polled more than 285,000 votes, is to look up the records of Delaware County. If he does he will find that suffrage carried his legislative district by 317 votes."

"We can assure Mr. Baldwin that the sentiment in Delaware County now is even stronger."

Line to Tap Greene County Coal Fields

WHEELING, W. Va., Feb. 1.—The Wheeling, Ohio and Eastern Railroad company has purchased the surveys, rights of way and properties of the defunct Pittsburgh, Connellsville and Wheeling Railroad Company, it became known today. The former railroad will build a line up Big Wheeling Creek to coal fields of Greene County, Pa. It is officially announced.

City News in Brief

R. JENN SMITH, Jr., son of the well-known members of the Chester Valley team, is suffering from a broken arm, sustained when he fell from his mount while riding with the Mather hounds. This is the third time he has broken an arm this year.

M. K. BARNUM has been appointed assistant to J. M. Davis, vice president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in charge of operation and maintenance. He will enter upon his new duties today. Mr. Barnum was formerly superintendent of motive power of the eastern lines of the Baltimore and Ohio at Baltimore.

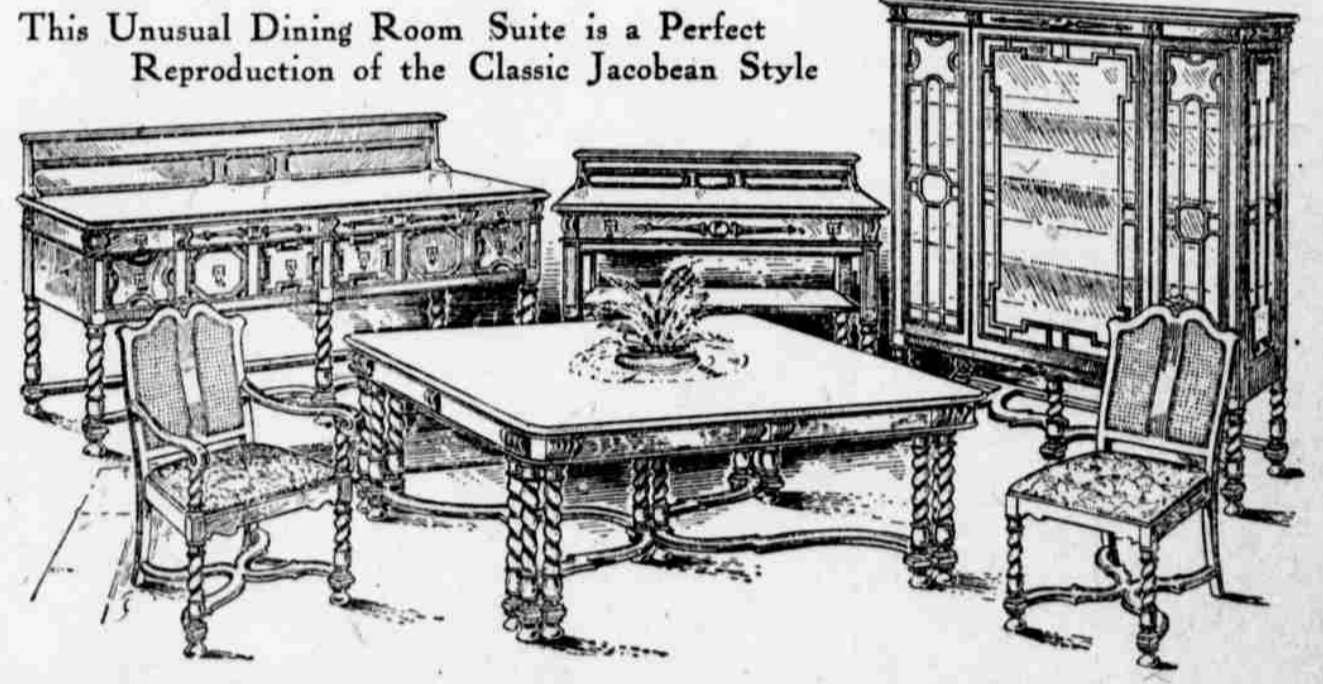
WILLIAM M. BAILEY has been appointed assistant to the president of the Midvale Steel and Ordnance Company in the management of the following subsidiary units of the company: Midvale Steel Company, Cambria Steel Company, Worth Brothers Company and the Wilmington Steel Company. Alva C. Dinkley is president of the four concerns. Mr. Bailey was formerly secretary to Mr. Dinkley.

MANEELY-TUCKER MEMORIAL Fund, chartered May 29, 1916, will be greatly benefited if the suggestion made by Superintendent of Police Robinson be carried out. It has been suggested that each member of the force voluntarily contribute \$1 a year to the fund. The fund now amounts to \$6300. Captain George S. Tempest, Room 225, City Hall, is acting as treasurer.



Furniture Month Formally Ushered in by Foremost Furniture House

TO-DAY begins our great February Sale. It promises to be the greatest in our history in point of business, as it is in point of values offered, vastness, variety and beauty of the stock which occupies our acreage of floor space. We have reproduced our building at the head of this announcement because we want you to realize its magnitude and its nearness. "Just Across Market St. Ferry" is the inscription—a four-minute ride that brings you face to face with the largest exclusive furniture store in the United States—a four-minute ride that has saved the householders of Philadelphia and surrounding territory hundreds of thousands of dollars, and given them more beautiful and comfortable homes. To describe our proposition seems but to iterate the obvious, for everyone can see that our being manufacturers as well as retailers gives us a deeper insight into the business, the artist's and artisan's point of view rather than merely that of the merchants', which is almost always the case elsewhere. Also, that specialization is the keynote of economy in manufacturing and marketing, an economy which, in conjunction with that of our inexpensive location, enables us to sell the finer grade of furniture for less than the commonplace kind sells for outside of this unique Store. Here you will find, in addition to the standardized designs, hundreds of exclusive suites and pieces, the choicest output of our own and over four hundred other factories; an all inclusive price range, a display of merchandise taking in the most inexpensive, simple pieces up to the most magnificent Period reproductions. The Van Sciver Store is "Furniture Headquarters" for every householder, the "Fairland of Furniture" wherein all will find their kind of home equipment at the price they can afford.



A Sale of Over \$200,000 Worth of Rugs and Carpets at Reductions of 10% to 33 1/3%

Our Rug and Carpet Department contributes largely to the interest of this February Sale in its presentation of more than \$200,000 worth of floor coverings at reductions ranging from 10 to 33 1/3 per cent. Even these figures are not fully representative of the savings involved, for they have been made on our old prices—those in effect before the heavy advance in cost of materials and manufacture. Because of these conditions; particularly the shortage in dyes; many choice designs will not be renewed next season and these we are closing out at the greatest possible reduction. The entire line, however, during this sale is offered at prices that, from all indications, will not be available again perhaps for years. The Van Sciver Store is the logical place to secure the best values in floor coverings—because we are specialists in furniture and furnishings—and we urge our patrons to take advantage of the really unusual opportunities during this month.

DRAPERIES During the February Sale, our Drapery Department, in addition to offering interesting price reductions on Portieres, Curtains, Materials, Table Throws, Comfortables, Blankets, etc., also provides a special Shade Service. Shades up to 3x6 feet are supplied, fitted and hung for 95c each.

RESTAURANT The Van Sciver Restaurant is of especial usefulness during our semi-annual sales, for it provides for the comfort of hundreds of out-of-town and local visitors. Prices are very moderate, cuisine and service are of the best and the surroundings attractive and restful.

Van Sciver Furniture May Always Be Recognized by Its Correctness of Design and Soundness of Construction. No Matter How Inexpensive or Costly, These Features Are Invariably Present

J. B. Van Sciver Co.

Store Closes Daily at 8:30 P. M. MARKET ST. FERRY, CAMDEN, N. J. Market St. Ferry Boat Land Opposite Store.

The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul

ON EIGHTEENTH street, facing Logan Square, stands the imposing Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul. The Pictorial Section of Sunday's Public Ledger contains a whole page of pictures showing the exterior and interior of the Cathedral, the altar boys and a handsome photograph of Archbishop Prendergast. Order your copy today.

Sunday's PUBLIC LEDGER

