

FAIR LEASE OR CITY-RUN LINES, MAYOR'S PLAN

Smith Holds Threat of Public Operation Over P. R. T.

CAN BORROW MONEY AND BUY EQUIPMENT

Promises Full and Free Discussion Before Transit Decision Is Made

COURTS PROBE OF REGIME

Not Dismayed by Bill in Legislature—Honored on Vacation by McNichol

The city of Philadelphia must get a square deal in the proposed lease of its high-speed lines to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company.

With that emphatic declaration, Mayor Thomas B. Smith made clear his position in the city's transit muddle today as he stepped from the Seaboard Florida Limited at the West Philadelphia station upon his return from a two weeks' vacation in Walton, Fla.

In almost the same breath the Mayor answered the attacks made upon him in Harrisburg yesterday through the introduction by State Representative Beyer of a resolution authorizing a probe of the political activity of city employes in Philadelphia, and declared that he and his administration would welcome any probe that might be made.

NOTHING TO HIDE

"I have nothing to hide; nothing to cover up," he added, "and no one under me will put any stumbling-block in the way of any probe that may come. On the contrary, we will welcome it. But I wonder why those fellows at Harrisburg don't pass some of the bills they introduce?"

Although denying that he had held any political conferences during his absence, the Mayor said that last Sunday he and Mrs. Smith went from Walton to St. Lucie, where Senator McNichol and his party are stopping, and that while there he went in bathing with the Senator. In the evening, he said, Senator McNichol gave a dinner at the clubhouse in honor of Smith, at which twenty-four members of the Philadelphia colony in Florida were present.

In reference to the food situation the Mayor explained that he had left all details to Director Wilson, who, he was sure, was capable of handling the matter to the best advantage of the city and those who are suffering.

All details of the transit situation—the specific criticisms of the Transit Company's proposal to be made in the report of Transit Director Twining, the analysis of Ford, Bacon & Davis, and the method of remedying these defects in the present draft of the lease—the Mayor waved aside with the answer that, having been out of the city for two weeks, he was naturally not conversant with any of the details.

"I want to make it plain, however," he continued, "that I intend to throw open the matter of the lease to the fullest and freest publicity and discussion. I hope the report and analysis being made by Director Twining and Ford, Bacon & Davis are on my desk when I reach my office. If they are I shall study them tonight and tomorrow go before Councils at their regular session and make them public in order that no time may be lost.

"I hope and I feel that the lease can be arranged fairly and equitably with the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. But before anything is closed the people must know all the facts I now have in my possession."

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA "DRY" AFTER NOVEMBER 1

House to Accept, Senate Bill Under Operation of Rule Reported by Committee

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The District of Columbia will be dry by November 1, 1917. The House will accept the Senate bill before adjournment tonight, operating through a "one" rule reported today by the Rules Committee. The enactment of this bill will make the twenty-seventh unit in the United States to be dry, excluding Alaska.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Unsettled tonight and Thursday, with rain or snow; lowest temperature tonight about thirty-two degrees; fresh northeast winds.

MAYOR BACK FROM SOUTHERN VACATION



Accompanied by Mrs. Smith and their son, Mayor Smith arrived at West Philadelphia Station today to resume his official duties after a vacation trip spent in Walton, Fla.

PSYCHIC DEVOTEE LOYAL TO FIANCEE

Thomas Pentz Says All Will Come Right in Spirit Match

GIRL IN AN ASYLUM

Thomas Eddington Pentz is not worried. Thomas Eddington is the young, dapper jewelry repair man in one of the city's big department stores, whose fiancée, Miss Marjorie Frazee, psychic student, became insane at her home in Brookline, Haverford township, while he waited for her on the corner of Ninth and Market streets to lead her to the altar—rather the Magistrate. The Magistrate was to have made a material marriage of the spiritual one which spirits had pledged to Pentz.

The girl, with her mother, Mrs. Calvin Frazee, well-known clubwoman, suffragist and worker in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, both lost their reason about noon Monday. At that time Marjorie said she had received a message from the spirits that she must find a sacrifice and the sacrifice should be her father.

No the girl, clad only in a nightgown, and her mother ran to the home of a neighbor, James Lloyd. There she grabbed a butcher knife. As the father was not drafted, she took her beloved pet dog, Peter Pumpkins, a blue ribbon collie, for the sacrifice. She mutilated him so that the police had to kill him later.

The father, Calvin Frazee, gave permission after that for proceedings, and the mother and daughter were both taken to the insane asylum at Norristown.

PENTZ IS LOYAL But still Thomas Eddington Pentz, who was to have wed the girl at the command of the spirit world, is not worried.

"It was just a case of nervous strain," he said.

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SOCIETY WOMAN SAVED, WITH MAID, FROM FIRE

Firemen Carry Mrs. J. Edward Durham, Jr., of Allentown, From Porch Roof

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Feb. 28.—Mrs. J. Edward Durham, Jr., and her maid were rescued early today by firemen from death by suffocation in their burning home.

Mrs. Durham is Hannah, daughter of Colonel E. M. Young, millionaire cement manufacturer and member of Governor Brumbaugh's staff. She and her husband live in a beautiful home in the fashionable West End. Mrs. Durham and the maid went to bed early last evening while Mr. Durham was downtown with Colonel Young. Shortly after midnight Mrs. Durham was awakened by the odor of smoke and on opening her bedroom door was all but overwhelmed with smoke.

She called to the maid, Jennie Erdman. She called to the maid, and called out sleeping on the third floor, and a passerby turned in a window for help. A passerby turned in a window for help. A passerby turned in a window for help.

The blaze, which started from spontaneous combustion of waste in the cellar, was smothered by the firemen with a hose and a bucket of water. The fire was extinguished in about an hour. Mrs. Durham and the maid were rescued by firemen from the porch roof. The loss may reach \$10,000. Mr. Durham, manager of the Honney Vise and Tool Works of Germantown. His wife is regarded as the leader of Allentown's younger social set.

ALLIES WANT U. S. TO JOIN CONFLICT

Senator-Elect Hale Finds British and French Leaders Highly Pleased

WELCOME MORAL EFFECT

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—"The Allies want us in the war, Lloyd George wants us in the war, Premier Briand wants us in the war," was the word brought to the United States today from Europe by Colonel Frederick Hale, United States Senator-elect from Maine, who arrived aboard the American liner Finland.

Mr. Hale has been abroad several months studying war conditions before taking his seat in the next Congress. "The moral effect of the American entry is all that is hoped for by the European countries. They declare the spectacle of only a few American troops fighting the German armies in France would have a tremendous moral effect."

"Much speculation is being given in Europe to the part this country would take if she should enter the war. It is felt she could help most by supplying convoys for steamships and by allowing use of her great credit. Her manufacturing possibilities also would help much."

"The feeling in the Allied nations toward us is very warm."

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TEUTON SUSPECTED AS SPY KILLED BY P. R. R. TRAIN

Young German Riding Freight Meets Death in Alighting From Car in Harrisburg

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 28.—Charles Schmidt, twenty-three years old, born in Germany, was killed today riding freight on the Pennsylvania Railroad from Emoryton to Harrisburg, when he attempted to alight in this city.

Charles Martin, of Chicago, who accompanied Schmidt, said Schmidt had been suspected several times of being a German spy and discharged by his employers. His last place of employment was the Carney's Point du Pont powder plant.

MARTINE'S SWAN SONG WINS SENATE TRIBUTE

New Jersey Member Says Farewell After Six Years of Disillusioning Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Senator Martine of New Jersey, sang his "swan song" in the Senate today. When he had concluded several Senators were on their feet demanding recognition in order that they might pay tribute to his six years' service.

"When I came here for the first time six years ago," said Senator Martine, after expressing regret that his term was ending, "I felt a stifled, oppressed feeling. As I got my bearings, it passed away. That was explained to me as being due to the presence of greatness. Involuntarily I replied, 'O, God.' A bitter memory of the galleries and the Senators on the floor smiled broadly."

"The great Senator from Ohio, Mr. Burton," Senator Martine continued, "was rattling off the names of rivers like a child would cry 'mamma, mamma,' but he never once mentioned the River of Doubt. It is a moral coward of a pretender. I am happy to have read in cold type from unbridled pens that I was a sheer accident, a buffoon, a joke, a mountebank. But no man has ever dared say James E. Martine was a moral coward of a pretender. I am happy in the thought that the greatest glory is in being right and true."

AUSTRIA DENIES SINKING OF LAW

Disclaims Responsibility in Case in Note Handed to Penfield

SILENT ON U-BOAT WAR

Break With U. S. Appears Certain, Due to Berlin's Pressure

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Austrian Government today notified the State Department that the American schooner Lyman M. Law was not sunk by an Austrian submarine. In a note transmitted through Ambassador Penfield, the Austrian Foreign Minister said that all commanders of Austrian submarines had been heard from and that none reported the attacked on the American craft.

The captain of Law, in reporting the sinking, explained that the submarine bore neither flag nor number.

This fact, coupled with the fact that the attack occurred in the Mediterranean, led to official belief that the warship was Austrian, and was looked upon as a grave complication of Austrian-American relations.

The message to the State Department today, while relieving somewhat Austrian tension, tended to tighten the German-American strain, since, it is believed, if the attacking submarine was not Austrian it was probably German. The Law's captain reported that several of the submarine's crew were German.

Complete arrangements for the withdrawal of American diplomatic and consular officers from Austria-Hungary have been made by Ambassador Penfield on instructions from the State Department in the belief that a break in relations is inevitable. The Spanish Government has been asked to take over American interests and plans have been made to expedite the withdrawal of all Americans.

The last report from Ambassador Penfield, a brief cable received after these instructions were sent, suggested a possibility that Austria's reply to this Government's request for a definition of her attitude in the submarine situation might be favorable. No real hope was raised here, however, and no change in instructions followed.

The feeling prevails that while both this country and Austria desire to avoid a break, Germany is determined that her ally shall support to the greatest degree possible the submarine campaign.

SEVEN-EIGHTHS WOMAN SUFFRAGE FOR INDIANA

Governor Goodrich Signs Bill, With His Wife as Only Woman Witness

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Feb. 28.—Governor Goodrich signed the seven-eighths woman suffrage bill shortly after 9 o'clock today, with Mrs. Goodrich the only woman witnessing the ceremony.

The Governor by signing the bill early in the day disappointed many women who had gathered from all parts of the State for the event who expected it to take place this afternoon.

UTAH WILL VOTE AGAIN ON PROHIBITION

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Feb. 28.—Governor Bamberger signed the resolution passed by the Legislature to submit to the Utah electorate in 1918 the question of State-wide prohibition by constitutional amendment. Statutory prohibition, effective August 1, 1917, has already been provided for by the present Legislature.

BERNSTORFF PARTY SAILS FROM HALIFAX

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 28.—The steamship Frederik VIII with Count von Bernstorff, ex-German Ambassador to the United States, and his party on board, sailed last night for Copenhagen.

ELECTION OF WILSON COST DEMOCRATS \$2,500,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—It cost \$2,500,000 to re-elect President Wilson, and the Democratic National Committee faced a deficit of \$600,000 at the close of the recent campaign, according to an announcement made. The latter sum was just twice the deficit, which the committee publicly admitted in former statements. It was decided to let the truth get out when receipts showed that \$450,000 of it had been collected since election day.

WOMEN OF ONTARIO ASSURED OF BALLOT

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 28.—The women of Ontario were virtually assured the right to vote when the Government, through Premier Hearst, endorsed the bill of J. W. Johnson providing for equal suffrage.

TURKS REFUSE SAFE-CONDUCT TO THE DES MOINES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Ambassador Elkus at Constantinople informed the State Department that the Turkish Government could not guarantee safe-conduct for the United States cruiser Des Moines, which is prepared to sail for Beirut, Syria, with supplies for the starving refugees and to bring to the United States several hundred Americans from that port. It is probable that President Wilson and Secretary Lansing will decide to notify the Turkish Government that the ship is going to Beirut anyway. One objection to that is that its waters are thoroughly mined.

QUICK NEWS

ARMINDO RINGS 179 U-BOAT SURVIVORS

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 28.—With 179 survivors of ships sunk by German submarines aboard, the Dutch steamship Armindo, from Rotterdam to Hampton Roads arrived here today. The survivors were victims of five separate attacks and were picked up in the bay of Biscay on January 28. Two of the torpedoed vessels were British, two Norwegian and one Italian.

AMERICAN PHYSICIANS RETURNING FROM SILESIA

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28.—American physicians, who have been in the hospital at Oppelia, Silesia, with Doctor King, left for the United States last Sunday, according to dispatches received here today.

WAR PENSIONS TO COST BRITAIN \$165,000,000

LONDON, Feb. 28.—One hundred and thirty million pounds (about \$650,000,000) will be necessary for liabilities already incurred, under the Government's new system of pensioning the war victims. The figures were made public today by an investigating committee.

\$20,000 BUILDERS WILL STRIKE TOMORROW

CLEVELAND, Feb. 28.—Hopes of averting the strike of twenty thousand union men affiliated in building trades work were blasted this afternoon when the executive committee of the Building Trades' Council voted to refuse mediation. The strike order goes into effect tomorrow morning.

NEW HIGH PRICE FOR HOGS IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Hogs sold for \$13.55 per hundred in the local market today. This is an advance of twenty cents per hundred over yesterday's top and the highest price ever paid in the Chicago market.

EXPERT PREDICTS EGGS AT \$1 PER DOZEN

POTTSTOWN, Pa., Feb. 28.—W. Theodore Wittman, a State poultry expert of Allentown, in an address at a farmers' meeting in North Coventry, Chester County, started the audience with a prediction that "people are going to pay \$1 per dozen for eggs before the next year passes, and it's up to the farmer to make them pay it." He argued that because so many farmers have discontinued the production of eggs proved that it is a losing proposition.

BILL IN SENATE TO AID VIVISECTIONISTS

A bill of advantage to vivisectionists has been introduced at Harrisburg by Senator Miller, of Clearfield. It provides that any incorporated medical, pharmaceutical or veterinary school may obtain from the public pounds of the State all unclaimed animals for the purpose of experimenting for the promotion of biological or medical science. A fee of one dollar is to be paid for each animal.

CONGRESS ENACTS FLOOD-CONTROL BILL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Congress finally enacted the flood-control bill last night when the House agreed to minor Senate amendments and sent the measure to the President for his signature. It carries \$45,000,000 for the Mississippi River and \$5,600,000 for the Sacramento, to be spent on a continuing program of flood prevention. Local interests are required to provide sums equal to those furnished by the Federal Government.

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HOUSE REPORT LIMITS WILSON IN 'WAR' MOVES

Foreign Affairs Board Refuses to Grant Blanket Authority

PRESIDENT PLANS TO ACT "REGARDLESS"

Will Arm Ships and Throw Onus of Actual Break on Germany

SAILINGS TO BRING TEST

Question Now Is, What Will U-Boats Do With Armed American Liner?

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The House Foreign Affairs Committee today upheld President Wilson's request for power to meet the international situation—but with two important restrictions. The "other instrumentalities" aside from guns, gunners and money, was stripped from the original Flood bill, thus limiting perhaps the President's authority to a small extent. The second restriction was insertion of a provision against use of the war risk bureau to insure ships carrying munitions. The latter provision may bring the whole armed ship and munitions question into the present situation, and develop an unpleasant complication when a vote comes.

Those voting against the report on the bill were Representatives Shackelford and Huddleston, Democrats, and Representatives Cooper and Porter, Republicans, all of whom filed a minority report. Representative Thompson also filed a minority report.

MUNITIONS AN ISSUE

The committee was opposed to adopting in any form an amendment denying the authorization of armament to ships carrying munitions or limiting such armament to ships carrying noncombatant. Instead, as a concession to the opposition, the committee voted to exempt ships carrying war munitions from the protection of the war-risk insurance bureau.

There was no opposition to the granting of the President \$100,000,000 to carry out the provisions of the bill. The President will take no additional step to bring the general international crisis to a head until Congress shall express itself. The President, officials close to him said, believes that when the country has declared itself Congress will give him the power he has asked. Meanwhile, he expects much legislative backing and filing on Capitol Hill.

There has been no relaxation of the grim tension precipitated by the sinking of the Lacombe. None is immediately looked for but there was a generally growing belief in official quarters this afternoon that the sinking of the Comander would not be characterized by the Administration as an "act of war."

PRESIDENT'S COURSE

"The onus of the actual break will be placed on Germany," was the word quietly passed out from official circles. "The President will arm American ships no matter what Congress shall do, and then he will wait to see what German submarines will do."

The address of the Imperial German Chancellor yesterday was accepted in Administration circles as a direct challenge. Because of its tone it was believed that when the American Line resumes sailings next week its ships will be in as great danger as those of the Entente. But it was said that the President determined that these interrupted sailing shall be resumed, and it is certain that inasmuch as these

OLYMPIC ATHLETE MARRIES DIVORCEE

Mrs. W. O. McConnell's Wedding to Jervis Burdick, Former U. of P. Star, Celebrated

Jervis Burdick, a few years ago one of the University of Pennsylvania's foremost track athletes and a member of the American Olympic team, was married at noon today to Mrs. W. O. McConnell, of Haverford, who obtained a divorce from her former husband, Newlin McConnell, about a year ago.

The wedding today took place at the Belgrave and afterward the bride and bridegroom left for a trip through the West.

Mrs. Burdick before her marriage with McConnell was Miss Marjorie Obersteuffer, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman F. Obersteuffer. Her sister, Miss Dorothy Obersteuffer, made her debut two seasons ago. She was one of the Philadelphia girls who attended the Chevy Chase camp last spring.

Wounded Man Shields Assailant

Refusal of Charles Christie, 624 Walnut street, to tell who shot him has puzzled the police of the Second and Christie streets station as to the identity of his assailant. Christie was found by a policeman, seated against a pole at Seventh and Walnut streets last night. "I've been shot," he said. He was taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital, where physicians said he was dying. Christie was found by a policeman from a house on Walnut street last night.