POLICE EXPLAIN **BAN ON PACIFISTS**

Director Wilson Says Meeting Was Suppressed to Prevent Disorder

WARNED OF DISTURBANCE

Wilson Says He's for Free Speech, but Situation Warranted His Action

Director Wilson, of the Department of Public Safety, announced today that the peace meeting scheduled to take place at the Broad Street Theatre was prevented by the police last night as a precaution against disorder.

He said he thought it inadvisable to permit the meeting in view of the present crisis. The Director added that while the sponsors for the meeting and those in charge were thoroughly responsible persons they could not be responsible for those who would have attended.

Asked if this was not curtailing the right of free speech, he replied:

"I thoroughly favor free speech, but the incident at Baltimore is the answer to any question concerning the department's action last night."

peace meeting in Baltimore ended in

Other meetings in the future will be governed by the results of investigations of the applications. The meeting last night is a closed incident.

WARNED OF TROUBLE

It was learned that a report received by the police that there would be trouble at the peace meeting yesterday was the real cause of their action. Word to this effect was received by Superintendent of Police Robinson on Saturday afternoon. It is not known from what sources this threat came, but the department thought it better to take

Steps will be taken immediately by the Steps will be taken immediately by the Emergency Peace Federation to hold a public meeting in this city. John B. Leeds, chairman of the executive committee of the organization, said today that the police exceeded their authority in preventing a meeting of the federation last night and demands for the right of assembly will be made at a meeting to be held tomorrow night at the Friends' Meeting House, Six-teenth and Race streets.

Mr. Leeds, who is professor of economics at Temple University, asserted that the proper steps to test the legality of the police action would be taken without delay.

"Heretofore." he said, "the police have been in the habit of preventing various meetings of Socialists and other organiza-tions which made no protest. In this case was to have been a meeting conducted prominent and influential residents of e city, and there appears to have been no warrant for such a step as the police took. No reason was given by the police for preventing the meeting. It was simply stated that the meeting could not take

We would take the matter up today but for the fact that hundreds of our members have gone to Washington to attend the

peace demonstration there."

Seven policemen were stationed at the doors of the Broad Street Theatre last night, and when hundreds of peace advocates ar-rived they were informed that the meeting was off. Many of them expressed their in-dignation at such action by the police and declared that it was a violation of the Con-

One thousand intending attendants of the One thousand intending attendants of the meeting then walked by twos and threes up to the Forrest Theatre, where the Rev. James B. Ely was conducting a meeting of the Lemon Hill Association. Assembling in the lobby, they awalted the arrival of Ardo Hering, who, leading them into the auditorium, had an usher take a note up to Doctor Ely. The latter stopped his service and called Hering to the paitform.

ROBINSON'S LETTER The letter from Superinten Thomas M. Love, manager of the South road Street Theatre, which was read, said

Referring to the proposed peace meeting. I took the matter up with the Director of the Department of Public Safety, and he cannot see his way clear at this time to permit such a meeting to

take place.

I therefore desire to notify you that we will not permit the proposed meeting to take place, and I have also notified the lieutenant of the Fifth Police District to see that this order is carried out.

Early Saturday morning the management of the theatre received Superintendent Rob-inson's letter refusing to allow the meeting to be held. The theatre management asked Weston for a conference with his attorney. weston for a conference with his attorney, and it was suggested that counsel for the theatre and the Emergency Peace Federation agree upon some form of action to take up the matter with the police authorities. As every department in City Hall was closed at noon and no courts were available for a writ compelling the police to permit the meeting or enjoining them. available for a writ compelling the police to permit the meeting or enjoining them from interfering with the gathering, it was decided there was nothing left to be done save abide by the order of Superintendent Robinson.

Last night Director Wilson confirmed this Last night Director Wison confirmed this statement of Director Weston. "I know nothing of the refusal to permit the peace meeting," he said. "I suppose Superintendent Robinson merely followed police routine in refusing the application. Earlier in the week several applications were made for meetings which I recall had some objectionable features, and these were refused, and I suppose the Superintendent followed the ruling on those applications."

When the members of the executive

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committee of the Emergency Peace Federation found it was too late to apply for
judicial relief, and there was no chance to
hold their meeting, they seat the following
message to the President:
Hon. Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.
Citizens of Philadelphia have again been
denied by the police authorities the right to
parade or assemble in any public meeting to protest against our country entering war. We call on you to use the
authority of the United States Government to guarantee constitutional rights
of American citizens at home before you
use them for fighting for liberty abroad.

City News in Brief

BAILBOAD REFORM in the direction of centralized regulation and unification of control in the hands of the Government is the plan put out by the Philadelphia joint committee on the reasonable regulation of railroads. It contains arguments by George E. Bartol, president of the Bourse.

IDLENESS DROVE HENRY TRE-gear, seventy years old, of 5334 Media street, to commit suicide. He shot himself and dled shortly after his admittance to the West Philadelphia Homeopathic Hos-

CLEAN STREETS and the method of keeping them so are touched upon in a cir-cular sent out by the Board of Trade to all business organizations and many large firms. Prompt action by citizens, the cir-cular says, would change the appearance of the city within a week.

EXCAVATIONS AT MEMPHIS, encient capital of Egypt, have been resumed by Dr. Clarence, S. Fisher, head of the Coxe expedition, according to a report reaching the University Museum today.

CURTISS MILITARY TYPE flying boat offer from Rodman Wanamaker has been accepted by Rear Admiral Usher, com-mandant of the New York Navy Yard. Mr. Wanamaker will also provide a pilot for

JOSEPH M. GAZZAM, Jr., and Richard Harte, Philadelphians, have become identi-fied with the student military force organ-ized at Harvard. Gazzam has been made a lieutenant and Harte a sergeant.

JOHN H. McFADDEN, Jr., Paris treasurer of the field service of the American Ambulance, lectured on the European war last evening in the Bellevue-Stratford. Four hundred dollars was pledged for the work of the American Ambulance.

BALTIMORE AND OHIO freight offices were opened today in the Widener Building, having been moved from the Bourse Build-ing. The move was made, it was an-nounced, because of a belief that the business center was moving westward. F. W. Richardson, assistant freight agent, is in

ATTACK BY AN UNKNOWN assailant sent Mrs. Rosie Musto, sixty-five years old, of 1523 South Carlisle street, to the West Philadelphia Homeopathic Hospital with a fractured skull. She was found uncon-scious at Fiftieth street and Merion avenue.

CONVERT OF BILLY SUNDAY, Louis Kramer was last night ordained to an elder-ship in the North Presbyterian Churca, Broad street and Allegheny avenue. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Dr. George Burnfield, pastor of the church. THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION to-

day made public an ellgible list of 196 names of firemen who have qualified for promotion to the position of lieutenant, which carries a salary of \$1250. FIRE, CAUSE BY an overheated stove,

today swept the barbershop and dwelling of T. A. Kock, 2403 Ingersoll street, causing damage estimated at \$600. Mr. and Mrs. Kock were drives to the street in their nightclothes by the flames.

WORRY DROVE Catharine Mayse, twenty-one years old, of 3305 North Twenty-first street, to commit suicide today. She shot herself in her home this morning and died before Dr. Leo Allen, of 2423 Alle-gheny avenue, reached her side.

BANK DIRECTORS BOOST **BELGIAN KIDDIES' FUND**

Give \$20 Gold Pieces Received as Compensation for Attending Board Meetings

Donating the \$20 gold pieces which they receive each time they attend a directors' bank announced today the first funds received this week for the Belgian Children's Relief had been given by them. It is the hope of the committee which is making the campaign that it will have received pledges to the amount of \$100,000 by Saturday night next, when the campaign is to end. This will supply the 100,000 underfed children in the Antwerp district of Belgium, with an extra meal for one month. It is the intention of the committee to collect the same amount each month for a period of six months.

period of eix months.

It was also announced today that a local barracks of the Salyation Army had pledged itself to care for twenty children for a month with the intention of increasing the number and joining in the campaign. The appeal in the churches of all denominations yesterday, was productive of splendid results while the formation of ration clubs in banks, offices, mills, homes and industrial and commercial concerns in all parts of the city will add materially to the fund.

-Ready Money-United States Loan Society 117 North Broad St. 2548 Germantown ave.



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succeed rapidly.

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