

UTILITIES LAWS UNDER SCRUTINY

Smaller Public Service Commission May Result From Investigation

SPROUL FAVORS CHANGE

Important Revision of State Control Suggested by Federal Telephone Order

Investigation of the public utilities laws of Pennsylvania looking to the creation of a smaller public service commission with greater powers to work effectively, is one of the direct results of the increase of telephone rates announced by Postmaster Burleson.

Creation of such a commission is favored by Governor Sproul, at whose instance Attorney General Schaffer is conducting a thorough study of the utilities laws.

Governor Sproul, accompanied by his secretary, Harry S. McDevitt, made a hurried trip to Washington yesterday and had a long conference with Senator Penrose. Neither would discuss what transpired at the conference.

When the excellent schedule of telephone rates was announced by the Postoffice Department I asked the State's Attorney General to make a thorough study of the public utilities laws and the powers of the Public Service Commission and to make a report to me.

Governor Sproul said: "The whole question of a smaller commission 'my careful attention' but for the present is not inclined to make any recommendations on his own initiative toward the creation of a smaller commission."

"If such a proposition is inaugurated in the Legislature, however, it will receive my hearty support," he added.

Many Rates Fixed by Charter Many of the existing rates are fixed by charter, Governor Sproul noted, and in cases where the decisions of the commission conflict with charters or its local legislation, the question has to be submitted to the supreme court.

The Delaware County water rate case may be appealed to Governor Sproul and Attorney General Schaffer, but that the rights of the consumers are protected against the Springfield Water Company.

In an opinion expressed last night to representatives of the law firm of Bonniwell, the Delaware County Firemen's Association, Judge Eugene C. Bonniwell, who is chairman of the law and legislation committee, charged that the public service commission virtually has ignored the rights of the water consumers and that the Governor and the Attorney General were the only ones who could protect the consumer.

He said the appeal being made to a higher court by the association might give relief, but that no one could foretell with any degree of certainty what view the court would take.

Critics' Board Ruling The fight waged by the firemen of Delaware County against the Springfield Consolidated Water Company, a corporation having control of the water supply for the entire county, has been carried on for several months. Last fall, when the company threatened to raise its rentals to households, a vigorous protest was made by the private consumers. The company then agreed to make a reduction in the charges to houses, but offset this decrease in cents by putting the charges for water in the fire companies to a much higher rate.

Finally the matter was carried to the public service commission, and that body, after a review of the case, rendered a decision. It was upon this finding of the commission and his own investigations, that Judge Bonniwell based his opinion delivered to the firemen last night.

In commenting on the findings of the commission Judge Bonniwell said: "The commission has not only reversed the attitude of the parties, but has made a finding that neither party 'owed' for its treatment of the matter a complaint made by the consumers against unjust charges, the commission appeared for the right to increase its rentals."

DRESSMAKERS IN PLEA

Unions Ask City Arbitration Board to Avert Strike A committee representing the Waist and Dressmakers' Union and the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association yesterday called on the City of Philadelphia Safety Board and asked him to request the Mayor to call a meeting of the arbitration board to avert a strike.

Pending the calling of the arbitration board, the strike vote of the union is being held in abeyance. Judge John M. Patterson, who is the third member of the board, is at present in Florida, and it is expected that the board will not meet until his return next Monday.

A perfect dinner demands

Whitman's

Salted Nuts, Favors, Bon Bons to harmonize with the table decorations

716 Chestnut St.

Modernized Boat Pumps

NURSE WHO FACED FOE FIRE BACK IN PHILADELPHIA HOME

Miss Mary Devennie, 1707 Rittenhouse Street, Served With "Flying Hospital" Close to Battle Line—Saw Chalon's Bombardment and Organized Surgical Unit

After four years of thrilling experience in the French armies, Miss Mary Devennie, of 1707 Rittenhouse street, has returned to her home, wearing the insignia of the Fourth Army of France for distinguished service.

Miss Devennie saw service with the "flying hospital," the only institution of its kind on any front, which was stationed most of the time within three kilometers of the actual fighting line and was constantly menaced by enemy rifle and shell fire.

"We were compelled to spend our nights in the hospital canteen," she said. "Often we would be driven out by the intensity of the German fire and then we would move to another section of the front."

She was present at the capture of Fort Matielon and Chemin-des-Dames. She served at Chalons during the bombardment and helped establish a cavalry surgical unit at Rheims. She also served with a medical unit at Bussy-le-Chateau.

"The American doughboy," Miss Devennie said, "is ever looked up to by the French people. He is beloved wherever he goes and is always referred to as the 'petit American' or the 'little American soldier,' regardless whether he be a giant over six feet or midget of four feet six inches.

"As for the American boys themselves, the ones that came into the hospital at Chalons, they impressed every one, at being most plucky, bright and exceptionally clean in every way. I was very proud of them."

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DOCTOR LOVED NURSE, SLEW WIFE, IS CHARGE

Army Surgeon Sought as Murderer Was Reported Engaged to Philadelphia Girl

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger Richmond, Va., Jan. 28.—Dr. Wilmer Anos Hadley, while serving as an army surgeon at West Hampton Hospital, posed as a single man, became infatuated with and engaged to an army nurse, the daughter of a prominent northern family, and gave this woman a diamond engagement ring, according to information gained by authorities here today.

These facts, they claim, establish a motive for the murder of Mrs. Sine Kathleen Hadley, the handsome and gifted wife of the physician, who is a fugitive from justice. A warrant has been issued charging him with his wife's death.

It was learned today that during his stay of several months at the military hospital Doctor Hadley had never mentioned being married. He had been friendly with a number of women nurses and finally appeared to have fallen in love with the northern girl, said to have been a Philadelphia, who is about twenty-five years old and attractive.

The police have questioned the young woman and she is alleged to have admitted that she had promised to marry the surgeon and displayed a diamond engagement ring he is said to have presented her. Since leaving Richmond Doctor Hadley had corresponded with the young woman, it is asserted, and she was expected to be married to him after finishing up her work here. She is being held under police surveillance as the investigation continues.

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COUNCIL OF WOMEN REVIEWS WAR WORK

Y. W. C. A. Leaders From Eastern States Discuss Activities Accomplished

The January meeting of the War Work Council of the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association is being held today in the New Century Club. Prominent women from the eastern States have arrived to attend the sessions, among them Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, national president of the Woman's Suffrage Association; Mrs. Coleman du Pont, Wilmington, Del.; Dean Winifred J. Robinson, Women's College, at Newark, Del., and a number of women who have been active in war work in Delaware, Maryland, Washington and New York.

The morning session opened at 10:30 with Mrs. James S. Cushman, chairman of the council, presiding. Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. H. S. Prentiss Nichols, and general reports of the work were given by Mrs. William A. Brown, who has just returned from France; and Mrs. Herbert L. Pratt. A summary of the work done among negro women will be given by Mrs. Eva D. Bowles and Miss Crystal Hill, and Mrs. Harry Brewster will tell of work among the foreign-born women.

Mrs. William L. McLean will act as hostess at the luncheon served in the New Century Club and the afternoon session will be resumed at 2:30 o'clock, meeting to be held in the "Needs of the Present Hour" and the speakers will be Mrs. Stephen Baker, Dr. Eleanor Berne, Miss Harriet Wild and Miss Hosi-

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Y. W. C. A. APPEAL HALTS ELECTION

"Regulars" Take Row With "Insurgents" Into State Supreme Court

An appeal has been taken to the State Supreme Court by officers and managers of the Young Women's Christian Association from the recent decision of Judge Staake, giving the "insurgents" members known as the "insurgents" the right to participate and vote at the annual election for managers. Accompanied by William H. Peace and former Judge Theodore F. Jenkins, Mrs. Joseph Hulston, the president of the association, appeared in the Supreme Court office and signed the appeal papers.

No date has been fixed for a hearing in the matter, and it is expected it will be listed for argument in its turn. While the appeal automatically stopped all proceedings, including the election scheduled for tomorrow, Judge Jenkins obtained an order from Judge Staake resulting all matters to remain dormant pending the determination of the appeal. Accordingly, there will be no elections for the nomination of officers, or for any other matter of the association.

Judge Elasko, in an exhaustive opinion, ruled that under the constitution and by-laws of the association, the "insurgents" had a right to vote providing they had their dues paid and were in good standing. A decree was entered in conformity with this ruling, and John M. Scott, a lawyer, was appointed master to conduct the election.

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