

COMPLAIN TODAY OVER SKIP-STOPS

Business Organizations Present Grievances to Transit Officials

RYAN SUGGESTS PLAN

P. R. T. Agrees to Hear Complaints of Community Inconvenience

Complaints against the skip-stop system are being laid before the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company today by business organizations throughout the city.

The complaints are being made individually by the members of the conference committee of the United Business Men's Association, under a plan suggested by Public Service Commissioner Michael J. Ryan and sanctioned by H. G. Tulley, vice president of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company.

Under the plan, as worked out by the committee of the United Business Men's Association, any complaint regarding the skip-stop system should be sent to Edward A. Noppel, secretary of the association, at his office, 1015 Arch street.

It will then be taken up immediately with Mr. Tulley, through the conference committee members living in the vicinity of the nonstop location of which complaint is made.

Mr. Tulley has agreed to be in his office, Eighth and Duane streets, every morning this week from 9 to 11, and at the company's office in the Land Title Building, each afternoon from 1:30 to 2:30 to hear the complaints and attempt to adjust them.

The conference committee will meet next Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the transit company's offices in the Land Title Building.

Upwards of fifty complaints against individual stops were placed before Mr. Tulley yesterday afternoon at the conference committee meeting.

While his appearance before the committee did not in any way alter the company's stand that skip-stops should remain in operation, Mr. Tulley told the committee he was willing to discuss any objections to individual communities inconvenienced by cars not stopping at certain streets.

Mr. Noppel in his statement, read to the committee, declared that it was clearly understood that in the event of the failure of the transit company to adjust the differences between the transit company and the public the committee's efforts will not prejudice any future action it might decide to bring before the State Commission.

BENJ. H. SHOEMAKER DIES; 91 YEARS OLD

Retired Glass Merchant Was Descendant of Quaker Colonists

Benjamin H. Shoemaker, member of an old Quaker family, died at his home, 535 Church Lane, Germantown today. He was ninety-one years old.

Death was due to advanced age. Funeral will be held at his home Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made in Laurel Hill cemetery.

Mr. Shoemaker, who retired eight years ago, was a glass merchant. He was interested in various business concerns, charitable organizations and societies, and was especially interested in the work of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

He became a manager of the institution in 1886, was secretary of its board of managers for nineteen years, and was elected president of the hospital in 1897. He was president for twenty-one years.

Mr. Shoemaker was at one time president of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven railroads, and when he died was a director of the road. He was also director of the Glasgow Iron Company; the Mortgage Trust Company, of Pennsylvania, and a member of the advisory committee of the Germantown Trust Company.

For ten years he was secretary of the Society for Organizing Charity and president of the Germantown Horticultural Society. Mr. Shoemaker was one of the earliest members of the Union League.

Mr. Shoemaker was born in Shoemaker, Pa., December 27, 1827. His ancestors had settled in the town in 1686. Mr. Shoemaker came to Philadelphia in 1848 and became an apprentice under his brother, Robert Shoemaker, a druggist. In four years he became a member of the firm and the firm then took the name of Robert H. Shoemaker & Co.

When the business disbanded in 1865, Benjamin Shoemaker established a plate and window glass business at 261 Fourth street and the business still at this address. Since Mr. Shoemaker retired the glass business has been conducted by his two sons, Robert Shoemaker, Jr., and Benjamin Shoemaker, Jr.

Besides his sons, Mr. Shoemaker is survived by two daughters, Mrs. P. W. Kimball and Mrs. J. S. L. Wharton, ten grandchildren, and four great grand children.

Mr. Shoemaker's wife, who was Miss Susan B. Trump, died in 1916.

BAKER PROBES OVERSEAS MAIL

War Secretary Will Endeavor to End Congestion

New York, Feb. 4.—Secretary of War Baker today announced a personal investigation of conditions surrounding the handling of mail destined to troops overseas. According to an official of the local postoffice, he visited the terminal, seaport pier and embarkation depot at the city's waterfront, where the mail was being unduly delayed and not put into operation such changes as may be found necessary to expedite its movement.

Baker said he did not intend to issue a report or order, but would personally recommend such action as might seem necessary to him to relieve mail congestion here, if such congestion is found to exist.

WILLS PROBATED TODAY

C. E. Simon Estate Disposed of in Private Bequest

The will of Christian E. Simon, Broad and Wolf streets, admitted to probate in the county of Philadelphia, Feb. 4, 1919, valued at \$2400 in private bequest.

SOCIETY MARRON ROBBED BY THUGS

Mrs. John C. Groome, After Holdup, Says Streets Are Unsafe

ATTACKED NEAR HOME

Police Try to Suppress Robbery, Which Happened in Early Evening

The situation has grown so serious that it is virtually unsafe for women to go outdoors after nightfall, and I am of all sections of the city.

This statement was made today by Mrs. John C. Groome, wife of Colonel Groome, head of the military police in France, who last Friday evening was held up by two negroes, one of whom snatched her handbag containing \$50 in cash, some jewelry and valuable papers.

The facts were suppressed by the police and did not become public until Mrs. Groome gave them to the newspapers.

"Philadelphia seems to be full of all types of undesirables," she said, "and several friends of mine have related to me the most disagreeable experiences they have had within the last fortnight. This state of affairs surely calls for immediate remedial action, and when I reached Mrs. Hoffman's home at 1418 Spruce street, and were about to part, two men who had been loitering on the corner approached them from the rear."

One of the men snatched Mrs. Groome's handbag and dashed down Rosewood street, a small thoroughfare, between Broad and Chestnut streets.

The women screamed "Stop thief!" and followed, but were outdistanced by the thieves. Despite the excitement caused by the women's cries and the chase, the police, according to Mrs. Groome, were conspicuous by their absence.

Mrs. Groome then related the twelfth and thirteenth robberies, which had even a plain clothes man interviewed her at her home, 1018 Clinton street. He was followed by three more police in the next day.

The thieves have not been apprehended.

"The transport Madawaska, due at Newport News about February 22, has a full complement of troops, including the 25th Regiment Field Artillery (Eighty-fourth Division).

The transport Pastores is scheduled to arrive at Newport News on February 10 with 41, 62 to 63 inclusive, 67 and 76; a detachment of the 32nd Field Artillery, comprising 100 troops, a casual company for New York.

The transport West Eagle is due at Newport News February 22, with a low casual company and a few casual officers.

Transport Patten Maru, Bordeaux for New York, is due February 12 with one casual officer.

Transport Ancona sailed from March 27, and is due at Newport News, January 29, with six casual officers. Its home port and date of arrival are not indicated.

New York, Feb. 4.—The White Star liner Cedric arrived today with 3705 officers and men from France. The 25th Regiment Field Artillery (Eighty-fourth Division) is being transported to New York by the Cedric.

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BOY FALLS DEAD AT PLAY; SEEMINGLY IN GOOD HEALTH

Little Walter Roser Asked Mother for Apple, Went Outside to Resume Playing and Died on Pavement in Nerberth—Blood Clot From Fall Believed Cause

TRANSIT DIRECTOR WOULD PAY FOR IMPROVEMENTS BY DIRECT TAXATION

TALKS TO ENGINEERS

Advocating the payment for public improvements out of direct taxation rather than by thirty or fifty year bond issues, Director William S. Twining, Department of Transit, this afternoon outlined city finances at a talk before the Engineers' Club.

As a basis for his opposition to long-term loans he cited the fact that future generations of the city's present loan program.

Prefacing his talk with the statement that he was speaking as an engineer to engineers, he said that many engineering projects have come to ruin due to unwise financing, and that engineers pay too little concern to financing problems.

Before launching into his discussion he expressed the fear that some of his views might not be regarded as orthodox, and declared his statements to have no direct connection with his official position as head of a municipal department that has recently raised \$63,100,000 in long-term loans.

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CRUISERS TO BRING TROOPS FROM FRANCE

Part of Returning Forces to Be Demobilized at Lee and Dix

FOOD PRICE DESCENT

GATHERS MOMENTUM

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1000 Locked Out in Textile Clash

Continued From Page One

MRS. COONLEY IN EUROPE

Wife of Emergency Fleet Vice President Visiting Sister

Mrs. Howard Coonley, wife of Vice President of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, has been summoned to London by the serious illness of her sister, Mrs. J. D. Coonley.

Mrs. Coonley is the daughter of Colonel Greenwood, who served with the Canadian forces and was later assigned to the 25th Regiment Field Artillery (Eighty-fourth Division).

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SETTLE ONE WAR CONTRACTS POINT

Claims Court to Hear Appeals and Make Final Awards

CIVIC CLUB ASKS BETTER MARKETS

Joins Other Bodies to Urge Mayor to Name Commission

WILL ASK CONFERENCE

Mayor Smith and the politicians will take no active steps to better marketing conditions until public opinion is thoroughly roused, members of the food and home economics committee of the Civic Club believe.