

DRUGGISTS SCORE PHONE 'SLACKERS'

Hammers Out for Pharmacists Who Consent to Bell Reduction

EARLY MORN MEETING

Business Men Gather in West Phila. in Protest Against Commission Cut

Druggists who will not order their Bell telephone booths taken from their stores were denounced as "scabs" and "slackers" at a mass-meeting of the Philadelphia association of retail druggists at 5039 Baltimore avenue early this morning.

The meeting called to express the determination of West Philadelphia druggists to take out the Bell telephones was attended by more than 500 store owners from all parts of the city.

The druggists are threatening a second order of the company reducing their commissions from 32½ per cent. to 10 to 20 per cent. according to the amount collected in the phone sets at public pay stations.

It was a mid-morning meeting beginning just before mid-night and ending after 2 o'clock this morning. The quiet of a West Philadelphia night was broken by the tumultuousness of the drug store men when proposals were made to have every druggist in the city take out his phone if his pay on a day-to-day basis was not fixed.

This was the proposal of Judge Siverman, Third and Charterman groups, who announced that druggists in southeastern Philadelphia had adopted a "treat 'em rough" policy in their fight against the company.

Changes that are to be made in the company's rate-making intentions to prevent the 11000 drug stores from closing out the Bell phones were made several times by the speakers. Stories were told of threats to prevent druggists having private telephones.

Enlisting Public's Aid

Recognition of the need of getting the public squarely behind them was shown by sample posters brought to the meeting and by the appeal of M. D. Allen, of Fifty-second and Archwood avenues, president of the meeting, who urged that the drugmen tell their neighbors interested in the fight.

From all parts of the city druggists reported that their pay telephones already were out of the stores. In several cases men reported that they had ordered the telephone company to remove cables, junction boxes and trestles from their property unless a heavy rental is paid.

W. Overland, time Bartholomew avine, president of the association, explained that the reduction in commission amounted to 55 per cent.

"From the receipts we must pay first, every month, a rental of \$4.50. Then we are given a third of the remainder. But we have to stand the loss from all slugs found in the boxes. This sometimes is as high as one-fifth of the remaining \$12. The new rate would give us only 10 per cent on the first \$15, 15 per cent on the second \$15, and 26 per cent on the remainder."

Otto Krause, secretary of the association, reported that throughout the city he had found a unity of action on the part of the druggists.

"I find city neighborhoods aroused," he said. "Neighbors who consider it a duty to speak up for the workers who fail to join in this protest against the Bell Company. The women are with us and that means we shall win. Of 1100 drugstores in the city, 99 per cent of them will be without a Bell Telephone after April 1."

Bell Phone Bell Ringer

David Reese, chairman of the committee which is making the fight, had just risen to tell the facts of the situation when a telephone bell discharged the meeting. Four times it rang while the druggists shouted.

Mr. Reese characterized the uprooting of the Bell system in the city's drug stores as "a strike no different from that which working men organize to resist a reduction of 50 per cent in their wages." Then the telephone bell rang again.

Mr. Reese charged intimidation of druggists by agents of the corporation in an effort to disrupt the ranks of the association.

Louis Sipe, of Kensington, was another of the speakers who said druggists who will not go along are "weak-kneed slackers."

"We have signed up every druggist in Kensington," he asserted.

S. B. Davis, of Brantford, told how one druggist from his section of the city was fighting the company.

"He was the only one of the three phones in his store," Mr. Davis said. "And he told me that through his cellar runs a cable carrying 720 telephone wires. He has asked the telephone company to pay him \$3 a day rental and has warned it if he is not paid by April 19 he will cut the cable with an ax."

CHAPLAIN TELLS HOW GUNS JUST MISSED BURIAL PARTY

Lt. Thomas S. Cline Was First Minister to Go Overseas With National Army

Urges More Co-operation Among Churches and Points to Harmonious Working in France



THE REV. THOMAS S. CLINE

The Rev. Thomas S. Cline, of Grace Episcopal Church, Mount Airy, has just returned from France after nearly twenty months of service with the doughboys. He was the first chaplain with the National Army to go overseas.

He received special mention in the citation which General Pershing gave the Twenty-first Division for heroic work done while buying 325 American soldiers under seven days' continuous fire during the battle of Argonne Forest.

The first casualty in this offensive was a stretcher bearer who followed Captain Cline in an effort to get a protected location suitable for a first aid station. The man was Tony Dunn, and he was the first man in this drive whom the chaplain buried.

Of the three chaplains of the Sixteenth Infantry, Captain Cline's regiment, one was gassed, the second had to give up because of exhaustion from the terrible strain and torment of being near the front line.

At one time while Lieutenant Cline was driving his mule a German bullet passed completely over the burial party, wounding all before it except the party which happened to be covered by a blanket in the hill which sheltered it.

Fortunately the shells would cause no more casualties than the most planless of exploding twenty-five bombs for Catholic chaplains conducted services and made an extemporaneous prayer in the open air while Bishop McCormick, an Episcopalian, made the address. I led the singing on another occasion I preached after the priest had celebrated a mass.

LE TRUPPE ITALIANE OCCUPANO PRESSBURG

THIRD MORE INCOME IF TAXES ALL PAID

I'Importante Gitta' Trovati a Sprout Urges State Collection

Poca Distanza da Vienna

Methods Be Im-

proved

Published and registered Under PERMIT NO. 340 Authorized by the Postmaster General to mail at the Post Office of Philadelphia Pa. By order of the President A. B. BRADLEY Postmaster General

Londra, 27 marzo. Le truppe italiane sono cominciate l'importante città di Pressburg, la quale è situata a circa 100 chilometri da Vienna verso il confine dell'Ungheria.

La notizia è stata telegrafata da Budapest dove c'è un dispaccio spedito dal corrispondente della Central News in Berlino.

Parigi, 27 marzo. Ha inizio-Slavia di domanda fatta da un ministro della Difesa italiano alla Camera. Il ministro, Francesco Saverio, ha fatto apprezzare il consiglio del ministro di difesa austriaco proibito il commercio con le nazionali nemiche, qualunque importazione dall'Italia nella Jugoslavia ed il trasporto di generali italiani per qualsiasi ragione attraverso il territorio jugoslavo.

Il deputato emesso a Belgrado impone a tutti i jugoslavi di abbannone qualsiasi specie di affari che abbiano per obiettivo di danneggiare le relazioni commerciali sono state proibite.

Parigi, 26 marzo. La Delegazione italiana ha oggi approvato la Conferenza delle forze che si sono tolte il blocco commerciale e militare nell'Adriatico, per le quali cosa il commercio ritornabile condizioni prese in guerra, ad eccezione che fino alla dichiarazione di pace le navi da guerra degli Alleati avranno diritto di perquisire le navi mercantili.

La rimozione del blocco avvenne in seguito alla completa occupazione, da parte di distaccata Alleanza, dei porti sul litorale orientale dell'Adriatico, che secondo notizie da Roma fu compiuta nei giorni di ieri.

Parigi, 26 marzo. Una pace dovrà esser fatta con tutte le Potenze nemiche Germania, Austria, Turchia e Bulgaria—simultaneamente con gli Alleati e dalle altre potenze nel pomeriggio di oggi e la decisione si sarà raggiunta con il consenso di tutti. In seguito a ciò è stato sosposto il Consiglio dei Dieci ed i quattro rappresentanti le grandi Nazioni, cioè Presidente Wilson, Clemenceau, Lloyd George e Vittorio Orlando, lavoreranno d'accordo per portare a compimento la decisione sopra accennata.

Tests for Mine Planter Service

The United States army mine planter service has held open competitive examinations on May 5 for the warrant officer grades of master, first mate and second mate aboard army mine planters. About thirty positions are to be filled.

MAY TURN HOTEL TO WAR HOSPITAL

Hog Island Institution Considered by Government for Purpose

WAS OPERATED AT LOSS

Big Structure at Shipyard Soon May Be Receiving Station for Wounded Yanks

The Emergency Fleet Hotel, Ninety-fourth street and Thirteenth avenue, capacity of housing 2000 men, may be turned into a temporary hospital for returning wounded sailors.

The fact that the proposal is being considered by the War Department became known today after announcement that the hotel would be discontinued April 1 was made by Wilson Smith, manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation housing division.

The War Department has been in communication with the Emergency Fleet Corporation regarding the proposal since shortly after the American International Shipbuilding Company refused to build a hotel from the government's plans in connection with the Hog Island plant.

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Not Enough Lodgers to Pay

It has been impossible to get enough lodgers to occupy the rooms, according to Mr. Smith, and as a result it has been operated by the government at a loss.

According to officials of the sanitary division, the land surrounding the hotel has been put in sanitary condition. The entire \$16 acres on which the shipyard is built has been drained and mosquitoes exterminated. The water supply from the Delaware River is purified and the department of sanitation has full control of sewerage disposal, food, live-stock, fumigation and disinfection, with the case of typhoid fever ever occurring.

At the time the hotel was opened it was the largest in the world, but it later recently been superseded by the Pennsylvania and Commodore in New York. It consists of four sectional buildings with four units to each section. A section consists of between 175 and 200 rooms, housed in a two-story building.

Bad Comforts of Home

The rooms are spacious and contain all home furnishings. A reading room for men, a few rooms are planned for each section building. There are four kitchen rooms and four large kitchens in the hotel, including a modern laundry and a central office.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation itself is opposite the Hog Island Athletic Association, and the surrounding land contains fine opportunities for sport and recreation. The charges to the lodgers were \$3 a week, including sleeping accommodations, breakfast and supper.

CITY PARCELS POST GROWS

Sixty Trucks to Distribute Farm Products Direct

Postoffice officials are satisfied that their experiments in bringing the produce farmers and the city consumers into closer touch is paying off.

At all times, officials say, the present increase has gathered the maximum, there would be an increase of 35 per cent at least. He placed no blame on the Auditor General's department.

The Auditor General gets it as much as he can and is willing to spend it and the State Treasurer wants to keep a good balance, said the Governor.

If all factors continue as they present now, we will get an increase of 35 per cent at least. He placed no blame on the Auditor General's department.

Within the next week or ten days fifty or sixty big motorcars will be put in operation carrying butter, eggs, poultry and other farm produce direct to consumers at prices below the current market prices.

A list of names of 200 farmers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland was submitted to the Auditor General.

In speaking of the state's finances the Governor said he would support a measure providing for export taxation for the state. The state is now passing, or about to pass, legislation in contracts, including road contracts and the development of Capital Park. The debts of the state were never larger, and the Governor feels the best trading advice possible should be subject to call from the Commonwealth.

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