

INDEPENDENTS AIM TO DECREASE LOAN

More Money for Improvements in Smaller Bill Indorsed by Von Tagen

"PETTY POLITICS" ASSAILED

Independents in City Councils will seek to amend the \$14,750,000 loan bill. They are not in opposition to those items in the loan which furnish money for permanent improvements, and which are expected to help Philadelphia solve its housing problems.

This stand on the loan was announced today by Charles H. von Tagen, common councilman from the Forty-second ward, and recognized floor leader of the Independents in Council.

Mr. von Tagen, in an interview yesterday, stated emphatically that the Independents and Penrose men in Councils would combine to defeat the bill. "I do not wish the impression to be given," said Mr. von Tagen this afternoon, "that I am the independent 'whip' in Councils. The floor leader of the Independents does not give orders to other members of the party but rather in their mouthpiece and carries out their desires."

Favor Building New Homes. "The Independents are not against those items of the loan that are for permanent improvements. We are not against any feature of the bill which will facilitate the erection of the new homes which this city needs."

However, on examination of the loan bill we find that there are only five items which directly concern building, namely: the construction of branch sewers, the paving of streets, the grading of streets and the extension and improvement of water mains.

More for Essentials. "Far from opposing those housing items in the bill, I don't believe the items for essentials are large enough, while those for nonessentials are too large. I don't believe that a loan bill with an aggregate sum as large as that of the present loan ought to be passed by Councils—it ought to go to the vote of the people."

The Independents will offer an amendment to the present bill, designed to bring it within what they consider a reasonable amount. If no one else introduces this amendment I shall introduce it myself.

Mr. von Tagen gave it as his opinion that the Yare faction in City Councils would refuse to accept the amendment which he proposes to offer.

"I don't believe they would stand for it," he said. "The purpose of the Yare organization in backing the present bill is to hamstring the incoming administration. If there is one citizen that can be fairly made of the present administration it is that they have devoted too much attention to non-essentials. It is like a man with a new high silk hat and no shirt. They would do much better if they paid more attention to essentials and less to superfluous."

The report that the Independents and Penrose men in Councils would combine to kill the loan bill, founded on Mr. von Tagen's interview of yesterday, continued to bring forth protests today from men close to the city government.

John N. McGarvey, chairman of the executive committee of the Philadelphia Operative Builders' Association, and the man who first called public attention to the coalition formed to defeat the loan bill, issued a statement this afternoon in reply to Mr. von Tagen's interview of yesterday.

The Operative Builders' Association wants the loan bill passed because it means more money is provided for building sewers and water mains, only an exceedingly small fraction of the houses which the city needs can be erected.

Hits at "Petty Politics." "What Philadelphia needs most," said Mr. McGarvey, "is a first class surgeon to remove the malignant disease which is sapping her vitality—the disease of 'petty politics.'"

SALVATION SISTERS OF WAR FAME ARRIVE

McIntyre Girls Reach City to Help in Drive—Tell of Experiences in France

CITED BY FOCH AND JOFFRE

Irene and Gladys McIntyre got to town today. That may not mean much to many Philadelphians, but any man in the First Division or in the Twenty-sixth or in a lot of French outfits that will never see this side will tell you they are important. As the Scotch used to say, "They are the McIntyres."

Foes of League Fire First Shot

Senator Hitecock, chairman of the high-way committee of Councils, said this afternoon that the passage of the bill was absolutely essential. "It will go through Councils in its present shape," Mr. Smith predicted. Joseph P. Gaffney, chairman of Councils' finance committee, and the administration's representative on the floor of the Council chamber, expressed indignation over the proposal to defeat the loan.

Discussing the President's constitutional power to negotiate treaties, Senator Hitecock said the Senate never in four years had asked for a treaty before it was completed.

Help For Progressives. A ruling made by Vice President Marshall in the Senate today regarding organization of the Senate's committees is believed by some followers of Senate procedure to have potential bearing upon the contest between Senate progressives and regulars over committee chairmanships.

Interpreting a resolution adopted by the last Senate, the Vice President ruled that the Senate committees continued in authority until reorganized, with full powers to act. He showed, however, that the Republican majority had power to quickly change committee personnel.

10 DEAD, 7 MISSING IN IOWA EXPLOSION

Coroner's Probe Begins at Once. Workmen Insist Dust Caused Blow-Up

Cedar Rapids, Ia., May 23.—(By A. P.) Ten bodies have been taken from the ruins of the Douglas company starch mill here, and seven men are missing, their bodies probably being in the ruins. The monetary loss from the fire and explosion last night is estimated at \$2,000,000.

The fire burned all night, but a heavy rain set in shortly before daylight and the flames were got under control by 7 o'clock.

The coroner announced this morning that he will begin an immediate investigation. At the plant the officials would advance no theory as to the cause of the explosion, but workmen insist it was caused by dust.

Sweet and Low Chant to Women

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Mr. Hays Talked; Indeed, He Did

MEMORIAL DAY EXCURSION \$2.50

HERE TO AID SALVATION ARMY DRIVE

Wilson Sees Daix, Company K of 110th Honors Its Captain

Cold Storage Measure Is Decried by Food Profiteers

Director of Public Safety Wilson, in an interview, attacked the Daix storage bill as a boon to gamblers and speculators and vigorously denounced it as "wiping away every safeguard that has been established to protect the public."

Wilson introduced the bill creating the present law in 1913, when a member of the state Legislature.

He revealed the opposition he then encountered when he attempted to "buck the gambling commission men" and protect the public from the speculators and gamblers.

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PRODUCE OFFICIAL DEFENDS HIGH PRICES

Secretary Daniels, of Exchange, Says Inadequate Supplies and Foreign Demand Are Cause

WAGES ALSO RESPONSIBLE

Inadequate supplies, foreign demand on home markets and the high wages demanded by help are given as reasons for the high price of food by Samuel S. Daniels, secretary of the Philadelphia Produce Exchange, in a letter to the editor of the Evening Public Ledger.

The letter follows: "Sir—In the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER, yesterday's postscript edition, there was an article beginning on the first page, entitled 'Women Organize to Cheapen Food,' containing misstatements which in the interest of truth and justice to the produce trade need correction. For instance, your reporter says, 'Already facing food prices that are almost prohibitive, the housewives are looking with consternation on the Daix cold storage bill, which they believe will force the prices even higher.'"

"It is true that food prices are exorbitant, but this is not due to any legislation, but to the fact that supplies are inadequate, foreign demand for some products is immensely heavy, wages are high and people are apparently able and willing to pay current prices. Values are high on all products, even on those that are not put in cold storage, and the Daix bill cannot and will not be the means of forcing prices here above a parity with those in other markets or the trade will buy in other markets."

Answers Mrs. Lichtenberger "Mrs. J. P. Lichtenberger says: 'Eleven years ago, when I moved to Philadelphia from New York, I found living expenses here almost one-third less than New York. Now the tables are turned and Philadelphia is known all through the East as the most expensive place to live.'"

Mrs. Lichtenberger simply makes this statement and cannot prove it, for it is not true.

"Mrs. William B. Deer, president of the local branch of the Housewives' League, says that 'cold-storage eggs are selling at 58 cents and 65 cents per dozen.' That is not true. Eggs are now being put into cold storage and not taken out, and there are no cold-storage eggs being offered at the retail stores and will not be for some months to come. She also says it is a crime to the community to allow such a law as the Daix cold-storage bill to pass and the Daix law would give the profiteer his own sweet way without reprobation."

"I wonder if Mrs. Deer has ever read the cold-storage bill. It does not say that the Daix cold-storage bill, during the operations of the federal food administration when the prices of cold storage eggs reached the highest point on record. At that time she, for obvious reasons, discreetly kept her mouth closed. I feel sorry for Mr. Charles H. La Wall. If he said that the Daix bill was merely a 'servitor for the profiteers and speculators,' he doesn't know what he is talking about. Profiteers, perchance?"

Cut Postage Rate to Cheapen Food

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Tells of Experiences "Tell you about my most thrilling experience?" said Gladys to the reporter, and the dimples peeped out a minute. "It must have been a jolly lark."

"Well," she said, "at Ansaucville they started a four-hour barrage and fired down an apple tree right outside the window of our sleeping room. The shell exploded not twenty feet from the billet, and the apple tree came plump through the window, and landed on our covers. Yes, we wanted it."

That was part of the day's work for this pair. They have a run for duty down an apple tree right outside the window of our sleeping room. The shell exploded not twenty feet from the billet, and the apple tree came plump through the window, and landed on our covers. Yes, we wanted it."

Panic in Motion Picture House Ephrata, Pa., May 23.—Harry Weisse, a motion picture operator, was badly burned and the audience was thrown into a panic last night when the machine in a local movie house exploded and burned.

READ FIELD DAY TODAY

Pupils from Third Grade to Eighth Take Part in Exercises

Graduation at Stomach Hospital

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