

FIREMEN OF CITY ASK PAY INCREASE

Wage Rise Only Inducement That Will Keep Men on Job, They Say

SEEK \$1400 AS STARTER

The fire-fighters of the city want an increase in pay. According to the firemen, a fatter pay envelope is the only inducement that will hold the present personnel to their jobs, as long as there are no adequate municipal laws to safeguard the lives of fire-fighters.

An ordinance introduced before Councils and now in the hands of the finance committee demands a \$300-a-year flat increase in salary for the battalion chief down to the ordinary hose-man and ladderman, along with four months' back salary, due since 1918, because the authorities did not adopt the two-platoon system in January of 1918.

The ordinance provides that a fireman start with a salary not less than \$1400 a year, and that after a year's experience, he receive full pay at \$1600.

"We have no occupancy law here which would do much toward safeguarding the lives of our firemen," said J. M. Simister, president and business manager of the City Fire Fighters' Local Union No. 22, with offices at 709 North Broad street. "An occupancy law would provide for an inspection of a building every time a new business moves into it. There would be no walls collapsing there, because a building was made to hold more than it could safely carry. We have no such law here. And the fire-fighters will not stay with the fire bureau and jeopardize their safety unless there is some inducement."

Better Laws Wanted

"Until we can get adequate fire laws, it's got to be made worth a fire-fighter's while to risk his life, and that can be done by giving him a more comfortable salary. And a more comfortable salary will make him better able to live decently."

"Even with the increase we ask the salaries will not touch those of other cities. We ask for \$1400 to start—we used to receive \$1100 to start, with an increase to \$1200 after five years' service. And we ask for \$1600 for full pay after one year's experience. Well, Boston pays that much. Washington pays that much; Chicago starts with \$1450 and gives the full paid fireman \$1800. So does Youngstown, O. Lowell, Mass., gives its firemen \$1470, and Bridgeport, Conn., starts at \$1500 and gives \$1750 to the experienced man.

"We are asking for four months' back pay because it is owed us."

Indorsed by Other Unions

"The city was to have put into effect the two-platoon system in January, 1918. The two-platoon system provides for a ten-hour day and a fourteen-hour night, alternating the shifts every three days. This gave each man twenty-four hours off every six days. The city didn't put that system into effect until May, 1918."

The local union is receiving indorsements for its demand from the 200 local unions in the city, representing 230,000 workers. The indorsements are being sent to the Mayor, the director of public safety, the presidents of both Councils and to the finance committee.

THIEVES ABANDON 3 CARS

Robbers in Willow Grove Section Escape Police. However

Thieves stole a touring car owned by H. Haldeman, Ivyland, Pa. Coming south on Old York road the car was ditched at Highland road by the thieves, who escaped. Motor thieves broke into the garage owned by Anthony Horan, Jenkintown, and stole a motortruck valued at \$600. The garage of John Lee, Willow Grove, was broken into and a \$800 car stolen. The machine was found hidden in a grove, several miles distant. Tools, curtains and accessories were stolen from a car owned by Warner Murphy, Willow Grove.

Near Hatboro, Otto B. Vanberger was struck by an automobile driven by William E. Yelverton, of 1311 F street, N. W., Washington. Vanberger was taken to the Abington Memorial Hospital. Yelverton was released when Vanberger declined to prosecute.

WIDOW AND DAUGHTER, TRAPPED BY FLAMES, RESCUED BY PASSERBY

Fire Cuts Off Escape Through Rear and Front Door Refuses to Open

With the rear exit of the house blocked by fire and the lock on the front door refusing to yield, Mrs. Elizabeth Bricketto, of 1316 South Third street, experienced several exciting minutes today before a passerby released her from her burning house.

Mrs. Bricketto and her ten-year-old daughter, Marie, moved into the house yesterday, and last night was the first spent in the new home.

This morning Mrs. Bricketto was awakened by the smell of smoke. She awoke her daughter and found that paper from the walls of the kitchen was on fire. The front of the house was blocked by furniture and the intricacies of the lock on the front door were too complex to permit a hasty exit.

A passerby came to the aid of the widow, forced the door, and turned in the fire alarm.

Mrs. Bricketto believes rats gnawed a hole in the wall, through which a blaze, which was fed by the nearby scraps of paper. The kitchen was badly burned, but the fire did not extend to the rest of the house.

FAMILY REUNION HELD

Hartranft-Kriebel Clans Meet at Pennsburg

The thirty-second annual reunion of the Hartranft family, in connection with the fifteenth annual reunion of the Kriebel family, is being held at Perkiomen School, Pennsburg, today. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. O. S. Kriebel, Harry Hartranft, Bellefonte; George Kriebel, Jr., Cedar, and Howard V. Kriebel, Pennsburg. The program will be interspersed with music.

It will be an all-day session. At the same time an inspection of the Schwenkfelder Historical Library and Museum will be made under the direction of Dr. E. E. S. Johnson and Miss Selma Gerhard. This will afford an opportunity for the guests to see the mass of Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum Library recently brought from Germany. A special feature will be the exhibition of a portrait of Schwenkfeld, also brought from Germany during the past months.

A luncheon will be served at the noon hour.

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MORE TRAINS SOUGHT IN CAMDEN FARE RISE

Many Haddonfield and Haddon Heights Folk Refuse to Use Trolleys

TO BE ELECTION ISSUE

The Reading and Pennsylvania Railroads will be asked to run more local trains between Haddonfield and Camden and Haddon Heights and Camden to take care of the increasing traffic, which is due to people refusing to use the trolleys because of the increase in fare which will go into effect next month.

The town officials and commuters say that the traffic is increasing every morning because the people are beginning to boycott the trolleys, and they want more trains run during the rush hours in the morning and afternoon.

There is no doubt but what the trolley traffic in Camden will be increased, but the people of the suburbs say that the increase will not overcome what will be lost from the county.

Quite a number of towns will hold meetings this week to decide just what they will do on the trolley fare rise. The State Public Utility Commission is supreme in such matters, and there is no redress, but some other action may be agreed upon.

The towns do not want to employ any experts to gather data, as such work runs into heavy expense, which is shown in the present application before the state commission, and no decision has been rendered as yet.

The people of Camden, with the exception of those in the outlying district, such as the old town of Stockton and the lower end, are satisfied with the new rates, because they will ride for three and five cents and it is not likely that any protest will be made by the Camden city officials.

Large numbers of voters say that they will quiz the candidates for governor and other offices this year on their attitude toward the public service trolley question. They openly assert, both Republicans and Democrats, that they will support the candidates who promise to give them a square deal on the question.

Dredge Hand Lost in Schuylkill

Frank Sloppy, an employee of R. W. Wiener & Co., dredgers, drowned in the Schuylkill at Penrose Ferry bridge and Gallows lane. Sloppy slipped while at work on the dredge. His body was recovered several hours later. Sloppy lived at 1911 Naudain street.

Jailed in Milk Theft Case

Two men were arrested today, charged with stealing bread and milk from door steps in the neighborhood of Rittenhouse square. The men, Marcus

Parala, twenty-seven years old, and Herman Shoeman, twenty-eight years old, both of New York, were given five days each in the county jail, by Magistrate O'Brien.

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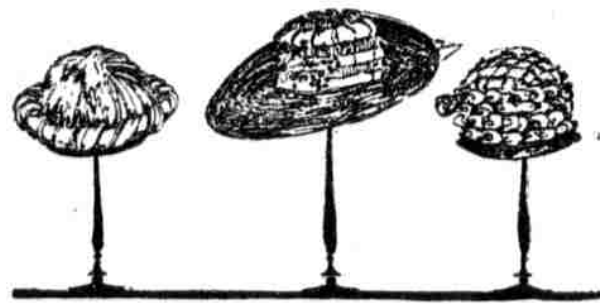
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