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NEW ZEALANDER HERE TO STUDY BOOK TRADE

Walter Nash Says American Authors Are Popular in the Antipodes

One very much interested—and most interesting—visitor at the convention of the American Booksellers in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel came all the way from the distant Antipodes to study the American book trade.

It is Walter Nash, of New Plymouth, New Zealand. He is especially interested in books on sociological questions, which he has been detailed to study by several sociological societies, but he knows all phases of the book industry.

"America," said Mr. Nash in reply to a question, "is not yet ready to take a place beside or supercede England as the world's great book market, but she has a lot to give the world in the line of books."

"Always heretofore bookmen from my portion of the world have gone to conventions and meetings in London and other English cities, but we believe now that we have much to learn in America."

"Already I have spent several weeks in this country, mostly in New York, and I have found that your problems are very similar to our own."

"When I said that England had always been our principal book market it is not understood that America sends a great many books to Australia and New Zealand, and American authors are great favorites down there. In one year the value of imports in books into Australia amounts to \$1,200,000, of which \$320,000 belongs to the United States."

"Harold Bell Wright, Zane Grey, Harry Johnston, Stewart Edward White, Winston Churchill and Robert W. Chambers are great favorites down here. As a whole I think, however, that there are more serious books read in Australia and New Zealand than anywhere else in the world. Incidentally, I think I see this fondness for more serious books, those that teach something, and are interestingly written at the same time, is spreading throughout the world."

Mayor Asks for Ships Here

Mayor Moore has appealed to Chairman Clark, of the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, to use his influence to induce the shipping board to allocate eleven ships to Philadelphia to relieve freight congestion.

Trolley Hits Wagon, Driver Hurt

Edward Bane, twenty years old, of Haddon, N. J., driver of a bread wagon, was severely cut and bruised at 3 o'clock this morning, when a trolley hit his wagon at Haddon avenue and City line, Camden, throwing him to the street. He was taken to the Cooper Hospital.

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ELECTRIC GROUPS IN MERGER PLAN

Hearings Will Be Announced Soon on Five Big State Concerns' Application

SEEK TO ECONOMIZE

Hearings will soon be announced by the Public Service Commission upon the application for a merger of five big groups of electric light and power corporations in this state.

Application for permission to merge was received today by the commission. The new corporation is to be called the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co.

It is explained in the application that the merger will eliminate needless corporations and make possible present and future financing required to extend the facilities of the corporations concerned.

All will be merged under one management, and will be operated as one great system. Millions of tons of coal are expected to be saved by the merger, as the new management hopes to be able to so extend its lines and service that many coal-mining companies now depending upon steam for power will be able to buy their current in future, thus reducing the general market the great quantity of coal annually burned under boilers at the various collieries.

To Merge With Penna. Co. There was a consolidation three years ago, bringing under one control various electric corporations. These concerns still will be merged with the Pennsylvania Lighting Co., forming the new corporation.

The Lehigh Power Securities Corporation controls four of the group, and will enter the new merger. The northern central group of these companies operates from Berwick north and northwest through the Susquehanna river valley to Milton.

Another group operates in Hazleton, Shenandoah, Freeland and the surrounding territory, obtaining its power from Harwood. Still another group obtains power from the plant at Hantow, operating in Lansford, Mauch Chunk, Tamaqua, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Stroudsburg. The plant of this company was built originally by the Lehigh Navigation Electric Co.

Still another group, known as the Lehigh Valley Transit group, takes care of Mount Carmel, Tannersville and surrounding country. Power from Allentown is also supplied the Lehigh Valley Transit Co. electric lines from Easton, Norristown and as far down as Chestnut Hill, this city.

To Spend \$5,000,000 Close affiliations will be had by the new corporation with the General Electric Co. and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. At least \$5,000,000 additional capital is planned to be spent by the new corporation for new electric generating machinery and stronger transmission lines.

As more than 1,000,000 tons of coal a year are now burned by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Co., and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., last year burned up 8.85 per cent of the coal produced, under its own boilers, the purchase of current for these collieries would release this coal for general consumption. It is understood this matter is now being discussed by the electric people and the coal men.

LEAVE BED TO FIGHT FIRE

Men, in Nightclothes, Get Blaze Under Control

Two men in night clothes fought a fire to such good result today that the city firemen had little work to do when they arrived.

The blaze started on the second floor of the home of William Bray, 2314 Madison square, Robert Bray, twenty years old, was asleep in the room. He was awakened by Frank McGoldrick, twenty-seven years old, an uncle, who discovered the blaze.

Both are employed at night and were clad in their night clothes. They carried water from the bathroom to fight the flames. Patrolmen Lamond and Keegan, who were passing, turned in an alarm.

FATHER DROPS 4 CHILDREN FROM WINDOW DURING FIRE

Man and Wife Leap as Unconscious Woman Lodger Is Carried Out by Patrolman—\$500 in Bank Notes Are Destroyed

A woman and her husband leaped from a second-story window and a woman lodger was carried unconscious through smoke and flames in a fire which swept the interior of A. Brooks' home and tailor shop at 134 North Fifty-second street, shortly after 11 o'clock last night.

Brooks tossed his four small children from the window from which his wife leaped to safety. Two were caught as they fell, but two others struck the ground and were painfully hurt.

Brooks had a ladies' tailor shop on the first floor of the three-story brick building. He, his wife and four children were asleep in two rooms at the rear of the second floor. Mrs. Madeline Bergen, twenty-three years old, a lodger, was asleep in a front room on the same floor.

Shortly after 11 o'clock, Brooks was awakened by the choking smoke. He rushed to the doorway, to discover it blocked by flames, which were bursting through the door leading to the tailor shop.

Brooks aroused his wife. She smashed a window and leaped from it twenty-five feet to the ground, in her night clothes. Brooks groped his way through the smoke to the adjoining room, where his children slept.

COUNCIL IS TARGET IN FIGHT ON BAIRD

Independents Will Try to Establish Commission Form of Government in Camden

Camden independents today began assembling their forces with the ultimate aim of ripping out the present city council based on ward lines and establishing a commission form of government.

Prominent business and professional men who are proud of Camden, but are opposed to its political organization, are looking to a revised form of government to wrest "the biggest little city in the world" from boss control.

Camden independents pointed out today, is the only city of its size in New Jersey that is without the commission form of government. The present system is termed "archaic," and entirely unfit to the needs of a growing and progressive city.

One target for the anti-machine forces is what their leaders term the extravagance of the existing system and the extreme difficulty of molding the city administration along business-like lines.

The situation in Camden today is somewhat similar to that which existed here when the movement to give Philadelphia a new charter gained force.

Under the New Jersey law electors may petition for an election on a commission form of government. The first step in the campaign will be the education of Camden residents to the value of a more up-to-date municipal system, one more responsive to the needs and wishes of the residents.

Around this nucleus, leaders say, the fight will take definite form and at the proper time the matter will be put before the electorate.

Strong interest was manifested in the independent movement today among the thousands of shipworkers employed in and near Camden.

Trimble to Head Frat Council Francis C. Trimble, of this city, has been chosen to head the interfraternity council of the University of Pennsylvania next year. Trojan M. Koiding, of Pittsburgh, will be secretary. The Y. W. C. A. organization yesterday elected the following officers for next year: President, Ruth Nibert; vice-president, Ardis Vogelgin; secretary, Marguerite Evans; treasurer, Henrietta Weber; annual member, Margaret Sharpless.

UNDERWEAR SPECIALISTS Walter G. Becker Himself 11th and Chestnut

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MARTINDALE SUES TO TEST LEVER ACT

Grocer Says Overhead Charges Absorbed Most of Profit on Sugar Sales

ASKS HABEAS CORPUS WRIT

The constitutionality of the Lever food control law was attacked today by Thomas C. Martindale, Jr., of the Thomas Martindale Co., Market street grocers, who was yesterday held in \$1000 bail for court by Commissioner Manley, accused of making excess profits in sugar.

To make the test Martindale had his bondsman, William F. Breitenbaugh, a member of the Martindale firm, surrender him to the United States marshal this morning, and immediately the defendant's counsel, Elton J. Buckley, applied to United States District Judge Thompson for a writ of habeas corpus to obtain the discharge of the accused merchant.

Judge Thompson allowed the writ and fixed a hearing for 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Mr. Martindale was paroled in the custody of his counsel.

After filing the petition for the writ Mr. Buckley said that, while the constitutionality of the Lever bill will be assailed, his client will not rely upon technicalities to prove his innocence.

"We want it understood," said the lawyer, "that we are not trying to escape on technicalities. We feel that we can prove to the court that Mr. Martindale did not, and is not, profiteering in sugar, and we will ask for his discharge."

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charge on the ground that he has committed no offense. The test will involve a more important feature to the purchasing public than the constitutionality of the Lever bill. The court will be asked to determine what the Lever bill means by "an unreasonable and unjust charge" for necessities. The charge against Martindale grows out of the fact that his store sold for twenty-two cents a pound sugar that was bought for 16 1/2 cents a pound. This was not a net profit, according to the defense, and statistical tables to show that the overhead charges ate up nearly all of it, and that the actual profit to the dealer was only 7-100 of 1 per cent. were produced.

Breaks Leg in Fall on Street Henry Moessner, thirty-eight years old, 2031 Aspen street, fractured his left leg in a fall at Twentieth street and Graywood avenue last night. A slippery pavement was the cause of the accident. He was taken to the Women's Homeopathic Hospital.

Rudolph S. Herr Dies at 93 Lancaster, Pa., May 12.—Rudolph S. Herr, pioneer manufacturer, founder of Lancaster county's horse car line and widely known here, died at his home last night at the age of ninety-three.

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