

DOUBTS VALIDITY OF FARE INCREASE

Research Bureau Questions Service Board's Right to Advance Car Rate

SAY CONTRACT IS BROKEN

The Public Service Commission's right to grant an increase in fare rates to the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. is questioned in today's "Citizens' Business," a publication of the Bureau of Municipal Research.

It is contended abrogation of the contract of 1907 between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. concerning fares may invalidate other portions of the contract that are favorable to the company.

"The agreement of 1907 between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Co. stipulated that rates of fare could be changed, but only with the consent of both parties," says the statement.

"The city has not consented to a change. Nevertheless, with the approval of the Public Service Commission, the transit company has been collecting increased fares since November 1.

Appellate Court Holdings

"The Appellate Courts of this state have held that although a utility promise not to exceed a certain rate if granted a franchise by a municipality, the Public Service Commission may allow an increase if the rate agreed upon proves inadequate. These decisions are based substantially upon the ground that to allow a municipality to cripple

the service of a public utility by denying it adequate revenue would be to violate the state constitution.

"It was apparently assumed by the Public Service Commission that the doctrine of these cases was broad enough to justify it in ignoring the 1907 contract. That the assumption is warranted is not universally conceded.

"That the creation of the Public Service Commission invalidated the contract, or that it deprived the city of the benefit of the fare clause without invalidating other provisions of benefit to the transit company, is seriously questioned in some quarters.

"At this writing no appeal from the Public Service Commission's order has been entered either by the city or by the transit company.

Complaint Is Appealed

"The complaint of the United Business Men's Association has been appealed from the Public Service Commission to the Superior Court, which has not yet rendered its decision. This complaint, in substance, alleges that the underlying companies are receiving excessive rentals, and asks the commission to ascertain the value of their properties for the purpose of determining the rates to be charged the public by the underlying companies, or by their agents or lessees, for the service actually being furnished for public use. Whether the proceedings before the commission had reached the stage at which they could be appealed from, and whether the underlying companies are 'public service corporations' doing business within the intent of the public service company law, are the principal issues in the Superior Court.

"To the lay mind it will be interesting to learn from the courts the answer to the question: Is it permissible for the state to inquire whether the underlying companies are conducting their business in such a manner as to infringe the general well-being of the state within the meaning of the section of the state constitution quoted above?"

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BUS CASE GOES TO COUNCIL

Camden City Solicitor to Investigate Rights of Jitneys at the Ferry

The fight of the Camden County Bus Association against the Philadelphia and Camden Ferry Co. for the right of its members to load and unload patrons at the ferry entrance has been carried to the Camden Council. Judge William C. French, of Camden, acting as counsel for the association, declared yesterday that there is no law by which the ferry company can order jitneys and buses away from the parking space at the ferry entrance.

The City Council has instructed E. G. C. Bleakly, city solicitor, to investigate the case to determine whether the place from which the jitneys are being driven is private property, owned by the ferry company, or whether it belongs to the city. It is on that question that the whole situation rests, Mr. Bleakly believes.

Civic Club Would Plant Trees

The Mayor has been advised by the committee on municipal art and tree planting of the Civic Club that it desired to co-operate with him in planting trees and making attractive the recreation center at Tenth, Eleventh, Lombard, Rodman and Naudain streets.

HIGHWAY BLOCKED, PUBLIC BUILDS SPAN

Enterprising Citizens Refuse to Have 63d and Market Streets Closed

WORK DONE IN A DAY

Enterprising citizens in the vicinity of Sixty-third and Market streets refused to stop business because a cement road was being constructed and there was no detour. In three hours they built a bridge over the new cement road so they could get their big trucks out to the main thoroughfare. Because the business men themselves and their employees did the work, the bridge cost them only \$3—what they paid out for spikes.

When the new paving was started signs were put up that the road was closed to traffic. No detour was possible because Cobbs Creek was on one

side and a railroad on the other. The property owners asked the contractor to erect a bridge, but he seemed loath to do so.

Then Louis Pearl and Jack Jenkins, owners of a garage, asked permission of the state inspector to build the bridge. The permission was granted. Pearl and Jenkins interested William Buckley, of the Kunkle Coal Co., and G. W. Geyer, of the Millbourne Mills. These men, with twenty employees, started work yesterday afternoon, and at 5:30 o'clock the bridge was open for trucks, as well as smaller cars, are making use of the new passageway.

Drops Dead at Work

Harry McLaughlin, 2202 Ruffner street, an employe at the Budd Manufacturing Co.'s plant, Twenty-ninth street and Hunting Park avenue, fell dead while at work today. Physicians attribute death to heart disease. McLaughlin is survived by a widow and child.

Office Managers
150 FROM 1

SEE MURDER MYSTERY

Investigation of Woman's Skeleton Being

The finding of the skeleton of a woman in a fire-scarred woods at New Rome, an abandoned settlement in Atlantic county, three miles from Richmond, yesterday by H. J. Toomis, of Landis township, is being investigated by Atlantic county authorities today. Detectives from Atlantic City have been detailed to the case to investigate

a story that a young man had left that vicinity recently after the disappearance of a young woman with whom he lived.

The man, whose name had not been learned by the prosecutor, sold out all his household goods and left the neighborhood.

The skeleton was found with a piece of rope near it and the bones appeared as if they had been exposed to the weather for several months.

Shortly after the young woman's disappearance the woods was swept by fire.

CLINIC FOR POLICE

Treatment Will Be Given Each Thursday to Nervous Ones

A clinic for the treatment of policemen suffering from nervous or mental discomposure, was opened yesterday at the office of the chief surgeon in City Hall.

Dr. Michael A. Burns, of Jefferson Hospital medical staff, assisted by five surgeons in the work. The clinic will be held every Thursday.

BONWIT TELLER & CO.

The Specialty Shop of Originations
CHESTNUT AT 13TH STREET

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Exceptional Sale of WOMEN'S SHIRTS & BLOUSES

<p>BLOUSES of GEORGETTE 6.90 Made to Sell for 10.50</p> <p>Of exceptional quality crepe in flesh, white, bisque, navy and brown. Specialized for Saturday.</p>	<p>BLOUSES of GEORGETTE 8.75 Made to Sell for 12.50</p> <p>Long roll collar; pleated frill; trimmed with real filet lace. In white, flesh and bisque.</p>
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<p>TAILORED SHIRTS 3.95 Made to Sell for 5.90</p> <p>Of white dimity, long roll collar edged with pleating. Specialized for Saturday.</p>	<p>TAILORED SHIRTS 10.00 Made to Sell for 15.00</p> <p>"Man-type" silk shirts developed in radium silk, men's-wear silks and crepe silks.</p>
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Victrola XIV, \$246.60 with ten records
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SILVERTONE and KINDRED FABRICS **58.00**
Very Exceptionally Priced at

Plain-tailored coats to wear with one's own peltry. Lined throughout with novelty silks. Sizes 14 to 18.

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A full-belted model; wide pleat down back from neck to hem. Lined throughout with pussywillow.
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Misses' Coats of Veldyne

INCLUDED ARE BOLIVIA COATS **88.00**
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Smart effects in plain-tailored, belted and draped models. Flowered linings; stitchery trimming.
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Veldyne Wraps and Coats

SPECIALIZED FOR SATURDAY
Made to Sell for Up to 135.00 **98.50**

Featuring fur collars of nutria and squirrel. This delightful fabric is developed in varying youthful styles.
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Included Are SUITS of VELOUR and SILVERTONE **64.00**
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This collection embraces plain-tailored tweed models, fur-trimmed models and suits for sports and street wear.
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