COMBINE WEAKENS IN PAYROLL ROW

Is Forced to Admit Judge Brown's Court Has Too Many Employes

ROPER AND DEVELIN SCORE

President Judge Brown's royal retinue of Municipal Court employes is admitted on all sides today to be too numerous.

Even Combine leaders, voicing their thoughts through Councilman Charles B. Hall, Vare chairman, publicly confessed that some sections at least of the huge payroll were indefensible.

At the end of a twelve-hour grilling of representatives of the court by Councilmen Roper and Develin, conducted in City Council sitting as a "committee of the whole" on the budget, it was generally conceded that the veil of secrecy and sycophancy cannot always cover up a horde of men who get their social service training in grand committees.

Yielding to the insistent demands of public opinion, the Combine has made a start toward getting down to rock bottom in the matter of appropriations for the Municipal Court.

Decline to Approve Five Divisions

The initial move made by the Combine, which in itself recognizes not the hue and cry which has been raised over the million dollar payroll, was that of declining to approve appropriations for five divisions of the court until a further investigation is made. The withholding of the annual money means that for the time being at least twenty-seven positions, calling for an annual payroll of $62,640, will not be specified sufficiently to permit of even tentative approval.

Actually, the only real cut made in the court budget was for two assistant gardeners, one at $900 a year and the other at $2.75 a day. Councilman Burch, chairman of the Finance Committee, questioned the need of these gardeners and Councilman Hall, after listening to explanations that these "court officials" also cared for the rabbits used in laboratory experiments, moved that their positions be stricken from the budget.

Another Cut Made

The Combine made another cut in the Municipal Court payroll of ten clerks in the division of support, under process counts. But this cut will not reduce the amount to be paid by the treasurer, as the places were simply transferred from the Municipal Court roll to the roll of the Clerk of the Court of Quarter Sessions. On its face, however, it would look like a cut of ten clerks carrying an annual payroll of $12,900.

The Combine did not begin to wriggle under the Roper-Develin attack until the twelve-hour session was nearly over. The session began yesterday at 1:50 P. M., when Judge Brown delivered his dramatic oration. It did not end until 1:50 this morning.

For hours after the session opened, the Combine appeared to be under the spell of the Judge's appeal to their emotions. Judge Brown had been the star actor in the biggest bit of drama which had been staged in Council since its organization. The galleries, the sidelines—in fact, all available space in Council's chamber were crowded.

Judge Brown, made a distinct hit. Independents only regretted he had not remained and replied to the questions which Councilman Develin desired to put. The Judge bluntly refused to answer Mr. Develin on the ground that the latter had been spreading untruths about the court. Had the Judge remained, it was pointed out, he would have discovered that even his political friends admitted that somethings which had been said by Develin were certainly not any truths.

But along about midnight, the Combine, having failed to discourage or tire out Roper and Develin, began to find fault with the court's payroll—that is, Mr. Hall did.

Roper and Develin Score

The results of the work of Roper and Develin only showed what a real and not a superficial investigation might reveal. Roper and Develin won a victory from men, subordinates of Judge Brown, who had been lot by the Judge to justify their own jobs and the jobs of their assistants.

Experts, said today, that the investigation would require about six months' work and the expenditure of about $20,000. Roper and Develin brought superfluities to light in a course of only twelve hours' cross-examination of men who necessarily were in favor of the status quo.

The divisions of the court which failed of tentative approval were:

Small claims, six positions, annual roll, $13,900.

Statistical, twelve positions, annual roll, $16,340.

Chief probation officer, [illegible] positions—annual roll, $11,900.

Information and complaint, [illegible] position—annual roll, $2500.

Assigned to replace [illegible] positions—annual roll, $14,900.

Combine's Methods

One of the principal methods employed by the Combine to cut the payroll across was to ask the representative of a court division to say whether or not he or she had any superfluous employes. The answer of course was invariably "No," to which was added the statement that any cut would reduce the staff and that as a matter of fact more help was needed.

Councilman Roper began to pick his fine work when the Municipal Court Division was reached. It was learned that this division spends only twenty a week and that very little stenography was used. Roper, a lawyer, said the note required were so simple that any layman in longhand. And each of these stenographers gets $1000 a year.

Roper pressed his attack and forced the Combine into adopting the "shift plan" into motion. The plan was drafted several times. For instance, in this case, the Combine insisted on the point that the stenographer in the division, when not otherwise employed were assigned to other divisions. Mr. Roper pointed out that the bright sun and that the other divisions are well supplied with stenographers. He said the steam roller got into the discussion and was approved. Likewise Roper caught it understating, in another case, the janitors were required to work [illegible]. When the Small Claims Division was reached, Councilman Develin questioned the legality, arguing that the original division for it had been repealed by the amendment of the Act of Assembly of 1919. Mr. Hall insisted that the division appeared to dig into the [illegible] of the Legal Aid Bureau of the Department of Public Welfare, one of the departments under the Mayor. If the Combine decides to stand by the Small Claims Division of the court, it has in mind the abolition of the Legal Aid Bureau under Director Tustin.

As the session lengthened, and Roper and Develin were as vigorous as ever, Mr. Hall began to see points in favor of arguments made by the independents. For instance, Develin raised the question of the legality of salaries for clerks in excess of $2500. Mr. Hall thereupon announced that it was "all wrong" for Judge Brown to have sole power in such matters. Further, he suggested that if the salaries were illegal any taxpayer could test the point in court.

Mr. Hall closed by saying that the Woglom legislative committee should go to Harrisburg at the next session and work for the passage of an amendment which would deprive the President Judge of the sole power of appointment.

The twenty jobs in the Statistical Division were described by Roper as "most nonsensical."

Hall Fails to Support Colleague

"Move to approve," charged up Councilman McCloskey, a Vare leader.

Mr. Hall, however, declined to back up his colleague.

"I don't see where they are needed," said Hall. "Unless you show cause they are needed, I will not vote for them."

The chief of the bureau appeared on side to show the need, as Hall stated that the division "decided move" until the chief could couple again.

"I think it is overloaded," confessed Hall.

Hall nearly showed jealousy in the war when the office of Louis N. Robinson, chief probation officer, was reached. This is a $5000-a-year place. Mr. Hall said that the probation officers who had appeared before Council to testify apparently knew their business and therefore that a chief was unnecessary.

It was brought out that the commissioner and assistant commissioner of bailiffs and generals had the care of only three acres of ground. The chief bailiff gets a salary of $2500 and the assistant $1800, a total annual bill for the bureau of $4300.

Mr. Hall himself broke up the "superintendent of Fairmount Park." He suggested a saving of $700 a year and got only $400. This also upset the three assistant superintendents and the assistant were classed as position officers. As position officers, the question as to their special service disappeared.

Smiles for All

[illegible]

Another Cut Made

[illegible]

Combine's Methods

[illegible]

Roper and Develin Score

[illegible]

WILL TAKE UP MORATORIUM FOR GERMANY ON TUESDAY

Reparations Commission Will Study Proposal—Formal Request Expected

Paris, Dec. 3.—(By A. P.)—The Reparations Commission probably will begin formal consideration of the proposed two-year moratorium on Germany's foreign debts at the meeting of the commission to be held here Tuesday, it is stated today. It is expected that a formal request from the German Government for a moratorium similar will be made in a few days.

Unofficial reports received in reparations commission circles today are interpreted that the Wirth Government in Germany has decided to ask a moratorium and Emile Salvage, the French member of the commission, is reported to have favored such a moratorium.

The French Foreign Office is said to be "not without sympathy" with the German request, but it is understood that the French Government is not prepared to take any steps without the concurrence of its allies, Belgium and Italy.

Premier Briand, who is also Minister of Foreign Affairs, is expected to confer with the Belgian and Italian ambassadors here on the subject, it is stated.

Reparations Commission circles here are reluctant to discuss the matter, it is stated, because of the fact that the commission has received no official request from Germany. It is understood, however, that the commission is prepared to take up the German request as soon as it is received.

VERIFY TURK MASSACRES

Killing of Christians is Common, Returning Relief Workers Say

New York, Dec. 3.—Cable dispatches received here by the Near East Relief from its workers in Turkey confirm the report that massacres of Christians are being carried on by the Turks in Cilicia, Marash, Hadjin, Zeitun and other places.

Cilicia, Marash, Hadjin and Zeitun are Armenian towns in the Turkish province of Cilicia, which adjoins Syria. The Turks have been fighting the French there since the evacuation of Cilicia by the French last month.

Among those who have been killed are Miss Anna Phillips, of Ann Arbor, Mich., and Miss A. G. Allen, of Boston, Mass., both of the Near East Relief. Miss Phillips was killed while trying to escape from Marash, it is stated. Miss Allen was killed in her home in Zeitun.

Relief workers who have returned to Constantinople from the interior have brought with them stories of the massacres. They say that the Christians are being slaughtered by the Turks in the most horrible manner. Women and children are being tortured and mutilated, they say, and the Turks are committing every form of outrage upon the Christian population.

Cilicia is a province of Turkey in Asia Minor, with a population of 1,000,000, of which 300,000 are Armenians. The Armenians have been in Cilicia since the time of the Crusaders, when they came there from Armenia. The province is rich in cotton, silk, fruit and cereals.

Hadley Won't Let Public See Books

Continued from Page One

If it was, there would be no need for criticism of your methods. Your sinking fund reports fail to clarify conditions. They don't tell everything. I have had to grope practically in the dark for the figures and facts I have printed, but they are facts and they are approximately correct, if not to the very last dollar."

"They are not. Here's another false statement," and he ran his finger along an underscored sentence from Wednesday's editorial as he read: "'Another loan, the $6,000,000 twenty five year one of 1894 also matures.' That isn't a twenty five-year loan, it's a thirty-year loan. It's a deliberate distortion of facts."

Are you not aware, Mr. Controller," I asked, "that this loan was authorized by Councils in 1894, and that the last issue of it was not sold until 1904, or ten years after? I averaged the years and called it a twenty-five-year loan, though, as a matter of fact, parts of that loan bearing as much less than twenty-five years," was my reply.

"Anyhow that is a trifling and immaterial matter," I continued. "Even at these, your important errors, as they are not in that article, one could scarcely be blamed for them, for I said it was groping in the dark. Your reports are not clear."

"In fact, the figures given in my article were lodged from figures in your reports, and I have had nothing else to go by. Your reports do not give all the facts. It is the secrecy that has surrounded the Sinking Fund Commission and the lack of clarity in its reports that have been responsible for my criticism."

Recalled Defiance of Council

Now it isn't," retort of the Controller with considerable show of anger. "You want to create a sensation. You are trying to write something that you think people will read. But the people don't read it, because they don't care anything about it."

"It is possible, Mr. Controller," I replied "that you may think it strange I did not come to you for information on this subject, instead of depending on the figures in your reports and making my estimates as best I could from them. The reason I did not was that Council some months ago sought to find out something about the Sinking Fund Commission's affairs. It passed a resolution submitting certain questions to you to seek for information. You refused to furnish it. I assumed that if you would not give the information to City Council you would scarcely give it to me."

These questions asked by Council proved interesting to be an account of many surmises, truly. "They were propaganda. I know all about it. I've got up to Greenberg (Eli N. Greenberg, director of the Bureau of Municipal Research, to try to make a sensation. The Republican Organization members understand it, too. It was propaganda material. The answer to it was the same as the answer the Will P. Hadley got for Controller, in the last election."

I only offered this as a reason why I did not call upon you for more," I added. "But let us get back to the question of the editorial the original issued on."

Personalities Not Involved

"I am talking on other subject now," said the Controller with rising voice. "I wasn't at all that I was born and raised in Philadelphia. I made my way through school and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. I was elected. I have lived here ever since, all my life, and you cannot intimidate me."

"You false, unfair article is responsible," Mr. Controller, I say. "You think there is any purpose to interest you? Pah! It is not a matter of personal concerns. Pah! are the real people interested and an exponent of the people of Philadelphia, the chief financial officer of the city, is attacked in such language calculated to the people's mind. A man, you allege, and I believe, acts as a legitimate and honest public servant."

"You flatter yourself and your [illegible] I said, "I am a [illegible] and I am a [illegible] and I am a [illegible] and