

OLD LAW TURNS UP TO PUZZLE CAMDEN

1907 Statute Would Give Van Hart Indirect Control Over New Administration's Jobs

POLITICIANS IN QUANDARY

Camden is in a quandary, especially its leading officials and politicians who are interested in the doing out of jobs. Discovery of a law passed in 1907 affecting appointment of many city officeholders is the cause of the temporary confusion. Should the city determine to abide by this law it would mean that Frank Van Hart, the retiring Republican Mayor, could indirectly control appointments under the incoming Democratic administration.

At the present time all fire and city department employees except police are appointed by Council. The police are appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by Council.

Authorizes Board Appointments

The suddenly discovered 1907 law authorizes the appointments of two boards—Board of Public Works and Police and Fire Board. These boards of four members each—two Democrats and two Republicans—are to be appointed by the Mayor. The law provides that whenever there is a deadlock regarding proposed appointments the Mayor casts the deciding vote.

Investigation shows that when this law was passed by the Assembly in 1907 it referred only to the city of Paterson. In 1910 it was amended to apply to all cities of more than 110,000 population. Camden passed that law two years ago and is now in the 110,000 classification.

Former Mayor Ellis, who resigned last April to become postmaster, was asked why this law had not become effective while he was in office.

"I knew of the existence of the law in 1920," he said, "and when our population placed us in the 110,000 class I took the matter up with the City Solicitor. We both agreed that it applied to Camden. Then I consulted City Solicitor Blackley. He told me the law had been amended to apply to all cities of more than 110,000 population. On hearing that, I was convinced I was wrong and did nothing more about the matter."

Blakeley Is Surprised

Mr. Blakeley expressed surprise today on hearing of the controversy over the newly discovered law and said he would make a statement later.

Mayor Van Hart said he didn't know anything about it. "It's up to the legal department," he added. "If the 1907 law is correct, something should have been done before this."

Mayor-elect Victor King, a Democrat, declined to make any comment. Whether Mayor Van Hart will take advantage of the terms of the 1907 law and appoint the new boards and thus deprive the incoming Democratic administration of filling their own offices is a matter of conjecture.

Strategy Enlivens Herrin Jury Hunt

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lunge for cause, and defense must, if it wants the veniremen excused."

Judge Hartwell moved closer to counsel and sat on his own leg on the bench.

"You haven't the right to tender a man who admits he's an unfair juror," argued the Judge. "You tender an unconstitutional juror. When a man can't be and won't be a fair juror you can't tender him just to shift the burden of the examination to the defense by forcing the defense to challenge him."

"But where a man holds an opinion and says he can be a fair juror, that does shift the burden. In this second case I think the ground for a challenge for cause exists, but I can't recall, I think defense ought to challenge for cause."

And defense did, and took the lead in the questioning of new veniremen.

In a letter to Frank Farrington, president of the Illinois Mine Workers' Union, received yesterday, John H. Camblit, president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, answers Farrington's counter-charge that this business organization is defraying the expense of prosecution.

Farrington's original statement followed an admission that the cost of the defense is being met by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. He declared that if one organization may contribute money toward one side of the fight, the union may properly contribute to the other.

The letter to Farrington runs in part:

"The Illinois Chamber of Commerce has merely been a medium through which contributions might be made toward a fund to be used by the Attorney General in the prosecution of those guilty of the murders committed in the Herrin district."

"The Illinois Chamber of Commerce is composed of practically all the local chambers of commerce throughout the State of Illinois and our directors represent those local organizations to take charge of the collection of funds in their respective communities."

"Citizens of sixty-one Illinois cities and towns have contributed to this fund and the contributions have come from men and women in all walks of life."

"Beyond acting as the agency through which contributions could be made, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce has had nothing whatever to do with the case."

"A careful record is being kept of all money that is being expended and when the prosecution is completed a final report will be made to the contributors covering all receipts and disbursements."

"The sole object of the chamber in this instance is to aid in the enforcement of the law and order. Whether the criminals belong to any order or organization is not a question to be considered."

Farrington has unlimited control of the "defense fund" and declared that the union is to have an itemized statement of the expenditure of this defense money. There will be money spent for this defense which nobody else should know of.

Because, in a situation of this kind, is the best way to get the required results."

John Hindmarsh, Farrington's rival in the December election for the union presidency, has been demanding an "itemized statement."

HER LONG TRIP IN VAIN

Marietta, O., Dec. 5.—Miss Helma Frick, who came from Cologne, Germany, to marry Edward Grotel, farmer, who resides near here, changed her mind upon her arrival yesterday and last night left for Pittsburgh. The girl became acquainted with Grotel through an international mail agency.

KAROLYI'S WIFE POOR; HAS FERRYBOAT JOB

Hungarian Statesman on Trial for High Treason



COUNTESS KAROLYI

Budapest, Dec. 5.—(By A. P.)—The trial of Count Michael Karolyi, former president of the Hungarian National Council, who is charged with high treason in delivering Hungary to bolshevism, has begun here. The public prosecutor demanded the confiscation of all the accused's property. The defense pleaded that the Karolyi family is reduced to poverty.

Countess Karolyi's wife earns her livelihood by ferrying passengers from Ruzsna to the island of Lacsoma in a motorboat.

Deaths of a Day

E. AUGUSTUS MILLER

Member of Bar and Prominent Lutheran Layman Died Yesterday

E. Augustus Miller, lawyer, president of the Philadelphia Bible Society and a prominent Lutheran layman, died yesterday afternoon at his home, 7314 Boyer street, Mount Airy. He had been ill for eight weeks.

Mr. Miller was born in this city in 1860, and was trained in the public schools, the Central High School and later the University of Pennsylvania Law School, from which he was graduated with the class of '87. Known to Lutherans throughout the United States, Mr. Miller, in addition to being head of the Board of the American Sunday School Union; director of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mount Airy and a member of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extensions of the United Lutheran Church, He was also a member of the City Club.

Mr. Miller, in addition to his widow, Mrs. Mary Van Reed Miller, is survived by three children, the Rev. Harold Schaeffer Miller, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mrs. C. Byron Wahl and Paul Van Reed Miller, who was associated with his father in the law practice. The funeral will take place from the Miller home on Thursday next.

SHIPPEN DECATUR WEST

U. of P. Graduate and War Veteran Dies in Seattle

Shippen Decatur West, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. West, 2131 De Lancy street, died yesterday in Seattle, Wash., after a short illness, at the age of thirty-five years.

Mr. West was born in this city and was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. When the United States entered the war, he enlisted in the cavalry and went to France. A short time after his promotion to a lieutenant he was contracted with pneumonia, of which he never entirely recovered.

Robert D. Clow, Sr.

Robert D. Clow, Sr., superintendent of the English-Belgian Society, of Camden, died yesterday at his home, 519 State street, Camden. He was in his seventeenth year. Death was due to pneumonia, following a cold with which he had been suffering for some time. Mr. Clow was born in Delaware, December 25, 1892, and had been a resident of Camden for thirty-three years.

He was a real estate man of Camden and president of the Kiwanis Club, of Camden. He was also a member of the Camden Golf and Country Club, and was now abroad, and Miss Irene C. Clow.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon, December 7, at 2 o'clock, from the home of the deceased, 519 State street, Camden. Interment will be made in Harleigh Cemetery.

Mrs. Emma C. Sachse

Mrs. Emma C. Sachse, widow of Dr. Julius Frederick Sachse, a widely known author and physician, died yesterday at her home, 4429 Pine street, in her eightieth year. Mrs. Sachse was born and educated here. She was active in philanthropic endeavors. She leaves five children. They are Mrs. S. S. Sadtler, of Chestnut Hill; Mrs. George S. Tyson, Mrs. A. C. Hercher, of California, and Albert S. and Emma S. Sachse. The funeral will take place Thursday morning, with interment in West Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Nathan Wilson

Nathan Wilson, eighty-two years old, died yesterday at the home of his niece, Mrs. James DeMott, 216 Middlesex street, Gloucester, N. J. He was a Civil War veteran and had lived in Gloucester since 1865. The funeral will be held Thursday morning, with interment in the cemetery of the G. A. R. and Sons of Veterans.

Peter J. Callan

Funeral services will be held Thursday morning for Peter J. Callan, an active Republican worker in the Tenth Ward and an employee of the Sheriff's office, who was fatally injured Sunday, November 25, by a street car in the Tenth Ward. The funeral will be held at St. John's Church, Thirtieth street above Chestnut, at 10 o'clock. Interment will be made in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Adolph L. Lowe

Adolph L. Lowe, eighty-two years old, died yesterday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Anna Lowe, 216 Middlesex street, Gloucester, N. J. He was a Civil War veteran and the World War. He was accepted and sent to Virginia Beach with a machine gun battalion, and the first time he ever used a gun of this type made 250 hits out of a possible 300 on the range there.

TIGER IS VISITOR AT WHITE HOUSE

Clemenceau, in High Hat, Pays His Respects to President of United States

SEES WILSON TOMORROW

Washington, Dec. 5.—Georges Clemenceau paid his respects today to President Harding.

Arriving at the White House three minutes before 10 o'clock this morning, the hour at which the President was to receive him, he was ushered immediately into the executive offices where the President greeted him.

The Tiger of France, looking hale and jaunty and wearing his high hat for the second time since his arrival in America, was accompanied by Jules J. Jusserand, the French Ambassador, who presented him to the President.

A small crowd which had gathered outside the White House grounds applauded Clemenceau as he arrived.

Late tomorrow the wartime Premier will also see the President, with whom he sat in the Council of the "Big Five" at Versailles. Prior to his arrival here yesterday it had been reported that the visit to the President would follow immediately after the President's call on President Harding, but it was made known today that no definite arrangement had been made until 5 P. M. tomorrow.

Mrs. Sterrett Gives Up Home; Case Unsolved

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when he made business trips there? "Who told you that?" she questioned back, turning abruptly.

She was informed that the statement came from the authorities investigating the case.

"I am sorry," she said, "I cannot talk with you. I have too much to do," and with that she brushed her way up the stairs and disappeared.

Sent Checks to Woman Friend

The fact that Mr. Sterrett had a woman friend in Pittsburgh became known when investigators discovered checks in small amounts, canceled a month after month to this woman, Mrs. Sterrett was questioned and said she did not know her. Detectives went to Pittsburgh and found the woman. She said she had known him for ten years or more, and two or three times each year during his trips to Pittsburgh would call for her and they would play golf together.

The checks were given her, she said, to buy golf balls and sticks and to maintain her membership in the little club where they played together. As far as the authorities could find, it was an innocent companionship, his most serious aspect being the fact that his father-in-law never intervened in these visits and games.

"This Sterrett case has reached a point," said one of the leaders in the investigation, "where all of our early hopes are dashed. All of the clues that looked so promising at the start have turned out to be hopeless."

Another clue led to Youngstown, O., where lived a woman who had some time on a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Sterrett in New York. Here again the trial bore no fruit.

Typewritten, hundreds of them, in all suspected circles, have been examined in an effort to match the type with that of the label which was pasted on the anonymous package containing the cake.

Investigation Running Out

Major Justice Windle of Chester County, who has been in charge of the State investigation of the case, said the investigation was still in progress; that little things were turning up all the time and were being run down in the hope that somewhere among them would be found the lead that would take them to the person who mailed the cake from the Penn Square postal station.

Major Windle and his assistants have had frequent interviews with Mrs. Sterrett, but without result. "She has no new information," Major Windle said. The State investigation has included a poll of all drug stores along the Main Line and the likely ones in the city where the cake was blended so fatally into the sweet white icing of the "devil's food" might have been bought, but still without result.

Even the coroner's inquest into Mr. Sterrett's death has never been held because of the lack of one single tangible thing upon which a jury might hang a verdict.

Much of the time of Major Windle and his men has been spent in probing into the past lives of both Mr. Sterrett and his wife. They have interviewed persons who knew them even before their marriage six years ago—all in an effort to find a motive for the crime.

Major Windle assures that the case is in its deepest form, raising an apparently impenetrable wall between the death of a quiet and orderly citizen and the hand that sent the poisoned cake.

Scope of Message Puzzles Harding

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times the other by the advisers who go in to see him.

The President faces a difficult decision. The business interests of the country would like to have a vacation from Congress. The President wishes to be free from Congress, needing a vacation for himself and for Mrs. Harding, who is ill.

On the other hand, there has just been organized a movement whose purpose is to discredit the Harding administration and to wrest the control of the Republican Party out of the hands of Mr. Harding and his friends. Any failure to satisfy public opinion at this juncture may have grave political consequences.

It is in this situation which confronted the President today.

All that is known with any definiteness about the message is that it will recommend rural credit legislation. This is of three parts, a new banking system to make loans of longer terms than are practicable for Federal Reserve Banks, an increase in the amount that may be loaned on mortgages to farmers by the farm loan banks, and a modification of the law to make the smaller banks in rural neighborhoods eligible for membership in the Federal Reserve system.

A constitutional amendment putting an end to tax exemptions for securities will also be urged by the President.

And the President will renew briefly his argument for the ship subsidy which he recommended to Congress in the special session just closed.

If the President adds to this railroad legislation it will be because the Western Republicans that this is the only way to hold the Progressive movement in check.

NAVAL OFFICIALS CLOSE HOP INQUIRY

Middies in Charge of Event Declared Everything Was Conducted Properly

PREPARE REPORT TO DENBY

By a Staff Correspondent

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 5.—Five middies, very red, very military and very correct, were the final witnesses to be heard by the Board of Inquiry that has been examining into the conduct of the navy ball at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia, following the Army-Navy game in that city.

The four middies looked prepared for anything, but they were only asked a few questions concerning their duties as members of the Hop Committee and whether they wore belts and gloves to show they were on duty.

As soon as the middies had been examined and dismissed the Secretary Denby. Mr. Denby had reported he had seen several middies under the influence of liquor at the ball and in consequence had ordered the ball to be closed. The probe was not into the conduct of the middies who were on leave, but into the manner in which the ball itself had been supervised.

All the evidence that has been presented tends to show that every precaution was taken to keep conduct at the ball at a high level, to exclude undesirable guests, and further, that several undesirable, all civilians, were removed. The conduct of the Middies themselves has not been criticized by the officers of the witnesses who have appeared.

On Duty Until 3 A. M.

Middleman C. D. Walsh, the first witness of the day, a member of the first class, told the board he had been at the ball until 3 A. M. He arrived at the ball at 1 o'clock, he said. He said he wore no belt, although several members of the Hop Committee did. It was his impression, he said, that wearing of belts was only necessary at hops at the Academy.

Middleman P. C. Lane, second class, was next called. "I was on duty at the ball until 1:30 to 2:30 A. M.," he said. "It was really there immediately after the theatre performance."

"Did you wear a belt?" "Yes, sir, all the time I was there." He said he understood perfectly that he was in charge of the conduct of the ball, in conjunction with other members of the Hop Committee.

Next to be called was Middleman W. F. Peterson, second class. He also had been on duty at the ball, he said, from 2 o'clock to 3 A. M. He wore belt and gloves while on duty. In event of disorder, he said, he understood he would have been his duty to take the necessary steps to end it.

Next was Middleman H. B. Denby, Jr., second class. He was on duty from 2:30 until 3 A. M., and was there from 2 o'clock. He wore his belt and gloves, he said, and understood he was in charge of conduct at the ball.

Middleman W. W. McIlhenry, Jr., second class, followed. He remained at the ball from 11 P. M. to nearly 4 A. M.

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BAKER THWARTS CAPITOL SCHEME

State Committee Chairman Stops Move to Abolish Printing of Bills

CHANCE FOR DARK WORK

Somebody at the State Capitol at Harrisburg, under the guise of economy, has proposed a scheme which would make it infinitely easier to slip through bad legislation and snake amendments to bills in the session of the Legislature which opens next month.

The scheme proposes that the custom of printing copies of all bills introduced into the Legislature and printing copies of the bills as amended, be abolished to save cost of paper and printing. These copies of bills and amendments make it possible for those following legislation to know just what is stipulated in any proposed measure at any point in its passage through the House and Senate.

Baker Thwarts Plan

First news of the plan came to W. Harry Baker, chairman of the Republican State Committee, today at the headquarters, 506 South Broad street. He was called up by a long distance telephone by his secretary at Harrisburg who told him the Department of Public Printing of which Robert C. Miller is chief, had proposed to print bills and amendments in paper provided for the bills an die further suggestion was made that to eliminate the copies would save lots of money.

"That's the limit," commented Baker as he put in a long distance call for the State Department of Public Printing. When he got the department he told the officials in charge that they better go slow about hampering public information by failing to provide for copies of bills.

"I was interested in the first place," continued Baker, "in getting these copies supplied. They are invaluable to newspaper correspondents and to representatives of civic organizations, such as those of women, which follow bills from point to point in the Assembly, from the time they are first offered, right through their passage through committees and both houses."

"Lack of the copies would seriously hamper those interested in getting at the status of legislation and to make it possible for all sorts of trickery to be attempted which would not be discovered until the bill had passed the Legislature. Why they talk on saving houses of 50 or 60. In the end it might mean the loss of millions in practical effect. What a protest would go up over the State from women's organizations about no copies be supplied. So far as I am concerned there will be no dark lantern methods."

Interest Smoothing Path

Mr. Baker is able to take a definite stand on the question not only because he is State chairman, but also because he is secretary of the Senate.

In political circles this particular development was received with deep interest. It indicated to observers that the interests were striving to advance to smooth out their legislative path by making it difficult to keep tabs on what was going on in the field of legislation. These interests are all the more concerned for the reason that the Governor-elect intends to listen to no interest except that of the Commonwealth.

Barn Fire Suspects Fired On by Guards

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Last night, near midnight they heard some one trying to force an entrance through one of the doors.

The young man slipped out through another door and found the intruder a moment before calling to him to put up his hands. He was a Negro, described as tall, weighing about 150 pounds and dressed in a dark suit and light shirt.

At the sound of their voices the Negro started to run in the direction of a field away from the highway, followed by the guards. They then had shot at him. Due to the darkness of the night he succeeded in eluding his pursuers, but the young men continued their search.

Twenty minutes later they came

across an automobile, without lights, standing in a dark spot on the roadside. Throwing the light from a flashlight into it, they saw a Negro resembling the one they had shot at lying on the back seat as though injured. A white man sat at the steering wheel. Frank Seeds asked what they were doing there, but got no answer. The man at the wheel started his engine and drove away.

Running to the house, the men got their own car and gave chase, but soon were eluded. The automobile bore a Pennsylvania license plate. State police have telegraphed to Harrisburg to learn the owner of the car.

State troopers are being mobilized from all sections of the State to aid in the investigation by the Fire Protection Bureau. They will be mounted on motorcycles, and will patrol all roads in the three counties at night.

"Shoot-First" Orders

Farmers are co-operating in the investigation by the State police. The watches in their barns. The watches are divided by employers and employees, and every man has orders to "shoot first and inquire later" if persons enter the barn unannounced.

The investigation will be under the direction of Major L. G. Adams, superintendent of State police, through Major C. M. Wilhelm, chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection, assisted by J. W. Morgan, deputy superintendent, and Arthur H. Finley and Thomas G. Ryan, deputies of Major Wilhelm. A company of State police has been established in West Chester, with a sub-station at Malvern to cover the Main Line section.

A sufficient force will be on the ground within forty-eight hours to watch the entire three counties thoroughly.

Major Wilhelm reached West Chester yesterday and reached other officials of Chester and Delaware Counties, received reports of investigations of barn fires made by State troopers.

Indicates Fire Bug's Work

"Although several of the fires were caused by ordinary causes such as children playing with matches, the large number of barns that have been destroyed, and the fact that they are spread over such a wide area, might indicate a fire bug is at work," Major Wilhelm said.

"This theory is strengthened by the fact that two men have been seen to run from the last two fires."

"A resolution calling upon Governor Sprout to take immediate action to bring to an end the incendiary fires in Chester and Delaware Counties and to apprehend the guilty parties was passed last night at the sixth annual convention of the Interstate Milk Producers' Association in the Adelphi Hotel."

False Alarms Hamper Firemen

To add to the difficulties of Chester County firemen a series of false alarms from county fire districts are being sent in daily, necessitating an investigation of each one before it is answered.

The latest false alarm came from Gradyville, where a barn was said to burn in flames.

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PINCHOT MAY PICK HIS HOUSE LEADERS