

### TAXICAB PROBE ORDERED BEGUN

#### Inquiry in Philadelphia May Be Extended to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh

Inquiry which starts to-day by order of the Public Service Commission into the rates and service of the taxicab companies and the jitneys in Philadelphia may be extended to Pittsburgh, Scranton, Harrisburg and other cities of the State. As a matter of general policy, the members of the Commission are considering broadening the inquiry into the conditions which have been much complained of in various cities and in the State capital itself, by a State-wide movement is probable in the next few weeks.

The Philadelphia inquiry was ordered undertaken last night by the Commission without a complaint. After presentation of a report by Commissioners Samuel M. Clement, Jr., and James S. Benn, who investigated the taxicabs and illegal operation of jitneys in Philadelphia, the Commission took the unusual course of launching an inquiry on its own motion. This has been done very rarely. In most of the instances where this power has been exercised it has been in the case of grade crossings found to be dangerous. Generally, when this authority is invoked, the Commission uses all of the power it possesses to adduce the facts. This will

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Black. Our Price Today is \$7.50.

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### YORK HAVEN CAN BUILD NEW LINE

#### Important Decision Regarding Transmission Route in Lower Dauphin County



The Public Service Commission in an opinion handed down to-day by Chairman W. D. Ainey granted the York Haven Water and Power Company the right to construct an electric transmission line from Anville through Middletown to the territory within which it was not chartered to operate and thereby ruled for the first time in such a case. The right to construct the line, which is intended to connect with the lines of a Reading system at Anville, was sought under authority of the act of 1885.

It is held that this power of extending lines by such companies is State wide and that the companies coming under the act of 1885 have the right to build anywhere in the State provided a certificate of convenience is secured from the Commission and that municipal or townships are not occupying streets, lanes and alleys of cities or other municipal divisions.

The opinion which contains references to supreme and Dauphin county court decisions and opinions by Hampton L. Carson when Attorney General. "In this instance," says the decision, "no objections have been presented and as we have reached the conclusion that there are no legal obstacles to our action and that public convenience, accommodation and necessity have been established," a certificate will be issued. The Commission limited approval to the line specified and did not pass on the agreement with the Reading company.

Commissioner John S. Rilling, dissented. **Abolish Crossing**—The Public Service Commission has ordered abolished the grade crossing at Market street, Marcus Hook borough and Lower Chester township, Delaware county. This crossing was investigated by the Commission on its own motion and its decision directs that the work of abolishing the crossing shall be done under supervision of the Commission, 75 per cent of the cost being paid by the Pennsylvania Railroad, 17 1/2 per cent by the county of Delaware, 5 per cent by Marcus Hook and 2 1/2 per cent by Lower Chester. The work is to be done by July 1, 1920.

**Streamers Here**—Adjutant General Frank D. Beary has received the streamers of the 108th Field Artillery, which will be placed with the battle flags. These streamers represent history of the old Second Pennsylvania Infantry since 1842 and include the Mexican, Civil, Spanish and World Wars. The name of each battle or service in which it participated either as a battalion of infantry, the 2nd infantry or the 2nd field artillery is shown.

**Hearing on Air Line**—The first hearing to be scheduled by the Public Service Commission on an application for a charter for an airplane transportation company has been fixed for October 1. An Eastern aero service concern is asking a charter. The question is whether a route in the air should be specified.

**At Washington**—Adjutant General Frank D. Beary is at Washington on National Guard matters.

**New Regulations Soon**—A series of new regulations governing the shipment of hogs through Pennsylvania will be promulgated in a few weeks by the State Department of Agriculture, studies of conditions in the State being now under way. The State authorities have a dozen counties under quarantine as far as shipping hogs are concerned and they will be released. It is stated that general support was given to the State quarantine by live stock owners.

**Commission Fixes Value**—A value of \$90,000 is placed upon the property of the Consolidated Water company, which supplies Coudersport, and the company allowed an annual return of 7 per cent thereon in an opinion filed by Public Service Commissioner John S. Rilling in the complaint of the borough of Coudersport and others against the rates and service of the water company. The capital stock is \$110,000, of which \$108,000 has been paid in and no dividends are now being paid. The sum of \$4,814.19 is allowed for annual operating expenses and the borough is to pay for fire service not less than \$1,250 per year. A new schedule of rates is to be filed by the company in thirty days.

**Meet in Philadelphia**—Officials of the State Armory Board will be in Philadelphia to-morrow for inspection of armory properties in that city. The board will meet in Philadelphia on Thursday.

**Mr. Millar Returns**—A. B. Millar, secretary of the Public Service Commission, has returned from Bedford where he spent a brief vacation.

**Signed Up For Roads**—The Chester county commissioners, who were here yesterday with Senator T. L. Eyre, signed contracts for construction of 29,600 feet of highway at the Highway Department. The work will be done in East Goshen, East Whiteland and West-town townships.

**Run Lines On Hill**—Engineers are working running lines for the improvements inside of Capitol Park, including the new walkways.

**State Inquiry**—Agents of the State Department of Agriculture began work yesterday on inspection of potato crops in Allegheny and other western counties. They are hunting the potato disease.

**Stone Embargo Has Hit the State Hard**  
Placing of an embargo on shipments of stone for road construction and the resumption of the old-time war-days system of requiring permits for the shipment of such material by the State Railroad Commission will work havoc with Pennsylvania's State road building program, according to State Highway Department officials. News of the embargo and permit requirements caused dismay when received at the Capitol from the United States Railroad Administration and it was declared that very few contractors have any stone ahead.

The State Highway Department will be tied up, except in those cases where contractors own the quarries from which they have been receiving stone. The order will inflict hardships on a great many of the contractors, who have already suffered loss because of the weather conditions which have prevailed since the forepart of June.

### Kittanning Refused a Municipal Plant

The Public Service Commission has refused to grant permission to the borough of Kittanning to construct a municipal water plant, an opinion by Commissioner John S. Rilling holding that building of a borough plant would be a duplication of the facilities of the Armstrong Water Company and that it would cost to build at least \$300,000 which would exceed the limit of indebtedness allowed the municipality. The borough would be burdened with "a large indebtedness to pay for a plant to be constructed at the present time when unusually high prices are prevailing and which plant contemplates taking its water supply from the same contaminated course that is so much complained of against the respondent," says the decision. "It can not be gainsaid that in the end of the struggle which is bound to ensue between the proposed municipally owned plant and the existing one that one or the other will succumb \* \* \* resulting in not only great economic loss, but in more or less inadequate service in the meantime. The water company is declared not to have 'appreciated or performed its duty as a water company exclusively serving a community.' It is informed that it should immediately rehabilitate its plant and notice is given that the Commission will entertain proceedings to determine reasonableness of rates in effect.

### Bigger Crowd at Church in Weekdays Than on Sundays

New York, Sept. 9.—A crowd in most churches on any day other than Sunday, usually means a funeral, wedding or "social." But St. Paul's Chapel, the oldest church in New York city, in lower Broadway between Park Row newspaper district and Wall street, is an exception emphasized by the directors of the Episcopal church's nation-wide campaign.

At St. Paul's the largest crowds of worshippers are those at the three services held each week-day. The brokers and bankers who usually spend their weekends on a golf course, yacht or at a watering place, frequently find time on their way to Wall street to attend the early communion service at 8 o'clock each morning in old St. Paul's. At 9 o'clock there is matins, usually attended by persons from out of town, who through the chapel each day to see George Washington's pew and to stroll around among the graves in the burial ground in the rear. Practically all the tombstones are a century old and many bear the names of men prominent in the days when New York was a province of George III.

### Edinburgh Castle to Be Memorial

Edinburgh, Scotland, Sept. 9.—Edinburgh Castle has been selected for utilization as a memorial to Scotland's participation in the war. A new building, dedicated to the memory of slain Scottish soldiers, will be erected within the castle grounds on the site of the ancient church built by King David I. A war museum containing relics and trophies will be part of the memorial.

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### Decorate American For Improving Telephone System

Tokio, Sept. 9.—The decoration of the order of the Rising Sun has been bestowed upon Philip K. Condict, vice president of the International Western Electric Company, who is

now here, in recognition of his services in connection with improvements in the Japanese telephone system.

### Airmen Disturb Sunday Worship

Santa Monica, Cal., Sept. 9.—

Complaint that aviators disturb divine worship here by flying so low over churches that the whirr of the planes interferes with the preaching and singing, has resulted in the city commissioners issuing a request to airmen, that they travel in high altitudes from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. Sundays.

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