

SAYS CITY CAN BUY FAR UNDER TAYLOR'S FIGURE

Mayor Asserts He Can Purchase Playground Plot in Hoffman's Woods

AT LESS THAN \$4,000 AN ACRE

Declares Any Part of 17-acre Plot Can Be Acquired, and the City Commis- sioners Tell Him to Have the Propo- sition Submitted in Writing

Opposition to his plan to pay \$2,700 for about three acres of land for a playground at Fifth and Emerald streets caused M. Harvey Taylor, Park Commissioner, at the meeting of the City Commissioners this afternoon to offer amendments to his ordinance providing for the purchase. His latest plan is to buy one and three-quarter acres of ground to front 305 feet on Emerald street and 252 feet on Fourth and Fifth streets, and pay \$14,700 for it.

This price, Taylor said, is a trifle more than \$2 a foot front, practically the same average as he proposed to pay under the ordinance as it stood originally for the whole plot. None of the Commissioners expressed approval of the amendment, but they consented to this being made, without adopting the ordinance as a whole.

Then Mayor Royal said that he may have a substitute for Taylor's amendment at the meeting next Tuesday. The Mayor explained he has received an offer under which the City may buy any part of the seventeen-acre Hoffman's woods, just north of the city limits, a few blocks north of the Fifth and Emerald streets site, for less than \$4,000 an acre.

Want It Put In Writing

This plan appealed to the Commissioners and they urged the Mayor to get an offer "in writing" to be presented next Tuesday when the Taylor ordinance may be further amended.

Highway Commissioner Lynch's recommendation for the award of the contract for the proposed municipal asphalt repair plant to the F. D. Cum- mer & Son Company, of Cleveland, O., was held over one week at the sug- gestion of the Commissioners. The Cummer Company bid \$9,768 on a plant which would have a daily out- put of from 750 to 1,000 yards of as- phalt while the Barber Asphalt Com- pany, of Buffalo, N. Y., bid \$7,495 on what the Highway Commissioner termed a "somewhat similar" plant. Comparison of the plants and specifi- cations, made at his recent inspection led Lynch to decide to recommend the Cummer plant, he said.

The contracts for constructing and equipping the Royal Fire Company house were awarded to the low bidder as recommended by Commission-

GETS AN OPTION ON GROSS PROPERTIES ON MARKET ST.

A. J. Snyder, Associated With the Kaufman Interests, Obtains Long- Term Right to Purchase Buildings Adjoining Stores at Rear

It became known to-day that A. J. Snyder, associated with David Kaufman, associated with Kaufman Underseiling Stores, 4, 6 and 8 South Market square, which were destroyed by fire on the night of January 18, has obtained a long-term option to purchase the Gross properties, 115, 117 and 119 Market street, adjoining the site of the Kaufman stores at the rear.

E. Z. Gross, one of the heirs of the estate which owns the buildings, said this morning that Mr. Snyder obtained the option shortly after the fire and before the option expired obtained an extension. The Gross drug store, which occupies the first floor at 119 Market street, will be permitted to remain in the present quarters in the event of the purchase, according to Mr. Gross.

Roberts & Meek, wholesale paper dealers, occupy the building at 115 Market street and the third floor over 117 Market street. The lower floors of No. 117 are occupied by Edward B. Black, art dealer, and No. 119 is the Gross drug store.

When Mr. Snyder, who is manager of the office of the Kaufman store, was seen in the Kaufman temporary store at 7 North Market square, he said he had the option but declined to discuss a rumor that the Kaufman stores plan an extension on the site of the Gross properties.

RECEIVER FOR ROCK ISLAND

Petition Filed in U. S. District Court To-day by American Steel Foundries Company

Chicago, April 20.—Petition for a receiver for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company was filed in the United States District Court here to-day by the American Steel Foundries Company. The railroad company filed an answer, consenting to a receiver, and Judge Carpenter announced that he would hold the matter under advisement until this afternoon.

Game Bill in Governor's Hands

Ralph M. Shaw, of counsel for the American Steel Foundries Company, stated to Judge Carpenter that the Rock Island had admitted its inability to meet obligations and that for the benefit of stockholders, bondholders and other creditors his client was moved to ask for a receiver. Judge Carpenter asked why the bondholders had not made the application instead of the foundries company and the lawyer explained that thus far the company has not defaulted on its interest on bonds.

H. U. Mudge, president of the railway company and J. M. Dickinson, former secretary of war, were appointed receivers.

The new game bill, which was put through the Legislature by the State Sportsmen's Association, is now in the hands of the Governor, who will have until Saturday, next, to take action on it. Sportsmen express confidence that the measure will be approved. It makes many changes in the present bill.

JOHN H. EBY IS STRICKEN

County Commissioner Suffers Attack of the Heart at His Home and for a Time Is Unconscious

City Commissioner John H. Eby, it was announced in the Court House to-day, was stricken with heart trouble at his home in Lykens Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday night Mr. Eby became unconscious and his condition caused grave alarm. He rallied yesterday from his stupor and late this afternoon was considerably stronger.

WHEAT TAKES A BIG DROP

May Delivery Suffers a Break of Al- most Seven Cents a Bushel

Chicago, April 20.—May delivery of wheat suffered a break to-day of almost 7 cents a bushel. Free selling of small lots of the May option at the opening caught a number of stop loss orders and in the absence of any strong support the market dropped with startling rapidity. May, which closed last night at 163 3/4, sold to-day as low as 156 1/2 but reacted to within one cent of last night.

New crop months, July and September, in which most of the speculative business has centered of late, were comparatively unaffected by the flurry in the old crop delivery, May.

MERCURY AT SUMMER HEAT

Fall in Temperature To-night After Maximum of 80 Degrees Is Reached

The temperature is due for a fall to-night after giving Harrisburg unusual spring weather. No records were smashed but the temperature to-day and yesterday hovered around the eighty-degree mark. The passing out of a storm area will cause a drop in temperature to-night of twelve degrees over that of last night, to fifty degrees.

A high pressure area from the northwest will bring normal weather. Yesterday's mean temperature of 68 was 16 degrees above normal. To-day will not show such a departure in temperature.

STRIPS UTILITIES BOARD OF POWERS

Bill Passed by House To-day Takes Away Many Functions of Commission

WINS BY VOTE OF 155 TO 27

Measure Permits Municipalities to Operate Water and Light Companies After Having Obtained Approval of the Common Pleas Court

A measure taking away from the Public Service Commission the power to control municipal public utilities was passed in the House this morning by a vote of 155 to 27 after a debate of an hour and a half.

The bill, which has been styled the "municipal home rule for utilities bill," has the support of country members and many others outside the Philadelphia delegation. If it should get the approval of the Senate and the signature of the Governor municipalities will be able to operate water and light companies after getting the approval of the common pleas court.

A companion bill was passed immediately afterward which would compel the municipality, after getting the approval of the court, to offer to purchase the plant of the private company then operating in the municipality.

Objection was raised to the public utilities law on this subject on the ground that it is too expensive for a municipality's representatives to come to Harrisburg with engineers to seek a charter.

Mr. Vickerman, the sponsor, opened the debate by saying that the public utilities act has worked hardships on the small boroughs in the western part of the State. Representative Foster, of Philadelphia, bore the brunt of the opposition. He said the bill would practically repeal the public utilities act by taking away from the commission most of its work.

TO-MORROW DECIDES FATE OF OPTION IN THE HOUSE

Governor Brumbaugh to-day confined his efforts in behalf of the local option bill to questioning the Philadelphia delegation, the members of which he invited to see him in the Executive Chamber. One by one, during the morning session of the House the Philadelphia members went to the Executive Chamber in response to his summons.

Senator Vore, of Philadelphia, who is generally believed to hold the key to the local option situation, declined to say anything on the subject. How successful Governor Brumbaugh's plan of campaign for this bill has been will be known definitely to-morrow for the bill will come up for final action in the House on special order of business in the morning at 11 o'clock.

To-night will see again a gathering of optimists and anti-optimists from all parts of the State. Representatives of the State Liquor Dealers' Association, have been in Harrisburg for two days watching the final preparations to support and fight the bill. It is estimated that 1,500 visitors will be in Harrisburg to-morrow morning to hear the debate and count the vote on the measure.

THE BILL TO CONSOLIDATE PENITENTIARIES REVIVED

The measure providing for the consolidation of the two penitentiaries of the State on the site of the new one in Centre county was placed on the calendar in the House this morning and made a special order of business for next Monday night at 9:30 o'clock.

The bill had been defeated but the vote by which it was defeated was reconsidered after a speech by Representative Hess, of Lancaster, the sponsor of the measure. He then moved it be made a special order of business.

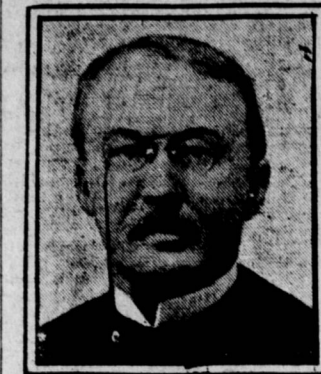
Mr. Hess, who sponsored the bill for electrocution in Pennsylvania, spoke of the work of reformation among the men confined in penal institutions. He pleaded for one, big penitentiary on the site of the new one, where 5,000 acres are at the disposal of the State.

THE HOUSE PASSES BILL REPEALING 853 LAWS

The Ambler bill, which repeals 853 obsolete, superseded and unconstitutional bills on the statute books of Pennsylvania, was passed in the House this morning. The bill is one of a number which propose a new code of general laws in the State. Other bills passed finally were:

Regulating the size and use of buildings in cities of the first class. Making the State liable for county tax on forest preserves.

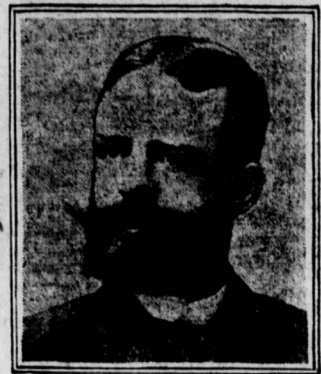
JUDGE AND LEADING COUNSEL OF BOTH SIDES IN THE BARNES-ROOSEVELT SUIT FOR DAMAGES



JUSTICE WILLIAM S. ANDREWS



WILLIAM MILLS IVINS



JOHN THOMAS BOWERS

Three of the prominent figures in the Barnes-Roosevelt libel action now on trial at Syracuse, N. Y., are William M. Ivins, who is looking out for the Barnes interests; John M. Bowers, who is defending Mr. Roosevelt; and Justice William S. Andrews, who is hearing the proceedings.

MAJOR BENT, PROMINENT ENGINEER, DIES, AGED 85

Former Superintendent of Pennsylvania Steel Works and Well-Known Business Man Is a Victim of Par- alysis in Philadelphia

Word was received here of the death of Major Luther Stedman Bent, formerly superintendent of the Pennsylvania Steel Works, a Civil War veteran and prominent civil engineer, which occurred at his home in Philadelphia yesterday afternoon. Death was due to a ten-day illness of paralysis. He was in the 86th year of his age.

Mr. Bent was born in Quincy, Mass., December 6, 1829, the son of Ebenezer and Nancy Bent. While a boy he attended the public schools there until 12 years of age, after which he worked on his father's farm until fifteen years old, when he went to Boston, where he served five years in the New England glass factory, then one of the largest concerns in the country.

During the war he served as major of the 18th Massachusetts Volunteers. At the close of the war he was employed as civil engineer to supervise the construction of the Union Pacific Railway, and remained in that company's service from the commencement to the completion of that great work, filling various positions. He was one of the largest contractors for grading the road comprising 200 miles through Salt Lake Valley and the Promontory.

Following the completion of this work he became engaged in cattle raising, being the first to establish cattle ranches along the line of railroad in Nebraska. Here he remained for three years.

About 1874 he returned East and took the superintendency of the Pennsylvania Steel Works. He retired as head of the company about ten years ago. At the time of his death he was a director of the Northern Central Railroad and the Earn Steamship Company.

He was an active member of the First Unitarian church and the Loyal Legion. In club life his connections were with the Philadelphia, Art, Engineers, Automobile, Corinthian Yacht and Merion Cricket Clubs.

While in this city he was an active business man and took much interest in the advancement of Steelton. He was a part owner of the Harrisburg National Bank, Steelton Trust Company and the Harrisburg National Bank.

He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Mary Stern Felton, of Philadelphia, and three sons, Felton, Steelman and Quincy Bent.

PLANS CONCERTS IN PARK

Association Formed to Collect Money to Support Them Weekly Dur- ing Summer at Reservoir

Planning to stage band concerts in Reservoir Park at least one evening each week during the months of June, July and August, in addition to afternoon and evening concerts on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, the Harrisburg Band Concert Association to-day appointed a committee of ten solicitors to obtain funds with which to carry out the project.

On this committee are: M. Harvey Taylor, president; Clarence Backenstoss, treasurer; R. Ross Seaman, secretary, together with W. Fred Weber, E. E. Eschenour, Frank Blumentine, V. Grant Forrer, Harry C. Hartzell, H. H. Etter and J. Stewart Askins. The Chamber of Commerce has approved the formation and purposes of the new organization.

Besides the afternoon and evening holiday concerts the following dates have been selected: Each Friday in June; last three Friday in July and all Fridays in August. Since July 4 falls on Sunday the holiday concerts will be held on Monday, July 5.

It is estimated that \$1,500 will be necessary to carry out the association's plans and that any additional concerts will require more money.

ROSEBUDS FOR CHILDREN

Five Thousand Youngsters Will Plant Trees at Wildwood

Five thousand rosebuds are to be distributed among school children taking part in the Arbor Day celebration at Wildwood Park on Friday afternoon when the public schools of the city will be closed for the event.

100 PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALLEGED LIBEL

Barnes' Counsel to In- troduce Copies of Newspaper Article Attributed to Colonel

JURORS SPEND NIGHT AT HOME

Rumor That the Talesmen Would Be Kept in Custody After the Taking of Testimony Was Begun Is Au- thoritatively Denied To-day

Syracuse, April 20.—Counsel for William Barnes in his suit for alleged libel against Theodore Roosevelt rested their case to-day after they had offered evidence calculated to prove publication of the alleged libelous statements uttered against the former chairman of the Republican State Committee by the former President of the United States.

Mr. Barnes' counsel placed only one witness on the stand. He was John McGrath, Colonel Roosevelt's private secretary. He testified that he gave out the statement complained of to newspaper reporters at Oyster Bay.

The case of the plaintiff was rested after counsel for both sides had delivered their opening addresses to the jury and one witness was heard.

William H. Van Benschoten, for the defense, described the colonel as the champion of god and honest government and said that he had been prompted to make the statement by the belief that there was corruption and rottenness in the administration of the government of the State of New York.

Roosevelt Takes the Stand

Roosevelt went upon the witness stand to defend himself in the suit. In reply to a question he said he was the man who made the statement complained of. He added: "I am 58 years old and have a wife and six children."

In reply to questions by Mr. Bowers he told in a firm clear voice the story of his early life. Then he sketched his political career. He told of his appointment on the Civil Service Commission, to the office of police commissioner of New York and Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He then told of organizing with General Wood of the Rough Rider regiment to participate in the war with Spain.

Tells His Record in Spanish War

Mr. Ivins, Mr. Barnes' attorney, objected to this line of testimony and Mr. Bowers said he was trying to show just what the witness was and withdrew the question. The witness then described his first engagement in the Spanish war and Mr. Ivins again objected. The court did not rule and Colonel Roosevelt continued: "We then moved forward toward Santiago."

"I object to that," said Mr. Ivins, "what difference does it make where he moved to? I want to shorten this trial as much as possible."

Justice Andrews said the witness had better confine himself to the issue.

The first witnesses, it was said, would be newspaper reporters to whom Colonel Roosevelt gave the statement upon which the suit is based and to whom he is said to have made certain verbal statements. Mr. Barnes' counsel also had ready to introduce in evidence nearly a hundred photographs of newspapers containing this statement and others which it claimed Colonel Roosevelt issued. The attorneys said they expected to show that Colonel Roosevelt for many years has exhibited malice toward Mr. Barnes in written and verbal statements.

Large Crowd Again on Hand

As was the case yesterday, a large crowd gathered at the Court House early in the hope of being permitted to enter the room where the trial is in progress before Supreme Court Justice William S. Andrews. Members of the jury, which was completed yesterday, were permitted to spend the night at their homes. It was rumored to-day that there was a plan afoot to keep the jury in custody after the taking of testimony had begun. It was au-

TWO TURKISH TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYERS ARE BLOWN UP

Paris, April 20.—Two Turkish torpedo boat destroyers were blown up, says a Saloniki dispatch, while passing through a mine belt which Russian ships had succeeded in laying across the entrance to the Bosphorus while the Turkish fleet was cruising in the Black sea. The explosions caused by the destruction of the two Turkish boats gave warning to the rest of the fleet, which, the dispatch says, was obliged to remain in the Black sea because no mine sweepers were available.

BRITISH LOSE 700 MEN IN FIGHT WITH THE GERMANS

Berlin, by Wireless to Sayville, April 20.—Among the items given out for publication to-day by the Overseas News Agency were the following:

"Special mail reports from East Africa state that in a two days' battle German troops near Pangani routed a strong force landed from British cruisers and transports. The British lost 700 men, among them four companies captured, besides many rifles and large stores of ammunition. The German casualties were 7 officers and 13 men killed, 14 officers and 22 men wounded.

"The 'National Tidende,' of Copenhagen, again asserts that German officers in Belgium are discouraged with the results of their administration. It is officially stated, however, that the contrary is true. The military government is supplying Belgian farmers with seed potatoes and oats, with the understanding that the same quantities shall be returned in the fall after the harvest.

"Eight victims of the late French aeroplane attack on Freiburg were buried at the city's expense, the entire population participating in the services. Berlin school children sent a telegram of condolence to the relatives of the school children killed at Freiburg."

Destroyed by Own Picket Boats

London, April 20, 2:22 P. M.—The British Admiralty announced officially to-day that the British submarine E-15 was destroyed in the Dardanelles by British picket boats.

Official reports say the submarine was in serviceable condition and in danger of falling into enemy's hands. It was therefore decided to destroy her. This was a hazardous undertaking but it was accomplished successfully.

Allies' Forces Occupy Important Town

Cape Town, Union of South Africa, April 20.—Forces of the Union of South Africa have occupied Keetmanshop, the most important town in German Southwest Africa next to Windhoek, the capital. It is an important railroad junction and gives General Botha, the Boer leader, command of the railroad to Windhoek.

Austrians Repulsed With Big Losses

London, April 20.—"It is reported here," says the 'Times,' Bucharest correspondent, "that the Austrians attempted on the night of April 18 a vigorous attack on the frontier of Bessarabia, Southwest Russia, but that they were repulsed with heavy losses after a violent struggle."

Spirited Artillery Exchanges in France

Paris, April 20, Via London, 2 P. M.—The French War Office this afternoon gave out a report of the progress of hostilities, which reads as follows: "There have been particularly spirited artillery exchanges in the region of Soissons and in the sectors of Rheims and the Argennes; otherwise there is no news to give out."

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Definite gains by the German forces in the west are announced to-day by the Berlin War Office. Attacks were made yesterday in the districts in which the French offensive movements have been undertaken recently, particularly in the region between the Meuse and the Moselle rivers. The Berlin statement says the Germans succeeded in penetrating French positions, and stormed and recaptured the village of Embervill.

In the Vosges the Germans pushed forward their line 100 yards in an engagement near Hartmann-Wellerkopf, a position which has been in dispute for several months. Progress in the Cham-

A GENERAL PEACE PLAN IS RUMORED

Reports in Rome That the Grave Questions Confronting Italy Will Soon be Solved

MAY TERMINATE WHOLE CONFLICT

The Time Limit Fixed by Italy for the Consideration of Any Proposals Austria Might Wish to Make Ex- pires To-day

Rome, April 20.—Within the past 24 hours there have arisen in Rome persistent reports that the grave international questions confronting Italy may be solved in the near future by what at first sight seems almost incredible, the conclusion of a general peace in Europe at a no distant date.

While these reports are intangible and cannot at present be ascribed to a definite source, they nevertheless are reflected in high quarters and they are given heed by careful observers of international politics.

Excellent Field for Negotiations

Among other reasons in support of this, the argument is offered that Rome is an excellent field for the conduct of negotiations of this nature; Prince Von Buelow, one of the ablest of German diplomats, is in Rome as Ambassador to Italy; and the official relations between Italy and Germany as well as between Italy and the powers of the Triple Entente, are cordial.

In certain quarters in Rome the idea prevails that the advent of spring has not been such resumption of aggressive hostilities as has been promised, a fact regarded as significant.

Sofia is being regarded with much interest just at present. Efforts are being made by representatives of the belligerents to induce King Ferdinand to announce his decision.

The importance of the attitude of Bulgaria is recognized fully in Rome. Should she side with the Teutonic allies it would be difficult for Rumania to make war upon Austria-Hungary, for she would then be subject to attack by Bulgaria as well as by Turkish troops coming through Bulgarian territory.

In this connection a prominent diplomat said:

"Once more is the fate of the Balkans in the hands of Bulgaria. Indeed, this time her decision may have great weight on the general development of the war."

Von Buelow Visits the Pope

Paris, April 20.—Italy some time ago fixed April 20 as the latest date for the consideration of any proposals Austria might wish to make according to a report current in Rome, says a dispatch from the Figaro's correspondent, Baron De Macchio, the Austrian Ambassador, already has given notice to Embassy servants who are paid daily, it is said, and the same is true of the payment of tradesmen's bills for goods supplied the embassy.

The Figaro's dispatch declares it is stated in Vatican circles that the visit made to the Pope a few days ago by Prince Von Buelow, the German Ambassador, was to bid farewell to the Pontiff, as the diplomat believes his departure from Rome is imminent.

Keeping Swiss Forces Mobilized

Rome, April 19, Via Paris, April 20.—Ulrich Wille, commander of the Swiss Army, is quoted in an interview in the 'Tribuna' as declaring his country's military forces must be kept mobilized. Although no other power at present threatens Switzerland, he said, an incident might occur on the frontier at any time which would compel the Swiss to enforce their rights and their neutrality.

After describing the military organization of Switzerland, Colonel Wille closed the interview by saying: "Supposing as a mere hypothesis that any one wished to violate our neutrality, they must first crush us."

Wounded Page in Critical Condition

Word was received here this morning that John Styles, of near Pottsville, a page in the State Senate, who was accidentally shot by his father while the latter was endeavoring to unload a revolver at his home yesterday afternoon, is in a critical condition.

WALL STREET CLOSING

By Associated Press.
New York, April 20.—Heavy buying was resumed in the last hour. Amalgamated Copper going to its record price and New Haven making a total gain of 7 points. The closing was strong. To-day's stock market was swayed by conflicting conditions in the early trading, but became strong later. Substantial gains were made by New Haven, Coppers and specialties.