

## WYCKOFF SEEKS MAYOR'S AID ON RENT PIRATES

Wants Legal Ruling on City Council's Power to Control Evictions by Law.

### HOLDS ACTION NEEDED

Major Jewett will be asked to take a hand in the rent situation in Indianapolis.

Although little encouragement was given by the city council at its meeting last night, Stanley Wyckoff, fair price commissioner, declared today that action must be taken.

Mr. Wyckoff will ask the mayor to direct the city legal department to render a legal opinion on the power of the council to control the eviction of tenants by law.

"I believe most of the members of the city council favor taking some action," said Mr. Wyckoff, "and the situation is such that something must be done to stop landlords from setting goods of tenants in the city."

### MAJOR SEEKS NO WAY FOR CITY TO ACT.

Major Jewett indicated today he would take no official action to curb the alleged activities of rent profiteers.

"All municipal considerations of the question have been raised in the city council," he said, "and I am convinced that the city can do much to prevent landlords from boosting rents."

The mayor expressed his regrets that no definite plan was available to assist in the lowering of rents, but he felt it was not a municipal responsibility.

"I don't see what can be done to prevent rent profiteering," the mayor concluded.

Members of the council last night took the stand that the council is powerless to enact an ordinance requiring property owners to give tenants at least a thirty days' notice to move and to require property owners to pay for any damage to the household goods of tenants forcibly ejected.

"Eighty-five or 90 per cent of landlords are fair," Mr. Wyckoff said. The councilmen last night voted about 15 per cent are not fair on an unreasonable scale and people are being evicted from their homes without cause."

"It looks as though there is a concerted move, either on the part of property owners or real estate men, to bring about excessive rent increases and the people should have some protection."

### GUARANTEED RENTLESS EVICTION.

Mr. Wyckoff cited pathetic instances of heartless eviction by landlords, telling of a soldier who had served twenty-three months in the army and on his return home, with a \$60 bonus and \$20 in cash, was subjected to three \$5 raises in rent and finally ejected within a period of three months.

He also told of a civil war veteran whose pension was raised from \$16 to \$28 and how it finally became necessary to break up the household, the veteran going to the soldier's home and turning his pension over to his wife.

He declared that, although 12 per cent was considered a fair return on property investments some landlords were making more than 100 per cent.

The drill team at Marion Camp No. 3558, Modern Woodmen, will give a dance Wednesday evening at Marion's dance hall, North and Illinois streets.

The Loyal Alphas will give a "Kid Party" at the home of Miss Gertrude Akey, 1605 Ashland avenue, this evening.

William R. Buckner, memory expert, will be the guest of the Kiwanis Club Saturday evening. The "Art of Never Forgetting" The club will also have an educational talk about Indianapolis either from former Mayor Joseph E. Bell or Harry Fockey. The talk will include facts about the street railway.

President Schmidt said that his proposal was in progress and all said, "though conditions are deplorable, it is essential for the council to assist in the rent proposition."

He advised Mr. Wyckoff to submit his ordinance to the legal department of the city before it was presented to the council.

Major Jewett came in for a rap at Indiana's legislature when an ordinance amending the salary measure for police and firemen was presented.

The mayor's ordinance carried a rider providing for a salary of \$3,300 for a city electrical engineer and amended the wage scale to include policewomen and make it strong for re-election.

The mayor issued a statement a week ago pointing to defects which he saw in the salary ordinance and said it did not include policewomen at the time he signed the measure.

"I am completely opposed to having the head of any department or the mayor of the city of Indianapolis criticising this council," said Mr. Schmidt.

"We have tried to play fair with every political faction in this body and have thereby gained the enmity of the mayor, who has the power to do whatever he wants to do to obstruct and belittle the council."

In presenting this ordinance he has seized upon a flimsy excuse to belittle the council and get into the limelight himself."

The mayor's ordinance was referred to the city welfare committee to be acted on March 1, 1921.

### PETTJOHN ALSO HITS AT JEWETT.

Councilman Pettjohn also took exception to criticism offered by the city administration in regard to street improvements, pointing to a statement issued by the mayor to the effect that the council was responsible for street conditions.

"I want to brand that statement as unfair and absolutely false," said Mr. Pettjohn.

"Only 12 per cent of street improvements last year were stopped by the council and that was because from 45 to 60 per cent of the property owners in each case protested."

Agatha Jones and Fred Hoke, representing the centennial celebration committee, appeared before the council and spoke in behalf of an ordinance appropriating \$5,000 for use during the centennial celebration to be held here from June 5 to 8.

The ordinance was referred to the finance committee.

Ordinances were passed authorizing a loan of \$125,000 for the board of health to operate the city hospital, amounting to \$10,250, the board of safety for the purchase of a fire truck from the American LaFrance Fire Engine Company; increasing the city elevator inspector's salary to \$1,800 per year; authorizing the board of works to employ carpenters at \$8 per day and fitters at \$10 per day; requiring the construction material to be of a fireproof material.

Contracts for the installation of railroad switches by the Union Steel Company on the main track of the C. C. & St. L. railroad track across Columbus avenue, made by the Pennsylvania Coal Company across a half mile between Twenty-sixth and Roach streets on the old Chicago division of the Big Four Railroad, were approved.

The council annexed a tract of land known as Birch Heights bounded by Boulevard place and South Avenue on the east and west, and Forty-third and Forty-fourth streets on the north and south.

Ordinances providing for the installation of automatic circuit breakers on all motor-operated motion picture machines and appropriating \$5,000 to the legal department with which to pay costs and judgments were introduced.

### TROOPS SAIL FOR TURKEY.

ALBANY, April 6.—The British transports Workman and Tear left for Constantinople today carrying troops.

### JAPAN HOLDS ISLANDS.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Japan has not forfeited any of the former German Islands in the Pacific and has no intention of doing so, Ambassador Shidehara said in commenting on reports in this country and Europe.

## CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Bon Gundersen, known professionally as "Tekar, the Magician," will give an entertainment in Putnamville Saturday night.

Opening meeting of the Fifth Ward Republican club will be held at the headquarters, Douglas and North streets, where speeches will be made, music and lots of speaking. The club invites all candidates.

Damage of \$15,000 is asked by Charles A. Parker in superior court, round 5, against the Indianapolis Street Railway Company for alleged injuries when a street car struck an automobile, hurling the machine against Parker.

Charles L. Henry, president of the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Tractor company, who will be speak at weekly meetings of the Indianapolis Advertising Club at its weekly luncheon in the Flerton room of the Claypool Wednesday noon. Mr. Henry's talk will be one of the "Know Your City" series. He will have as his subject "Indianapolis and the Interurban."

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hoover of St. Lawrence, Kas., are visiting Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Parsons, 1516 Olney street.

Jerry Pickard and family have returned to their home at Hillsboro after spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Pickard, 1514 East St. Clair street.

Many relatives and friends attended the birthday party given for Ernest Rinnard, 1003 East Pratt street. Monday evening.

The revival services which have been in progress for several weeks at the Brookside Park U. B. church will close this evening. They have been the most successful ever held by the church.

A poker game which was participated in by six men at 523 Kentucky avenue brought fines of \$5 each in city court. A charge of keeping a gaming house against Edward Stilts was dismissed.

The cafeteria installed in the Masonic temple, North and Illinois street, is being patronized by an increasing number of Masons for luncheon, according to the committee in charge.

Dr. J. Young has been named associate medical director of the Indianapolis Life Insurance Company, succeeding Dr. M. O. Devaney. Dr. Young had a captain's commission in the army during the war.

The Kotche-McNallys Post No. 182, American Legion, endorsed the legion's fourfold adjusted compensation plan for former service men, at a meeting last night. Lemuel L. Bolles, national adjutant, addressed the members.

The program for the Indiana state vocational training conference, to be held at the school hotel April 10, 11, 12, possibly will be completed this week, according to E. U. Graff, superintendent of city schools. Among the speakers will be Dr. Stanley Coulter of Purdue university. General problems in connection with vocational training will be taken up at the conference and many prominent speakers will appear.

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## HARTS SAYS HE HAD 'EFFICIENT' M. P. IN PARIS

Denies Men 'Strong-Armed, Blood-Thirsty, Minus Human Element.'

### HOOSIER TAKES ISSUE

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Charge that "strong-armed, blood-thirsty men, picked without regard to the human element," directed the military police in Paris were denied today by Brig. Gen. William M. Harts before the house committee investigating war expenditures.

Harts was commander of the Paris district for one year during the war. He took charge of the Paris district marines who were doing police duty," Harts said.

"They were very inefficient and I endeavored to have them supplanted.

"Col. John C. Groom, head of the military police, organized such a police force," Harts continued.

### BLAND COMES

"You had an organization which was able to make arrests and knew the police business; they swept the streets of men who were A. W. O. L.; is that right?" Representative Bland, republican, Indiana, asked.

"An efficient organization," Harts replied.

"You had a corps of strong-armed, blood-thirsty men who would make arrests without regard to the human element?" Bland insisted.

"They were not blood-thirsty or strong-armed and the human element was not disregarded," Harts said.

### BLAND COMES

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"Men used the third degree methods to obtain information.

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