

GAS COMPANY ASKING HIGHER RATES

3,905 CHILDREN HERE HAVE NO SCHOOLROOMS

10 Per Cent Forced to Attend
Classes in Any Space That
Can Be Found.

BOARD SETS OUT NEEDS

An authoritative statement of the position of the board of school commissioners, with reference to the proposed expenditure of approximately \$2,000,000 to carry out the 1921 building program was made public at a regular meeting of the board last night. The need of more adequate enumerating records and the "deplorable condition" of public libraries, regarding the latter, were emphasized.

"In view of the recent discussion concerning the improvements which should be made at present or in the near future, the board of school commissioners desires to lay before the taxpayers of Indianapolis and the patrons of her schools the following facts for consideration," the statement reads. "The expenditure of money for these seems excessive, but when considered in the light of the school needs, they may be meager indeed."

The board of school commissioners is fighting the battle of the child who is not in school and of the child who is forced to go to school under conditions which will not permit him to receive adequate instruction.

TERMS HELD ONLY RELATIVE.

"Economic and extravagance are relative terms unless all the points bearing upon any item of expenditure are taken into consideration. A saving of money may mean an extravagance in the loss of efficiency; a dollar foolishly saved in a child's education must cost many dollars in a loss of productive citizenship; a dollar foolishly saved by failing to provide properly lighted, heated and ventilated school buildings will cost many dollars in health and happiness; a dollar saved by not providing a sufficient number of schoolrooms must mean a loss in individual and community welfare."

"Any serious delay in a constructive program of school buildings means a tremendous loss in school efficiency and a seemingly relative expenditure later. Failure of buildings to keep pace with the growth of population is the primary cause of present conditions. According to the records of the school city, Indianapolis began to fall behind in the race to keep up with an increasing school population as far back as 1908. In 1913 and 1915 there was considerable building done, but not enough to catch up with the needs at that time. Since 1915, with the exception of a few frame portables, the school building construction has totaled only eight schoolrooms, sufficient to accommodate about 320 children. Since 1915 the number of children enrolled in the schools has increased 8,000."

"Seventy-six classes are on half time in school now because there are not (Continued on Page Eleven.)

RELIEF PROPOSED FOR CITY JUDGE

Bar Association Considers Mu-
nicipal Court Project.

The movement for a municipal court, designed to lessen the burden that makes it almost impossible for the City of Indianapolis to function, has reached a stage of consideration by the Indianapolis Bar Association and a committee has been appointed to draft a report on the project.

The members of the committee are John E. Hollett, Thomas A. Dailey and H. C. Johnson, all of the House of Representatives and an earnest advocate of the municipal court.

Attorneys and judges who have studied the situation in Indianapolis are united in the opinion that something must soon be done toward relieving the burden of work that is now imposed on one city judge. Records show that Judge Walter P. Ward is expected to handle more cases in the City Court than are ordinarily handled by four judges in other courts.

As a result of the tremendous amount of business done in the City Court it is impossible to give the individual cases the attention that they merit and it not infrequently happens that the court is imposed upon by attorneys and defend-

ants.

One suggestion for relief is the establish-
ment of a municipal court with several branches, the various judges to ro-
tate in the consideration of criminal cases and to have jurisdiction of such civil cases as are now frequently started in the courts of the justices and ultimately reach the Circuit Court on appeal.

Premier Is Breaking
Under Heavy Strain

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Premier Lloyd George's health has begun to suffer under the terrific strain of his responsibilities, according to the Evening News today. Commenting on the premier's condition, this newspaper said:

"The premier's health is the subject of much comment. He has limped lately and in two of his recent speeches he lacked his old-time grip on his subject. He required constant prompting by his colleagues. There are other symptoms which have led to anxiety and to a renewal of suggestions that he would benefit by a real holiday."

FIRES FROM FURNACE.

Following the arrival of cold weather in Indianapolis the fire department had a run today to put out a blaze caused by a furnace. The fire was discovered in the home of C. B. Stiede, 614 East Walnut street. The fire loss was estimated at \$150.

WEATHER

Forecasts for Indianapolis and vicinity for the week after the following T. P. and Dec. 16. Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday, not much change in temperature; lowest temperature tonight 25 to 30 degrees.

9 a. m. 23
10 a. m. 24
8 p. m. 34
9 p. m. 34
10 p. m. 34
11 a. m. 24
12 (noon) 25
1 p. m. 24
2 p. m. 32

Uncle Is Witness



CAPT. JOHN WILLERS.

Special to The Times.

LAPPLAND, Ind., Dec. 15.—Frank Dose of this city, with whom John A. Willers, ex-Army captain, made his home several years ago, has been called to New York as a witness in the trial of Willers, who is accused of desertion and of the embezzlement of company funds.

Willers, when arrested, was described as being a German spy in the United States Army.

Willers, who is his uncle, says the story is untrue and is of the opinion that his nephew is insane.

"You were not called together in this meeting because I desired to ask you to do things," he said. "We are simply to get acquainted and to establish friendly relations again."

"I want this Legislature to be marked by common sense. I want it to be characterized by the presentation of a few good bills and not by its many activities. I want statutes that will be a credit to the Legislature."

"PARTY PLEDGES
MUST BE KEPT."

"Party pledges must be carried out. I want the party's cooperation. We may differ, but let us work together for the majority. Let us remember that we have a cause, a cause of reason and that we must meet it. We should carry out the pledges of the Republican platform."

Mr. McCray appealed to the legislators not to cause a congestion to occur at the end of the session, but to get down to business at once.

He pointed out that increased appropriations for schools and for State institutions must be asked this year.

"We must have the money to place a program of false economy," he said. "No better investment can be made than an investment in education. We must

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

Starts in Million-Dollar Roll-
ing Mills Plant at
Madison.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 15.—Part of the town of Madison, Illinois, near here, is threatened by a conflagration which broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning, in the \$1,000,000 plant of the Illinois Rolling Mill Company.

Burning brands started over the town by a stiff northerly wind have started a dozen other fires, it was reported.

At noon, it was said the Helmbacker plant would be totally destroyed.

The plant of the American Car & Foundry Co., occupying a large tract near the Helmbacker plant, was threatened.

Fire fighting apparatus from East St. Louis, Veville, Granite City and St. Louis has been rushed to aid the Madison de-
partment.

**BANDITS GET \$20,000
IN GEMS IN HOLD-
UP.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—After blinding and gagging Sam Rubenstein, west side jeweler, four men in dark suits, who were members of his store and escaped with jewelry valued between \$30,000 and \$25,000. Many pieces left on deposit by holiday shoppers were among the loot.

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HARMONY PLEA IS STRESSED AT G. O. P. SESSION

It's Main Theme of McCray,
Branch and Wasmuth at
Solons' Confab.

OPEN DOOR RULE HOLDS

Appeals for party harmony in the coming session of the Legislature were made today at a meeting of the Republican members of the Senate and the House of Representatives at the Hotel Severin. This appeal was voiced by Governor-elect Warren T. McCray, Lieutenant Governor-elect Emmett Forest Branch and Edmund W. Wasmuth, Representative from Indiana.

McCray has received his instructions. He will act as the personal agent of the President. It is understood Mr. Morgenthau will not leave for the East until a report is received from the League of Nations to investigate conditions in Armenia.

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