

EXPECT ACCEPTANCE OF SCHOOL ADVISER'S RESIGNATION TONIGHT

Albert Baker Quits, 'Effective April 1,' After
Conversation Regarding Opinion on
Woodruff Place Contract.

BOARD CALLS SPECIAL MEETING

Dissatisfaction of a majority of the members of the board of school commissioners with legal opinions given by Albert Baker, for many years attorney for the board of school commissioners, has resulted in Mr. Baker's resignation.

The resignation will be considered at a special meeting of the board tonight, and there is no doubt but that it will be accepted.

Mr. Baker's action followed a conversation held several days ago with Chairman E. C. Crippin, member of the board, during which Mr. Crippin informed Mr. Baker that a majority of the board considered an opinion given by the latter in connection with the board of school commissioners and the school board of Woodruff Place as an attack on the board and an undue defense of George C. Hitt, business director.

MR. BAKER'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION.

The resignation is dated April 2 and is as follows:

"Board of School Commissioners, Indianapolis, Ind.

"Gentlemen:

"Mr. C. E. Crippin of the board called on me this morning and showed me a copy of the resolution of the board passed at its meeting of April 2, 1921, and said, in substance, that the board thinks that resolution had application to your Woodruff Place contract. I told him I did not think it had any application.

"In the course of the conversation Mr. Crippin in substance said that a majority of the board of school commissioners had passed a resolution on Woodruff Place contract an attack on or criticism of the board and an undue defense of Mr. Hitt as business director.

"It is therefore apparent that I cannot longer usefully and with proper self-respect, serve the board, and I now resign my position as your attorney, effective as of April 1, 1921.

"Yours truly,

"ALBERT BAKER."

WIDENING BREACH

APPEARED SOME TIME.

For some time past it has been apparent that there has been a constantly widening breach between a majority of the board and Mr. Baker. On several occasions he has handed in opinions that plainly were disconcerting and unwelcome to the majority. Several weeks ago he advised the board to follow the wishes of the State board of accounts in regard to criticisms made by that board of plans and specifications for engineering in school buildings, prepared by the firm of Sulder & Rotz, engineers for the board.

His reference to the State board as being "superior" to the school board did not please some of the members. However, the climax came at the last meeting of the board when an opinion was received from Mr. Baker in regard to the quality of the contract entered into with school board of Woodruff Place.

This contract was signed by Mr. Crippin, business director of the board, without having been referred to the board or approved by it. By the terms of the contract, the school board children were to be educated in the high schools of the city at an approximate cost to Indianapolis of \$50,000.

Miss Julia Belle Tutwiler, president of the board, addressed a letter to Mr. Baker, asking him the following questions:

"Does such a contract need to be submitted to the board for approval? Can the business director without consulting the board or reporting to the board the contract for approval, have authority to bind the school city to such a contract? If such a contract is illegal can the board rescind it or refuse to approve it?

"If there is a loss to the school city by reason of the execution of the contract by the business director, and the contract is found to be illegal, is the business director liable on his bond for an unauthorized act? REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.

With the exception of the third question, Mr. Baker answered every one of them in the negative. The answer was the cause of a bitter discussion at the last meeting of the board, Clarence E. Crippin and Bert S. Gadd being particularly strong in disapproval of the opinion while Charles L. Barry defended it.

After a long argument the matter was referred to a committee composed of Messrs. Gadd, Crippin and Allison, and settled with the board's approval today. At the time the name of Mr. N. A. Walker was mentioned as the attorney whose services would be obtained.

It is believed that this action resulted in Mr. Baker's resignation, although he has refused to make a public statement. A number of lawyers have been mentioned as the probable successor of Mr. Baker, and it is believed that Mr. Walker has the inside track on the position if he desires it.

SEEKS ANNOUNCED

Plot for Turkey Run

The State conservation department announced today that condemnation proceedings are being conducted in the Turkey Run State Park in an effort to obtain a tract of 190 acres of land adjoining Turkey Run which it hopes to add to the park which now consists of 280 acres. The Housler Veneer Company has control of the land and has recently removed much of the large timber. The conservation department expects to bring about the construction of a new road into the park if the land is acquired.

ST. PAULS GET \$50,000

ST. PAUL, April 5.—The State bank of Withrow, Minn., northeast of here, was robbed of \$50,000 some time last night, the sheriff's office announced today. A squad of deputies was sent out to trace the bandits. Some useless loot was found in a school house near Withrow, where the bandits had divided the loot.

WEATHER

Forecast for Indianapolis and vicinity for the twenty-four hours ending 7 p. m., April 6: Fair tonight; Wednesday unsettled with probably showers; continued mild temperature.

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