

## RATE-MAKING POWERS MAY BE REDUCED

Federal Court to Con-  
sider Telephone  
Plea.

### INCREASE VITAL

Ft. Wayne Concern  
Unable to Serve  
Patrons.

Future rate-making activities of the Public Service Commission of Indiana may be curtailed considerably if Judge Albert B. Anderson approves a report submitted to him today by Charles Martindale, master in chancery, recommending that a decree of the Federal Court be issued permitting the Ft. Wayne Telephone and Telegraph Company of Ft. Wayne to charge the rates it was refused the right to charge by the Public Service Commission some time ago.

Mr. Martindale holds the order of the public service commission refusing to grant the increases asked was confidential. He recommends, however, that the company be allowed to give a sum of \$200,000 conditional to return the subscribers the excess received by it in part over and above the schedule of rates which may hereafter be established by the public service commission and found to be a reasonable return upon the fair value of its property.

### TIME NOT FIXED FOR RULING

The report of the master in chancery is merely a recommendation and the case will not be settled until Judge Anderson rules. No indication has been given as to when that ruling will come.

If the recommendations of the master in chancery are carried out the company will charge \$6 a month for two-line two-party business telephones; \$4 for four-party business telephones; \$2.75 for individual residence telephones; \$2.25 for two-party residence lines, and \$1.75 for four-party residence lines.

The report is the outcome of a suit brought by the telephone company seeking to enjoin the public service commission from putting its order into effect on the ground that they were confidential. It is the first of its kind filed in a Federal Court here and it is believed its decision, if it favors the telephone company, will have a far-reaching effect on litigation of similar nature in the future.

### COMPANY MUST HAVE RELIEF.

In discussing the physical aspect of the case, the report says:

"The net results of the testimony which has been uncontradicted is that this plant requires immediately a very extensive reconstruction and that it is necessary to acquire the present population of Fort Wayne and to take care of the demands which will be made upon the utility by the growth during the next three years."

In discussing the company's statement of needed capital expenditures, the report says "this statement has been upheld as conservative and as absolutely necessary.

(Continued on Page Ten.)

## MINE LEADER CANCELS DATE OF CONFERENCE

Coal Operators Refuse to  
Meet Men in Wage  
Adjustment.

Because of refusal of a large part of the operators to participate in a joint miners-operators conference at Pittsburgh, Jan. 6, at which a date was set for opening of the wage contract, the proposed meeting has been canceled, it was announced today by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers.

The meeting was called, Mr. Lewis pointed out in a formal statement, in line with the joint wage agreement expiring April 1, which stipulated that an interstate conference should be held prior to that time. The coal operators of Illinois and Indiana had generally accepted the invitation but the operators of western Pennsylvania and the two largest districts of Ohio "unqualifiedly refused" to participate, Mr. Lewis said.

"It would be futile to convene such a meeting without adequate representation of the operating interests of the coal," he continued. "The miners have decided, and have told the coal operators that they are compelled to notify interested parties that the proposed joint meeting has been canceled."

Taking to task the operators for having "seemingly forgotten or ignored their obligations," Mr. Lewis said he sees "a standup of public interest" that such a meeting is held.

"In the local coal industry can be solved, and in due time circumstances will compel such a meeting," he declared, adding that the mine workers will be prepared to participate in such a meeting "when ever it becomes possible for them to do so."

### NATION-WIDE STRIKE IS FORECAST

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Jan. 4.—Cancellation by President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America of the preliminary wage contract meeting set for Friday, forecasts a nation-wide strike.

(Continued on Page Two.)

### WEATHER

Forecast for Indianapolis and vicinity for the next four hours ending at 7 p. m., Jan. 4, 1922. Rain this afternoon and tonight, probably turning to snow flurries by Thursday morning; much colder tonight. Thursday fair and colder, with a cold wave.

### HOURLY TEMPERATURE.

6 a. m. ....	52
7 a. m. ....	54
8 a. m. ....	53
9 a. m. ....	55
10 a. m. ....	56
11 a. m. ....	57
12 p. m. ....	58
1 p. m. ....	59
2 p. m. ....	57

### HELD AS WAVERLY BANK BANDIT



ELZA CLEVENER.

The young wife of Elza Clevenger, accused of being one of the bandits who robbed the Waverly Bank at Waverly yesterday afternoon, is making every effort to save her husband, whom she married only a few weeks ago. Clevenger is in jail at Martinsville and his wife has gone from her home in Muncie to Martinsville where she is arranging for legal services.

Clevenger's partner, Rudolph Schonfeld, is in the Robert W. Long Hospital here recovering from a bullet wound in the abdomen inflicted by a member of the sheriff's posse, who caught him.

## Boy's Mother Blames His Companion for Robbery of Bank; Can't Say 'No!'

"My boy never has been in trouble before. It was terrible. He says the other young man coaxed him into helping rob the Waverly Bank of \$1,500 and called him 'yellow' when he at first refused."

Mrs. Edith Shoufield of Wabash, refined and cultured, today at the Robert W. Long Hospital, Muncie, said that her son, Rudolph, 20, was shot through the abdomen. The boy was lying on a hospital cot with a fatal chance for recovery.

"I'm going to stay here until he's out of danger," she said.

The other boy she referred to was Elza Clevenger, 20, of Muncie, who was taken to Sheriff Scott's Scott of Morgan County, after a half mile chase. Clevenger is being held at the sheriff's posse found them.

### ROBBED BANK TO PROVE COURAGE.

According to Mrs. Shoufield her son was associated with the best people of Muncie. She said Clevenger appealed to her to let him serve the present population of Fort Wayne and to take care of the demands which will be made upon the utility by the growth during the next three years."

In discussing the company's statement of needed capital expenditures, the report says "this statement has been upheld as conservative and as absolutely necessary.

(Continued on Page Ten.)

## COUNTY TAKES FIRST STEPS IN PLAZA PROJECT

Bond Issue Increased to \$1,  
218,250 to Meet Appraisement.

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The meeting was called, Mr. Lewis pointed out in a formal statement, in line with the joint wage agreement expiring April 1, which stipulated that an interstate conference should be held prior to that time. The coal operators of Illinois and Indiana had generally accepted the invitation but the operators of western Pennsylvania and the two largest districts of Ohio "unqualifiedly refused" to participate, Mr. Lewis said.

A conference without adequate representation of the operating interests of the coal, he continued, "will not be held."

"The miners have decided, and have told the coal operators that they are compelled to notify interested parties that the proposed joint meeting has been canceled."

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(Continued on Page Two.)

### Harding for 'Bonus' if Can Be Financed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—President Harding is in need of solid funds to help out the Government's financial situation. Senator Bursum, Republican, of New Mexico, stated today after a conference with the President on this subject.

Bursum told the President the foreign debts should be used as a basis for the payment of the "bonus."

# Indiana Daily Times

INDIANAPOLIS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1922.

Subscription Rates: \$1 by Carrier, Week, Indianapolis, 10c; Elsewhere, 12c. \$1 by Mail, 50c Per Month; \$5.00 Per Year.

NO. 203.

## INDIANAPOLIS MAY INSURE OWN REALTY

Shank Favors Plan  
Proposed by  
Coffin.

### COUNCIL IN LINE

Mayor Expects Bond  
Issue to Provide  
for Cost.

Establishment of a city insurance department which will in effect become an insurance company to protect city and public school buildings from fire losses is contemplated, it was announced today by Charles E. Coffin, president of the board of public works, with the sanction of Mayor Samuel Lewis Shank.

Starting the members of the city council tentatively have agreed to support the project. Mr. Shank also announced he has conferred with the board of public works about purchasing the quarter of a block of vacant ground across Alabama street from the city hall as a site for a new municipal building to house police headquarters, city court, city constable and other municipal officials.

James Ogden has been requested to work out legal phases of the acquisition. While the board of works took no action today, Mr. Shank said he hopes to have an ordinance authorizing a bond issue for the project introduced in the council in a short time.

### JOB HUNTERS

#### LESS VACANT.

More than 400 hunters in and around the mayor's office was not quite so dense as yesterday. Mr. Shank left Mrs. Shank in his office to interview the applicants while he attended the board of works meeting. He even ventured out into the first floor rotunda for a while, but retreated to the board of works office when the throne began to surround him.

The board of works and Mayor Shank will call a meeting of all heads of city departments and representatives of the board of school commissioners in a short time to discuss the insurance department idea, Mr. Coffin said.

All of the units will be asked to submit at the meeting the amounts they now are paying to insurance companies as premiums on vehicles purchased under the city's motor vehicle tax.

The protest of the Indianapolis Republican Club pointed out that there have been reductions in the cost of labor and materials and that an effort is being made to get back to normal conditions.

It is asked that for these reasons that the rates be reduced. The city's insurance department idea will be submitted to the two systems as unified. The new rates which the company is seeking would apply to unified service.

### GROUNDRINGER PRESENTS FORMAL OBJECTIONS.

At the opening of the hearing Taylor L. Grodniger, corporation counsel for the city of Indianapolis, presented formal objections of the city of Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Republican Club, the Woman's City Club, the State Side Republican Club, the Indianapolis Merchants and Realtors Association, and the Virginia Avenue.

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### CITY ATTORNEY

#### JOHN M. COFFIN

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### ERNEST HOGAN

#### APPOINTED TO

Ernest Hogan was appointed a mechanic in the municipal garage.

Once during the morning when there

(Continued on Page Two.)

WILLIAM R. COFFIN

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