

## COMPANIES OF STATE IN NEED OF 50 MILLIONS

Hoosier Public Utility Association Elects New Officers.

## BIG FUTURE DEMANDS

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Jan. 14.—Fifty millions of dollars are needed by Indiana companies supplying telephone, gas, water, light and traction services to meet present and immediate future demands for expansion in the next few years, says, according to Frank E. Bohn, of the Home Telephone and Telegraph Company, or Ft. Wayne. Mr. Bohn made this estimate today in an address before a joint meeting of the Indiana Public Utility Association and the School of Commerce and Finance of Indiana University. He spoke on the subject "Problems of Expansion Confronting Utilities."

"Much needed expansion was arrested or deferred during the war because of inability to obtain adequate rates," said Mr. Bohn. "Now we anticipate a splendid revival of business. We can take our part in it, the public utility industry must expand and extend facilities. The problem is, how shall we obtain the money with which to bring about this expansion?"

The annual meeting of the Public Utility Association opened today with the election of officers for 1922. Charles L. Henry of Indianapolis, head of the Indianapolis & Cincinnati Traction Co., was reelected president. The other officers chosen were S. E. Muthoford, Ft. Wayne, general manager of Northern Indiana Gas and Electric Co.; A. L. House, of Evansville, general manager of the Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company; as vice presidents; Marshall V. Robb, of the Wabash Valley Electric Company, of Clinton, as secretary; Charles C. Perry, president of the Indianapolis Light and Heat Company, as treasurer; and John C. Melett, of Indianapolis, as executive secretary.

Following the election, the association held a meeting with the School of Commerce and Finance, the program including an address by Arthur W. Brady of Anderson, president of the Union Traction Company of Indiana, "Utilities and the People." F. A. Bryan of South Bend, president of the Indiana and Michigan Electric Company, on "Customer Service"; Howard A. Dill, of the Indianapolis Water Works Company, on "The Utility Industry in Indiana"; L. C. D. of Industrial Conditions," and Dean W. A. Rawles, of the School of Commerce and Finance, on "University Training for a Business Career."

At a dinner tonight Edgar Blessing, of the public service will be the chief speaker.

Mr. Bohn, reading a paper prepared after careful study of the utility situation, said:

"In the face of the most discouraging conditions and circumstances, utility men have struggled and fought the past few years to measure up to our responsibilities to render service to our old customers and to expand and enlarge our properties whenever and wherever in the public interest. Despite the fact that during the war most of us were losing money while other businesses were making large profits, because our rates for service were fixed and our expenses, or the cost of furnishing that service, were increasing as prices soared, we not only carried on, but wherever in the public interest we considered it necessary, we expanded if possible not as extensively as we should, looking to the future and its needs, but as best we could under the circumstances. Much needed expansion, therefore, was of necessity arrested or deferred during the war."

"And today we find ourselves in a position of working our plants to capacity and a demand for our respective services both present and future which we cannot supply unless we add to our facilities—unless we expand—all of which requires capital."

"We are all looking hopefully and confidently forward to a new era of prosperity, possibly unexcelled in the country's history. How soon it may come none can successfully prophesy. We cannot overlook the truth, however, that all signs point to the fact that we are not standing on the threshold of a revival of business, but rather on the threshold that awakens to the vital necessity of public utilities, to its progress and economic development, and encourages the necessary expansion of those utilities by insisting that they get a square deal at the hands of the regulatory body will be the first to respond to the effects of renewed prosperity, because a State, community or city can never grow faster than its utilities or extend further than they reach. The property of utility companies is abiding, its up-to-date methods, its progressiveness, in fact, its very character are reflected directly to the extent that they exist in its utilities. Likewise, show me a city with breakdown, unhealthy and restricted utilities and I shall show you a city living in the backwoods of civilization with no parks and improved streets and alleys, unkempt homes and unimproved buildings, lack of police and public safety, and want of personal and social, shifftown, domineering, poor, population, a mighty poor and unattractive place to live and do business. Help your utilities, therefore, to finance their expansion in the realization that their financial standing is vital to the life and development of your community as it bank or any other agency. Permit the utilities, the power, to develop and expand and the city will follow. Not only within the boundaries of her street railways, or the area covered by her telephone and electric light leads and gas and water mains."

"Your local community, in most cases, can not supply the necessary capital required by your utilities for expansion. Therefore, the financial necessities of development are to be met by outside money. This foreign capital must be forthcoming if the community is to grow and it will be forthcoming if the investor knows that the public of that community is back of it utilities, that investments in its utilities will be respected, that the State regulatory body will grant rates that will allow for interest, operating expenses and enable them to earn a reasonable return on the money invested therein, without the least shadow of a doubt, without paring and cutting legitimate operating expenses to the bone at the sacrifice of service and good business practices, and without looking for funds where it can expect such treatment."

"The problem of expansion of public utilities is mostly a financial one and so closely is it solution related to the interests of the average citizen that it becomes the community's problem as well as that of the utility."

## IN THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

(Continued from Page Eight.)

## TWO STARS BOOKED

GEORGE GAUL,  
TOM POWERS  
IN NEW PLAY

(Continued from Page Eight.)

jazz, a considerable number of tinkling toes and the like. There is a story—and a very interesting one—and some jingly music and rather ingratiating lyrics. But after all it is an indefinable something which makes for success in all such plays that has an important bearing in this particular case. There is much commendable material in this play which Joseph M. Galt's produces, and it seems to have made a strong appeal already.

Samuel Shipman, the indefatigable author, who, when he is not giving out interviews is writing plays, alone and in pairs, individually and in collaboration, has a new one in town, "Lawful Larceny," comes out with the colors of A. H. Woods, and is as usual, excellent cast and staged. Gail Kane, Lowell Smith, Margaret Lawrence, Alene Donisthorpe, John Stokes, Frazer Coulter, and others are included. The story is simply and direct. It is all about a young wife who returns home to find her husband enmeshed with an adventuress and her immediate entrance into the fray herself with all her resources, including invading the domain of the adventuress as a secretary. The rest may be imagined from these brief lines. The acting is skillful, of course, and the play is effective of its kind.

OTHER NEWS OF THE STAGE.

Blanche Bates who will be seen at English's beginning Jan. 23 in "The Famous Mrs. Fair."

What promises to be one of the most interesting events of the dramatic season in Indianapolis, will be the engagement of Bert Lewis, the Southern Syncopate, in "The Famous Mrs. Fair," which opens at English's on Monday evening, Jan. 23, and continuing for three days, with a matinee on Wednesday.

These two stars are among popular and talented players on the American stage, and the coming play is of especial interest in view of the fact that they are to appear in the four-act play.

Fritz Lether concluded a highly successful engagement this week in the plays of Shakespeare and will continue his engagement in this vicinity at the Monmouth Theater, over Brooklyn way. Next year he is to extend his New York engagement to four weeks.

Avery Hopwood salls next week for Europe to be seen when "The Bat" begins its flight and "The Gold Diggers" begins.

Wagnalls & Kemper will produce the next play by Avery Hopwood.

Marguerite Silva will sing on the series of Frederic Warren Ballad Concerts this year.

Sonia Marcelle, famous on the Russian stage, is acting in "Rosa Macchere," produced last week in New York.

Marcelle D'Arville, Parisienne actress, will share in "Bibi of the Boulevard," which is being staged by Carl Hunt.

Julia Adler, the Yiddish actress, has joined the continental group of players on the New York stage. She is now acting in English.

Bessie Barricale, the rumor monger asserts, has finally selected a new play

Colin's Dancers, a sextet of terpsichorean artists featuring W. Camia and Tillis and LaRoux, will introduce a series of new and attractive dances on the Lyric's bill next week. Sharing the headline honors will be Electro, the human dynamo, who toys with high voltage currents of electricity in a sensational fashion, and who seems to be practically immune from harm. Such feats as passing 1000 volts through the body, lighting a soap candle between the teeth, and illuminating the entire theater with current passed through the body are demonstrated at each performance.

An Indianapolis team of fun makers,

changed her program for the entire season.

Whitford Kane will act the title role in "The Pigeon" next month. He created this role in London several years ago when it was first produced by the late Charles Frohman. It is the most interesting revival thus far announced for New York.

Helen Hayes, the young actress-

manager, who wrote, starred and acted most acceptably the leading role in

"The Great Way," has been invited to play this role in pictures. Miss Freeman also plans to produce this play in London next spring.

Goldman's Band, the organization which has been given the official designation of "Leave It to Me," Freddie, Silvers and Fuller, a trio of harmony singing comedians; Al Anger and Adelon, who offer a glimpse of Broadway called "Slapstick"; Bert Lewis, the Southern Syncopate; and the popular Dyer trio of comedy gymnasts whose antics are said to create a laugh a minute.

On the screen a Bill and Bob Scott

subject, "Mountain Lions," the Bray

Photograph, and Sunshine farce, "Try

and Get It," will be shown.

PARK WILL PRESENT DIXON'S BIG REVIEW.

The Park next week will present Henry Dixon's "Big Review" with Harry Lewis known as "Skeeky" as the star of the cast. Mr. Lewis is assisted by two sides, Besse Baker and Bobbie Gore.

Others in the company are Eddie Donisthorpe, John Stokes, Frazer Coulter, and others included.

The story is simply and direct. It is all about a young wife who returns home to find her husband enmeshed with an adventuress and her immediate entrance into the fray herself with all her resources, including invading the domain of the adventuress as a secretary. The rest may be imagined from these brief lines. The acting is skillful, of course, and the play is effective of its kind.

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