

SHANK READY TO ASK FOR COMMISSION PLAN IN CITY GOVERNMENT?

Mayor Disgusted With Conditions in Local Politics—Report Says He Is Preparing to Foster Move for New System.

Mayor Shank has had petitions prepared for an election to put Indianapolis under a commission form of government, it became known today.

Disgusted with the interference of politics with city affairs and convinced that there can be no remedy under existing conditions, Shank is prepared to circulate the petitions within a short time, it is said.

According to reports about City Hall the mayor will circulate the petitions immediately after the Republican city convention should George V. Coffin and his forces gain control of the city organization.

Meantime Mayor Shank continued his battle against the order of the Republican State committee giving county chairmen the power to preside over conventions of city precinct committeemen next Saturday.

Letter to Wahl
He called on City A. Wahl, Republican State chairman to revoke the action of the State committee immediately, in a letter today. The letter was similar in tone to the one sent United States Senator James E. Watson, Friday.

It said:
"Dear Mr. Wahl:
"I was never so surprised in my life than when you permitted your office to be used as you did the other day when you issued the call for the election of a city chairman. You and the rest of the committee know that our city chairman is still in existence, nobody dead nor resigned and they are elected to hold office until their successors are elected."

"The people of Indianapolis believe in a square deal and when any one tries to overrule the rights of any one they will not stand for it. Personally I am not interested in this matter of who is city chairman and if Mr. Coffin can get the majority of the votes of the committee in a regularly called meeting I nor no other person will object."

"Of course, if you and your committee are interested in electing a Democratic mayor this fall my advice to you is to go ahead and pull this raw deal, the worst thing ever attempted by any party in Indianapolis. The disgust of the people is shown by the telephone calls I have received. You had best retract that call at once—Mr. Lemaux and Mr. Reilly Adams and the other members of the regularly elected committee have the confidence and respect of a great majority of our voters."

Bitter Against Watson

So bitter is Mayor Shank against Watson that today he threatened to become a candidate for the Republican senatorial nomination against him in 1926.

"The best way to fight a man is to run against him and get right out in the open with what you have to say," he declared.

Legal action to prevent Coffin from presiding at the convention next Saturday and to prevent unseating of twenty-seven precinct committeemen favorable to the Shank-Jewett, Lemcke faction, probably will be instituted before Judge Harry O. Chamberlain in Circuit Court within a few days.

Coffin recently removed the twenty-seven committeemen on grounds of party disloyalty. Coffin's power to remove elected committeemen will be attacked in the court proceedings.

WHISKY NEAR SCHOOL

Students Discover Cache and Notify Principal.

An attempt to supply students at Shortridge High School with liquor was seen by police today with three quarts of whisky seized near the school Friday.

Principal George Buck said two students, Franklin Counts, 4221 Adams St., and Robert De Vrie, 3115 Graceland Ave., found the liquor beneath a board walk near the school and brought it to his office.

NEW SCHEDULE FILED

Water Company Accepts New Rates Under Protest.

The tariff department of the Public Service Commission today placed on file the new rate schedule for the Indianapolis Water Company which was accepted under protest by the company late Friday.

The new rates are calculated to return 6 1/2 per cent on the \$19,000,000 valuation allowed by a Federal Court injunction, an increased revenue of \$118,000 a year. C. H. Geist, president of the company, protested the per cent return, the valuation, and the depreciated value as found by the commission, declaring the return would be \$7,000 less than estimated by the commission.

ZINOVIEV IS ATTACKED

Moscow Reports Say Communist Secretary Fired Upon.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—The Central News Bureau correspondent quotes Moscow dispatches to the effect that Gregory Zinoviev, secretary of the Communist International, was fired upon with a revolver by an unidentified assailant at Leningrad. Zinoviev's attacker was arrested. There are no further details.

Takes Office



Thomas Kennedy, of Hazelton, Pa., president district No. 7, today took up his duties as secretary treasurer of United Mine Workers of America, succeeding William Green, president American Federation of Labor, whose resignation as a minor official became effective today.

HOOSIERS RECEIVE REFUND ON TAXES

Indianapolis Firms Recover Thousands.

By C. A. RANDAU
Times Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—The urgent deficiency bill now before the Senate providing for tax refunds to the extent \$150,000,000 grants these refunds of \$20,000 or more to Indiana individuals and corporations: Commercial Distilling Company, Terre Haute, \$46,846; Presto-Lite Company, Indianapolis, \$64,894; Indianapolis Union Railway Company, \$22,918; Diamond Chain and Manufacturing Company, Indianapolis, \$21,092; William H. Mooney, North Vernon, \$33,041; Citizens Gas Company, Indianapolis, \$28,549; Big Vein Mining Company, Terre Haute, \$30,361; National Springs Company, Newcastles, \$40,041; Green Engineering Company, East Chicago, \$53,783; Van Camp Packing Company, Indianapolis, \$75,815; Gary Screw and Bolt Company, Gary, \$34,730.

Those receiving amounts of less than \$20,000 have not been disclosed.

1925 ROAD PROGRAM UP

County Officials Consider Petitions for Major Projects.

Numerous petitions for the improvement of Marion County roads were considered by the county council and commissioners today when they held a joint session to plan a 1925 road program for the year. Under the county unit road law the council must approve all petitions for roads over three miles before authorizing a bond issue.

Among petitions pending are: Action road from Michigan road to county line, Tibbs Ave. from Washington St. to Thirtieth St., Allisonville road from fairground bridge to Keystone Ave., Spring Valley road in Decatur Township from State road No. 12 to county line.

'Bored'

By United Press
COLUMBUS, Ind., Jan. 10.—While every one else was laughing at a comic film Friday night, Russell Kelly, 15, was bored and fell asleep and was locked in the theater when it closed for the night.

His parents, alarmed when he failed to come home, notified police. The hunt was in vain until early today when a patrolman, passing the theater, heard frantic knocking. Kelly had awakened.

BLAZE IN OFFICE BUILDING CAUSES \$100,000 DAMAGE

Fireman Injured as Flames Sweep Transportation Structure at South and Delaware.

RAILROADS LOSE PAPERS

Overheated Flue or Defective Wiring Believed Cause.

Fire that gained considerable headway before it was discovered swept the roof and fifth floor of the Transportation building, South and Delaware Sts., at 1:30 a. m. today and caused a loss estimated by Fire Chief John J. O'Brien at approximately \$100,000.

O'Brien said his estimate would give leeway for coverage of the loss of records by railroad offices on the fifth floor, which was the only one touched by the flames.

The other floors suffered heavy water damage.

Timber Strikes Fireman

Fellow firemen performed a thrilling rescue of Fireman William Russell King, 32, of 563 N. Oxford St.

King was struck on the head and shoulder by timber as the roof fell. He was on a ladder near the top of the building handling a hose at the time. Fellow firemen of the ladder with him kept him from falling to the ground and helped him down the ladder.

He was taken to city hospital where his injuries were reported serious.

Origin of the fire is unknown, according to O'Brien. He said it might have been caused by an overheated flue or defective wiring.

Offices Relocated

C. J. Pfeiffer, building manager for Transportation Realty Company, owners, was getting companies on the fifth floor relocated in temporary quarters in vacant rooms on the lower floors. He said the building, except the fifth floor would be restored to normal Monday.

He hired a large force of laborers to sweep water from offices and assist firemen in cleaning the building. He would not estimate the loss. O'Brien said he understood the loss to the building probably would be fully covered by insurance.

Three alarms were sounded on the fire and twenty-one companies responded.

Steinauer Acts Quickly

Battalion Chief William Steinauer, at engine house 30, saw the flames from the window as he slid down the pole on the first alarm. He sent in the second alarm before he left the house. This action probably saved the building, it was said. O'Brien said the entire roof was aflame.

It was spectacular, he said, as the cupolas that adorned the old building and the statue that sat high above on a tower crumbled and the heavy slate roof fell in.

Practically the entire fifth floor was occupied by the claim department of the Big Four Railroad. Big R. Vance, Big Four claim agent, said the records were water damaged, but would not be entirely lost to the company, for two duplicates of each record are at other offices.

The department of construction engineering of the Big Four also located on the fifth floor suffered loss to its records. W. F. Burnett said that until the debris from the caved-in roof could be cleared away he could not estimate the damage to records and drawings.

The Boxill and Bruell Manufacturing Company, has machinery weighing nearly two tons on the fifth floor. It was damaged.

The Transportation Bldg. was occupied by St. Vincent Hospital before the hospital was moved to Fall Creek and Illinois Sts.

HARDWARE STORE BURNS

Five Adjoining Places Damaged by Smoke and Water.

Fire starting in the basement of the office and hardware store of the Barb & Combs Planning Mill, 4307-9 E. Michigan St., early today caused a loss of between \$9,000 and \$10,000 and damaged a grocery, barber shop, garage, meat market and a beauty shop.

Edward E. Barb of the company said his loss was covered by his insurance. J. W. Wiley, manager of an A. & P. grocery, 4301 E. Michigan St., reported damage from smoke and fumes, no estimate of loss. P. J. Barbara, 4303 E. Michigan St., barber shop, 4305 E. Michigan St., butcher shop, 4305 E. Michigan St., 4307 E. Michigan St., slightly damaged. Custer Beauty Shop, 445 N. Colorado St., \$200 damage.

De Pauw University Men Vote on Indianapolis Girls Among Thirty-Five in Beauty Competition



MISS DOROTHY DREW AND MISS ALBERTA OLSEN.
—Photos Copyrighted by Hillary G. Bailey

MISS DOROTHY DREW, 3268 Park Ave., and Miss Alberta Olsen, 1641 Central Ave., students at De Pauw University, Greencastle, Ind., are entered in the beauty contest conducted by The Mirage, college annual, edited by Glenn W. Funk, of Evansville.

Portraits of the thirty-five contestants, selected from twelve sororities and fraternities, will be on display in the studio of Hillary G. Bailey, Monday. Men of the university will elect winners.

VINCENNES NET STAR KILLED BY SPEEDING AUTO

George Kixmiller Dies in Evansville Hospital— Jones Injured.

By United Press
EVANSVILLE, Ind., Jan. 10.—While police were hunting the driver of the automobile that early last night struck and killed George Kixmiller, 25, Vincennes athlete, on the Dixie Bee Highway, Russell Jackson, Fort Branch, Ind., coal mine superintendent, returned here and surrendered to authorities.

He did not realize he had killed a man until he read about the fatal accident in the morning newspapers, Jackson declared. He was released pending the coroner's inquest.

Kixmiller, son of a prominent Vincennes family, and known throughout the State for his ability in high school as a basketball and football player, died without regaining consciousness in the Deaconess Hospital here at 9 o'clock last night, an hour and a half after the accident. His young wife, who sat in the car when her husband was injured, was at the bedside.

Reese Jones, Vincennes, member of the championship basketball team in 1923, is in the hospital with a crushed leg. The third man escaped injury.

Kixmiller was manager of the Vincennes, which was en route by auto bus to play a local five here.

The car, after it had struck the trio, carried Kixmiller forty feet, fracturing his skull and both legs.

\$100,000 BLAZE AT WHITING, IND.

Theater, Apartment and Four Stores Burn.

By United Press
WHITING, Ind., Jan. 10.—Fire destroyed the Hoosier Theater, four adjoining stores and a three-story apartment building here early today. Thirty-five persons were driven to the streets in night clothes.

Damage will exceed \$100,000, Fire Chief Clyde Lapman estimated.

The blaze originated in one of sixteen kitchenette apartments shortly after midnight and spread rapidly. Firemen fought desperately and saved a row of old frame buildings next to the apartment block.

ACCIDENT IS INTRICATE

Autos Collide; One Knocks Lamp Post Through House Door.

Three persons were slightly injured and one was arrested today, following an automobile collision at Union and McCarty Sts., in which a lamp post was knocked through the door of a home.

When cars driven by Bernard Riester, 19, of 1540 S. Meridian St., and Otto Boettcher, 3115 N. Delaware St., collided, Riester's car struck a lamp post, knocking it through a door in the home of Mrs. Mary Chappell, 748 Union St. The post struck and injured Mrs. Chappell and her granddaughter, Merle Burgess.

Arthur Fields, 25 E. Palmer St., riding with Riester, was hurt. Boettcher's car stopped at the steps of the other car. Riester was arrested on a charge of speeding, assault and criminal trespass.

DOUBLE HOUSE ROBBED

Burglar Enters Both Sides, Escapes With Jewelry and Money.

A burglary in both halves of a double house in Irvington was reported to police today. Jewelry and money, totaling \$25, were taken from the home of Mrs. M. Thomas, 48 N. Audubon Rd., and a pair of eye glasses, valued at \$9, from the home of Bert Day, 46 N. Audubon Rd.

SHARP DIVISION IN SENATE G. O. P.

PROMISES FIGHT Anti-Nejdl Forces Line Up as Anti-Administration Forces.

Sharp division in the ranks of the Republican senatorial bloc promises a warm fight on administration measures in the coming session of the Legislature, according to state-ments today from opposing factors.

The Republican majority in the Senate is definitely split with Senator Murray S. Barker, Thornton, caucus chairman, leading the supporters of Senator Thomas A. Dally, Indianapolis, in the race for presidency, and Senators Hill, Carthage and Southworth, Lafayette, leading the forces arrayed for Senator James J. Nejdl for the seashore.

Democrats May Aid

Although outpointed by one vote, when Senator Penrod, Logansport, changed his vote from Dally to Nejdl on the second ballot, the so-called anti-Nejdl forces promise staunch opposition to some important measures, and aided by the Democratic minority may prevent proposed legislation.

Barker in his position as caucus chairman holds a whip hand, it is said, and is in a strategic post to "make hay."

The senatorial division apparently is as follows:
Anti-Nejdl or anti-administration: Senators Barker, Thornton; Bradford, South Bend; Cann, Howard; Daily, Indianapolis; Dickerman, Indianapolis; English, Indianapolis; Fitch, Muncie; Hodges, Gary; Hol-deman, Elkhart; Holmes, Gary; In-man, Danville; Lindley, Kingman; Moorehead, Indianapolis; Pell, Car-bon; and Quillen, Indianapolis.

Nejdl Group

Nejdl Group—Allredge, Anderson; Blackburn, Evansville; Brown, Hebron; Harlan, Richmond; Har-jon, Indianapolis; Hill, Carthage; Lambert, Columbus; Leonard, War-saw; Martin, Logansport; Merry, Dunkirk; Nejdl, Whiting; O'Rourke, Ft. Wayne; Penrod, Logansport; Shank, Angola; Sims, Terre Haute; Southworth, Lafayette; and Steele, Knox.

Sensors Holmes and Hodges, both compatriots of Nejdl at Gary, are bitter opponents of the Senate leader and under leadership of Dally, promise some trouble on certain legislation.

MOTORMAN EXONERATED

Dismissed in City Court; Car Killed Nick Weyer Dec. 26.

Held blameless by Coroner Paul F. Robinson, Roy McDonald, 130 W. Walnut St., street car motorman, was dismissed today in city court on a charge of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the death of Nick Weyer, 46, Great Eastern Hotel, Dec. 26. Weyer was killed when he was struck by a car operated by McDonald at New Jersey and Washington Sts.

SPOTLIGHT TURNS ON APPOINTMENT OF FARM BODIES

Cooperative Marketing Bill Adds Importance to Committees.

With the cooperative marketing bill and a bill providing for 37 per cent of assessed valuation of land for mortgage exemption as outstanding measure, the committees on agriculture in both the Indiana House and Senate loomed as important appointments today.

It was regarded as fairly certain that Harry G. Leslie, Speaker of the House, would name Bernard F. Haines, Avilla, chairman of the committee. Haines was chairman of the 1923 committee. Other members of the 1923 committee were Representatives Perry Johnson, Atlanta; John H. Hammitt, Bryant; Edward B. Bond, Zionsville; and David B. Noland, Marshall. Haines was favorable to

the cooperative marketing bill at the last session, when the measure passed the House by only a dissenting vote. The bill was vetoed by Warren T. McCray, then Governor.

Representative J. W. Ebaugh, Indianapolis, is slated for chairman of committee on affairs of the city of Indianapolis, according to local members of the House. The committee will be entirely new, as no members of the old committee are in the House this session.

Interest today centered in inauguration ceremonies Monday of Governor-elect Ed Jackson, Lieutenant Governor-elect F. Harold Van Orman and Mrs. Emma Eaton White, reporter-elect of the Supreme and Appellate Courts.

State Senator Delbert V. Blackburn, Evansville, fellow townsman of Lieutenant Governor-elect Harold Van Orman, will make the presentation speech in behalf of the Senate following the inauguration ceremony.

Blackburn will present the gavel to Van Orman, who by virtue of his office becomes president of the upper house.

BUILDING CRASHES; 3 DIE

Skeleton of New Chicago Hotel Col-lapses—Four Others Hurt.

By United Press
CHICAGO, Jan. 10.—Three men are dead, a fourth is reported dying and three others are in hospitals as a result of injuries received today when the skeleton structure of a new hotel being erected here collapsed.

Lives of scores of pedestrians were endangered when tons of steel and cement came crashing down after an arch support on the eighth floor gave way. All those killed or injured were employees.

"I am one of the victims, not a victimizer," he declared, stating he had lost a total of \$95,990 in the deal.

"The verdict says I am guilty, but that will not make any difference. I know I am innocent and that gives me peace at heart. If your honor sends me to the penitentiary I go there an honest man and so help me God, will come out the same way."

Most of the defendants had nothing to say. Carter, food a thief in which he said he acted in good faith. He offered the bribe to Judge Geiger who handed it back and re-

JUDGE GEIGER SENTENCES JONES AND CARTER TO 5 YEARS IN HAWKINS CASE

Federal Court Jurist Overrules All Motions for New Trials for Four- teen Defendants on Mail Fraud Scheme Indictments.

INDIANAPOLIS MEN ALSO ARE GIVEN FINES OF \$2,000 EACH

Willis and Haight Face Two-Year Terms and \$1,000 Penalties—De-fendants Ordered to Leavenworth (Kas.) Penitentiary.

After overruling all motions for new trials and arrest of judgment Federal Judge Ferdinand A. Geiger, in the Hawkins mail fraud conspiracy case in Federal Court, today passed these sentences and fines:

MORD CARTER, Indianapolis, two years in the Leavenworth (Kansas) prison on one count and five years on each of the remaining fifteen counts in the indictments and a fine of \$2,000. This means a total prison sentence of five years for Carter, the sentences running concurrently.

WILLIAM JONES, Indianapolis, two years on one count; five years each on the others and \$2,000 fine, sentences running concurrently for five years.

Frank J. Haight, Indianapolis, two years and \$1,000 fine.

Frank C. Willis, Indianapolis, two years and \$1,000 fine.

Anthony Scheib, Portland, Ind., two years on one count, five years on the others, and \$2,000 fine, sentences running concurrently for five years.

Harry J. Bovard, Pittsburgh, Pa., two years on one count and five years on the others, running concurrently for five years, and \$2,000 fine.

Webb Gets Five Years

William Webb, Dallas, Texas, two years and five years running concurrently for five years, and \$2,000 fine.

William Sacks, St. Louis, Mo., two years, on one count and five years on each of the others, running concurrently for five years, and \$2,000 fine.

Carl B. Anderson, Portland, Ind., one year and a day on each count, running concurrently for one year.

J. W. McCallum, Detroit, Mich., one year and a day on each count concurrently.

A. R. Sax, New York City, one year and a day on each count concurrently.

Frank B. Jaqua, Portland, Ind., two years on each count concurrently and \$1,000 fine.

Leo P. Harrington, Dunkirk, Ind., \$1,000 fine.

John T. Sutton, Portland, Ind., \$1,000 fine.

Officials of Companies

The men sentenced were officials of the Hawkins Mortgage Company of Portland, Ind., and subsidiary companies, which formed machinery through which Morton S. Hawkins, president of the firm, is alleged to have operated his "system" which swindled thousands of investors out of about \$5,000,000.

Carter and Jones were officials of the Indiana Rural Credits Association of Indianapolis, a firm absorbed by the Hawkins company; Haight and Willis, Indianapolis accountants made an audit of the Hawkins books alleged to have been fraudulent. Scheib and Anderson were vice president and treasurer, respectively, of the Hawkins company. Jaqua and Sutton were attorneys for the Hawkins company; Leo P. Harrington was traveling auditor.

McCallum was correspondence head; A. R. Sax was stock salesman; Harry J. Bovard, president of the Cooperative League of America, a firm sold to the Hawkins company; William Webb and William Sacks, officials of the Home Builders' Association, an affiliated concern.

Webb Quotes Scripture

Before reading sentences Judge Geiger asked defendants if they had anything to say. William Webb, who was a minister, responded with a strong denial of his guilt and quoted the scriptures, saying:

"And I say unto you, my friends, fear not they who can destroy the body for after that is done they can do no more."

"I am one of the victims, not a victimizer," he declared, stating he had lost a total of \$95,990 in the deal.

"The verdict says I am guilty, but that will not make any difference. I know I am innocent and that gives me peace at heart. If your honor sends me to the penitentiary I go there an honest man and so help me God, will come out the same way."

After-Holiday Sales—

Bargain prices on new household goods and many other such items would be more attractive to the average housewife if she knew what to do with the old.

Here's a Tip—

A Times Want ad can dispose of used but useful things and bring you ready cash for a down payment on the new goods.