

WARD ANSWERS 'FAKING' CHARGE IN SCHOOL CASE

C. C. Shipp Offered Local Post, Says Ft. Wayne Superintendent.

Answering charges that he "faked" an offer from the Indianapolis school city to become superintendent of schools here, Louis C. Ward, Ft. Wayne school superintendent has made public a statement telling about the offer.

Ward came to Indianapolis and was offered the post to succeed E. U. Graff, incumbent. He told the Ft. Wayne board of the offer, but did not resign because he was given a salary increase. Political enemies circulated the story that Ward had faked the offer to gain the salary increase.

Ward denied any "faking" in his statement and retold his version of the offer, which The Times learned last January, was made by Clarence C. Shipp, local manufacturer of heating and ventilating devices.

Not on Board
Ward, in the statement, admitted that the "power behind the throne" was a man who is not a member of the Indianapolis board, but a business man who had had interests in Ft. Wayne.

Last January, less than a month after the new majority faction, composed of Theodore F. Vonnegut, President Charles W. Kern and Mrs. Lillian Sedwick, took office, the Times learned of the offer to Ward. He admitted to a Times reporter who interviewed him at his home that the

offer was made by Shipp. Shipp is generally known as the controlling factor of the majority section of the board. Many disputes between the three members and the minority, Charles R. Yoke and Fred Bates Johnson, have arisen over selection of Shipp's devices. The Shipp mechanisms are used practically exclusively in Ft. Wayne schools.

"In November, last year, a prominent Indianapolis business man, who has had large interests in Ft. Wayne, as well, told me that certain events were soon to transpire in his city which might be of interest to me," Ward said.

Called to City
"A week afterward, he telephoned me to come to the capital for a conference. I met him in his office and went with him to see a man whom he designated as the most powerful man in the city at the time, and a man chosen by the committee in charge as their spokesman.

"There is no question in my mind that the offer was made in good faith, that the committee was earnest in its desire to improve the Indianapolis schools, and that if I had so desired I should today be the superintendent of schools in that city," he asserted.

When the Times questioned school board members and Shipp about the matter, the charges were denied.

REPLACE OLD SIGNALS
New Light Systems Speed Up Railway Traffic.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26. — Replacement of the old semaphore systems by light signals is speeding up railroad traffic of the United States, according to the Signal section of the American Railway Association.

Not only do the lights enable railroads to handle increased traffic but, also, they add to the safety of passengers and employees.

GAY TRAPPINGS OF OLD TIME GIVE WEDDING COLOR

Free Commune in France Parades When Fire Officer Marries.

By United Press
PARIS, Nov. 26.—All of the picturesque trappings which accompanied a great international wedding of the olden days were evident when Lieutenant Gee of the fire brigade of the free commune of Montmartre and took as his lawfully wedded spouse Mlle. Rolande Waldor, a young actress.

The free commune is not recognized as an independent state, but to artists, songsters and others who contribute to the happiness of peoples it has a high title to fame. It has its own city hall, consisting of a cabaret known as the Vache Enragee (The Wild Cow), its municipal officials, including a mayor, who is also the presiding genius of the cabaret, an army consisting of three officers and no soldiers, a fire department and a police force made up of

a garde champetre, or village constable, and his handy man.

Several thousand persons gathered in the Place Jules Joffrin in front of the Vache Enragee to watch the imposing cortege leave for the Montmartre city hall. At its head was Captain Bibendum of the fire department, followed by Uncle Jules, the constable resident in a crimson uniform with a real sabre clanging at his heels. First Assistant Mayor Ardey—the mayor being on a vacation—and a host of minor functionaries.

Garbed in costumes of 1820 and riding in coaches of the days of the second empire, this joyous throng caused traffic to stop and taxi chauffeurs to yell and swear as they made their way from the top of Montmartre to the city hall. Captain Bibendum accompanied Mlle. Waldor and the bridegroom was escorted by Uncle Jules. Pierre Labrie, who presides at the Thursday evenings at the cabaret of the Commune, was the official exponent of the protocol.

The mayor of the Eighteenth arrondissement, which constitutes what the world officially knows as Montmartre, received the party and proceeded to the formal examination of papers. After hearing a timid "Oui" from the bride and a stentorian "Oui" from the bridegroom, the mayor pronounced them man and wife and made a little speech. He pointed out that without humor man cannot live and added that while the rest of the world had lots of other things to do the special function of Montmartre was to amuse.

Divorce Increase Exceeds Marriage

By United Press
WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—Marriages and divorces are increasing in the United States. Divorces are increasing faster.

The Census Bureau today reported 1,181,838 marriages were performed last year—2 per cent of the Nation's population. This is an increase of three-tenths of 1 per cent over 1924. Divorces jumped 2.75 per cent, a total of 175,495 being granted.

Nebraska, under a new marriage law, reported 8,086 marriages, com-

pared with 4,234 in 1924. Nevada holds first place in percentage of divorces, with fourteen for each 100 marriages during the year.

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