

CITIZENS DEMAND PERU MAYOR RESIGN IN UTILITIES WAR

POWER PLANT CHIEF IS FIRED; CITY IN UPROAR

Mass Meeting Is Called; Four Councilmen Also Are Targets.

TWO SUITS ARE FILED

Ousted Superintendent Asks Showdown in Wabash Circuit Court.

BY GEORGE SCHOFIELD
Times Staff Correspondent
PERU, Ind., Oct. 19.—This little city is engaged in a bitter verbal battle that has split its citizenry and resulted in a public demand that the mayor and four city councilmen resign.

The town's half million dollar power and light plant and its recently deposed superintendent, B. H. Freeland, are the source of the trouble, which threatens to assume greater proportions. One faction, lined behind Freeland, director of the plant for the last five years, charges Mayor Thomas O. Keller and four councilmen with engineering Freeland's discharge to undermine the power plant, with the ultimate aim of selling it to power interests.

The other, and apparently much smaller, faction, backs the mayor in his move ousting the plant superintendent.

Freeland Files Suit

The latest development in the case was the appointment Thursday of Judge Frank Switzer of the Wabash circuit court as special judge to try the two suits filed by Freeland against the mayor and council as result of his discharge. He seeks full reinstatement and demands a "showdown."

Meanwhile, the town has forgotten business, football, and politics—this isn't a political fight—and has settled down to the battle. It is literally true that Peru has little time for anything but its own private war.

Charges are hurled right and left, threats of drastic measures against the mayor are made.

Mayor Keller has barricaded himself in his office and is "out" to all callers. He has refused to talk to newspaper men and has refused challenges from the opposing city council faction to "come out in the open."

The resentful antagonist, Mayor Keller and the four councilmen supporting him, shouldering for nearly two years, was fanned into fame with Freeland's unexpected discharge last month, and Monday night a demonstration, in the form of a mass meeting, was held in protest to the outer ruling.

2,000 at Protest Meeting

More than 2,000 persons, the largest crowd of Peru taxpayers ever assembled at a similar meeting, attended and voted unanimously to demand the resignation of Keller and his four aids and reelect Freeland.

The meeting was called by Michael Young, president of the Peru Labor Trades council, and six speakers, among them Councilmen Aaron Zook, William Daniels, and U. G. Hippenstein, talked in opposition to the mayor.

Direct charges that Mayor Keller and his faction of the council planned to deliver the power plant to "the interests" were made. The mayor was quoted as saying "the city has no business operating such a plant," and his entire conduct in the matter was assailed bitterly.

The mayor's councilmen, Alden Foote, Warren Tracy, H. L. Fawley and Charles Whittenberger, like the mayor, refused to see newspaper men Thursday.

Councilman Tells Story

Members of the opposing faction, however, were not so reticent.

Councilman Aaron Zook pointed out that Freeland had been discharged without warning, for "incompetency." No definite charges were made, he said. He told of how a move to discharge Freeland two years ago was spiked. He declared the light plant, under Freeland's direction, had increased almost twofold in value.

Only \$40,000 of bonded indebtedness on the plant remains, he said, and \$88,000 cash surplus from light plant profits are on hand.

"There is something definitely wrong with this administration," he asserted. "Everything connected with this matter has been conducted behind closed doors, with the mayor and his four henchmen conducting the business and then jamming their measures through in council meeting."

Branded "Robbery"

Oliver P. Mohler, contractor and former high school instructor, one of the instigators of the mass meeting, was even more specific in his denunciation of the administration.

"They are trying to rob us of our light plant, a paying institution, which has progressed amazingly under Freeland's direction," he declared.

"They are attempting to make a political football of the plant, trying to undermine it so that the citizens will lose faith in it and ultimately sell it to the power interests."

Meanwhile, the citizens eagerly await the next city council meeting, when it is rumored another mass session will be held, to demand Freeland's reinstatement.

Anderson Students for Hoover

BY TIMES SPECIAL
ANDERSON, Ind., Oct. 20.—Anderson senior high school students voted as follows in a straw ballot on candidates for President: Hoover 1,042, Smith 318.

New York Pays Tribute to Zep



COOLIDGE TAKES BRIGHT VIEW OF CONTENTED U. S.

President Back in Capital After Speech Dedicating Battle Memorial.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—President Coolidge was back at the White House today after a brief visit in Fredericksburg, Va., Friday, where he delivered an address at the dedication of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania county battlefield memorial.

A small but enthusiastic crowd gathered to hear the President describe some of the Civil war battles that took place on or near the battlefield being dedicated.

The President painted a picture of a contented nation, "its prevailing atmosphere marked by progress, peace and tranquillity."

"Industrial conflicts have almost ceased. Human territorial integrity is secure. Her constitutional liberties are protected by the eternal vigilance of her people," Coolidge said.

"Our country is still worthy of those who have made such great sacrifices in its behalf, still determined to improve the opportunities while those sacrifices created, still loyal to the faith of the past, still inspired by the hope of the future."

Venus Again Is Seen at Twilight in Western Sky

Star to Grow Brighter and Brighter for Months to Come.

By Science Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—President Venus, closest neighbor of the earth among the more important members of the solar system, has returned to view. It can now be seen as a brilliant star low in the western evening sky at twilight. From now on it will continue to brighten, getting higher and higher in the western evening sky for months to come.

By next March it will be brighter than any other heavenly object, except the sun or moon. It will be bright enough even to cast a visible shadow on a dark night, away from lights of a city.

Of all the planets, Venus most nearly resembles the earth in size, for it is 7,575 miles in diameter, as compared with 7,918 miles for the earth. Mars is only 4,216 miles in diameter. The density of Venus is also nearly as great as that of the earth. Venus comes even closer to the earth than does Mars, for when Mars is closest, it is 24,800,000 miles from us, while Venus comes within 26,000,000 miles occasionally.

Even though Venus is so bright, and comes so close, it still is largely an astronomical puzzle. It seems to be covered always with a layer of clouds that prevents us from

SANTA FE BUYS KANSAS-MEXICO RAILROAD LINE

Sale Price \$14,500,000; English Holders Get 40 Per Cent.

By United Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 20.—The Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railroad was sold here Friday to the Santa Fe system for a total of \$14,500,000. The sale of the road was completed in the offices of W. T. Kemper, retiring president of the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient.

Of the total purchase price 40 percent will go to English note holders and the remainder to Kemper and his associates. The road will continue to be operated separately by the Santa Fe under the general management of E. H. Chaufer, Wichita, Kan.

Of the purchase price \$8,537,985 was paid to Kemper today to be divided among the owners of the line.

Thieves Like Official's Car
MT. VERNON, Ind., Oct. 20.—Thieves favor the Ford sedan of County Treasurer Casey J. Martin. They were thwarted in their latest effort to steal the car because rain put the motor out of commission. The car was stolen several months ago on the same night that three safes were opened.

\$200,000 THEFT BARED

Chicago Brother Held at Michigan City in Bond Case.

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Oct. 20.—Michigan City police today placed under arrest Edward J. Sweeney, 35, Chicago investment broker. The officers said they desired to question Sweeney concerning \$700,000 in bonds allegedly stolen in Baltimore, Cleveland, O. and Chicago.

Sweeney is said to be one of the most prominent investment brokers in Chicago.

Largest Trust Company in Indiana

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT

October 3, 1928

of the

Fletcher Savings and Trust Company

AND ITS AFFILIATED BANKS

Broad Ripple State Bank
Roosevelt Avenue State Bank
East Washington State Bank

Irvington State Bank
Sixteenth Street State Bank
South Side State Bank



DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES

Commercial and Checking
Interest paid monthly at 2% on the minimum balance, provided it is not less than \$500.

Savings

4% is paid May 1 and November 1 on balances from \$5 upward, beginning monthly.

Demand Certificates of Deposit

Payable on demand with interest at 3% from date to payment.

Twelve-Months' Certificates
Interest at 4%. Checks for interest mailed; renewed automatically.

Loans

Commercial loans. Loans on improved real estate in Indianapolis; monthly or semi-annual payments. Loans on farms in Indiana. No commission charged.

Trusts

Trusts of every description—personal and corporate—^{as} Executor, Administrator, Guardian, Trustee under will or agreement, Escrow Agent, Attorney in fact; as Trustee under bond issues, Registrar of corporate securities and Transfer Agent.

Investments

Tax-exempt Farm Loan Bonds of the Fletcher Joint Stock Land Bank. First Mortgage Real Estate Certificates. Government, gravel road and municipal bonds.

Real Estate Trusts

Subdividers and builders relieved of details. Improved property managed and subdivision projects developed.

Real Estate

Purchases, sales, leases and exchanges of lots, homes, apartments, business property and farms.

Insurance

Write all kinds of insurance except life.

Rental and Building Management

Rental properties managed.

Safe Deposit Boxes

Ground floor vaults. Customers' private rooms. Main Office, East Tenth Branch, Thirtieth Street Branch, Broad Ripple State Bank, Irvington State Bank and South Side State Bank.

Foreign and Travel

Steamship Tickets for any port in the world. Travelers' Checks, Letters of Credit and Foreign Drafts.

Banks

Specialized service to correspondents.

Branch Offices

Neighborhood banking convenience provided through twelve branches and affiliated banks located over Indianapolis.

TRUST DEPARTMENT

Trust Funds Invested \$10,496,599.33

Trust Funds Uninvested 182,674.00

Customers' Securities 3,042,280.39

Corporate Trusts 19,916,000.00

Real Estate Trusts 6,877,000.00

\$29,853,631.14

Liabilities

Deposits—Commercial, \$12,069,187.54

Time 14,001,586.27 \$26,070,773.81

Due Other Customers 138,250.00

Reserves 382,273.65

Capital Invested by Shareholders 3,262,333.68

\$29,853,631.14

FLETCHER JOINT STOCK LAND BANK

Owned by Fletcher Savings and Trust Company

Resources

Loans \$15,493,967.46

Other Resources 769,090.34

Cash on Hand and in Banks 245,701.84

\$16,508,759.64

Liabilities

Invested Capital \$1,517,396.07

Bonds 14,675,300.00

Other Liabilities 316,063.57

\$16,508,759.64

DIRECTORS

HENRY C. ATKINS President E. C. Atkins & Co.

FREDERIC M. AYRES President L. S. Ayres & Co.

ALBERT BAKER Baker & Daniels

VINSON CARTER Company's Vice-President

ALLEN W. CONDUIT John A. Boyd Motor Co.

CARL C. GIBBS Manager National Malleable and Steel Casting Company

ALBERT S. GOLDSTEIN President Goldstein Bros., Inc.

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EVANS WOOLLEN Company's President

WILLIAM F. HAYES Capitalist

CHARLES W. JEWETT Elliott, Weyl & Jewett

ALFRED KAUFFMANN President Link Belt Co.

HUGH M. LANDON Chairman Executive Committee and Vice-President

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