

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM

VOL. XLV, NO. 81—Palladium, Est. 1881. Consolidated with Sun-Telegram 1907.

RICHMOND, IND., SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 14, 1920

SINGLE COPY 3 CENTS

LIGHT PLANT CONTRACT IS NOT FAVORED

Manufacturers of City Given Opinions on Municipal Light Plant—Suggest Depreciation Figure.

SHOULD EARN ENOUGH

Manufacturers of Richmond believe the municipal light plant should be maintained at a high point of efficiency. Rates should be sufficient to set aside proper depreciation fund. The equipment should be adequate for the present needs and future requirements.

Many of them are opposed to letting a contract to the Wayne Light and Power Co. for the purchase of current to be distributed by the company outside the city limits.

Some of the replies to a questionnaire submitted by the Palladium follow and others will be printed as they are received:

Suggests Increase in Rates.

CHARLES A. MCGUIRE, secretary and treasurer of the Dille & McGuire Manufacturing Co.—Answering yours of Feb. 12, regarding municipal light plant, if the plant under proper management could not be maintained with the present rates, these should be increased. There should be a proper depreciation fund set aside.

Electrical equipment engineers always claim 10 to 15 per cent should be charged for depreciation on machinery of this character. We do not think less than six per cent should be considered for depreciation.

An additional unit should be purchased immediately to offer proper protection, providing there isn't sufficient margin of protection in view of local demand. We would not be in favor of buying additional equipment for consumption outside the city.

We are not in favor of the Municipal plant contracting with consumers outside of Richmond through middle men. Such contracts should be made direct so that the plant would have full benefit of this outside business.

State Commission Has Power.

W. V. REID president of the Elliott & Reid company: Replying to your circular letter of yesterday, regarding municipal light plant discussion we reply as follows:

First. We think there should be a proper depreciation fund set aside but whether such action would involve an increase of rates, we think, is to be determined by the state commissioners of public utilities.

Second. The depreciation charge should probably not be less than 10 percent but this is a figure that should be determined by the state commission, which no doubt has data obtained from the operation of numerous plants.

Third. There are, no doubt, times when the load is almost equal to the capacity but whether this is for only a short time or not we do not know and we think a competent engineering firm should be employed to make a survey of the plant and its business to ascertain whether any additional equipment is needed.

Fourth. It is our understanding that the plant is not being paid for by the taxpayers but that revenue from the consumers is to be sufficient for all expenses, and we are in favor of the plant taking on all the business it can secure in the city and outside of the city providing such business can be handled at a profit.

Wants Sufficient Income.

T. B. JENKINS, president of the Jenkins Vulcan Spring Co.—It gives us pleasure to reply to your circular of Feb. 12 and to state our views on this question as follows:

We feel that the municipal light plant should institute a rate sufficient to warrant the installation of full and adequate equipment with a very ample reserve to be used in case of accident or breakdown.

We feel that the amount of depreciation figured on should not be less than 10% per annum, and ample allowances also should be made for the installation of new equipment to take care of the natural growth of our population with increasing demands for industrial current consumption.

We believe that an additional unit or units should be purchased immediately to afford proper protection.

Inasmuch as we understand that the policy of the Municipal Light Plant is not to operate for profit we believe that the new contracts should not be entertained, and that existing contracts for the supplying of power outside of the municipal district should be cancelled as they expire.

Keeping Equipment Repaired.

Statement of a manufacturer who desires that his name not be used: We are firmly of the opinion that the city should charge sufficient for current to enable it to set aside a proper depreciation fund. We consider that the depreciation fund should be 10% less whatever amounts are expended for repairs and renewals and which are charged direct to operating expense. This total charge of 10% annually on the machinery and equipment is, in our opinion, the very minimum that should be used for book-keeping purposes and for establishing cost of current power.

As regards the purchase of an additional unit at this time, our information is that the present equipment is sufficient if kept thoroughly in repair at all times. Many repairs are doubtless necessary at the plant especially as regards provision for coal storage and things of that nature. But the electric producing units themselves we believe are sufficient if kept entirely effective.

We cannot see the point in taking on any additional contracts for supplying current to consumers outside of Richmond. To do so would probably require additional equipment and now is undoubtedly the worst time imaginable for such purchase.

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Russian Singer Who Fled From Reds With Jewels



Mme. Lydia Lipkowska, wearing her gold thread wig.

STANDARD PLANT BOUGHT BY LOUCK, JORDAN, HANDLEY

Plans for a new factory building, as well as the purchase of the Standard Manufacturing company, by Eben Louck, C. W. Jordan and L. A. Handley, were announced Saturday by Mr. Handley.

According to the purchasers, new building will be erected at North Thirtieth and E streets, and the company will be moved there before June 1.

The company, following its purchase from a receivership, will be known as the Richmond Air Compressor company, with Eben Louck, C. W. Jordan treasurer, and L. A. Handley, secretary. The same persons recently purchased the Richmond Chair factory, and a plot of ground adjoining.

According to Mr. Handley, the new factory building will be erected on the same plot as the chair factory, and will be in operation by June 1, the time the lease on the present building expires.

The company will continue the manufacture of gas engines and air compressors, and M. L. Kirkman, manager of the factory under its receivership, will continue to manage the plant.

Plans for the new building have not been arranged. The Standard company was formerly owned by Ira Wood, but was bankrupt several years ago and since that time has been operating under a court receivership.

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Weather Forecast

For Indiana by the United States Weather Bureau—Fair and much colder tonight; Sunday fair and colder. Today's Temperatures.

21 Noon 21 Yesterday. 41 Maximum 41 Minimum 23

For Wayne county by W. E. Moore—Clearing and colder tonight, fair below freezing. Sunday fair and colder rising temperature Monday.

General Conditions—The Canadian storm which moved rapidly southward caused general snow over Indiana, but is passing toward the east coast. A cold wave has over spread the north-west, excepting all states south of the thirty-fifth parallel. This cold wave will reach a climax probably by Sunday. A moderation is expected about Monday. Heavy rains are reported along the gulf, with temperature of 10 and 20 degrees below in the north-west.

REVENUE MAN NOMINATED.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Wayne Johnson, of New York, was nominated by President Wilson today to be solicitor of internal revenue.

STRIKE ORDER NOT CHANGED SAYS BARKER

Head of Maintenance of Way Men Says President's Proposal Does Not Warrant it—Answer Goes to Him.

CONTENTS KEPT SECRET

(By Associated Press) DETROIT, Mich., Feb. 14.—President Wilson's proposal yesterday to representatives of the various railroad unions contained nothing that would warrant withdrawal of the strike order issued to members of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and railway shop laborers, Allen E. Barker, head of that organization, said this morning.

Mr. Barker said he had this morning received a copy of the president's proposal. "I found nothing in it," he said, "to warrant changing the strike order."

It was reiterated at brotherhood headquarters here that unless an agreement of some kind was reached before tonight, the strike set for Feb. 17, could not be stopped.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—The reply of the railroad brotherhoods to President Wilson's decision in the wage controversy was presented to the president today.

Immediately afterwards the union officials sent telegrams to their locals over the country, which B. M. Jewell, president of the railway department of the American Federation of Labor said, would serve to "steady our men" until they receive the full correspondence covering the negotiations.

Mr. Jewell would not say just what it was that the negotiations had been the result of the negotiations but it seemed certain that the president had refused to meet the demands of the 2,000,000 for a general wage increase and that his decision had been accepted by the union officials, at least for the present.

Trainmen Join in.

It was announced by the union men that the brotherhood of railway trainmen had joined in the decision submitted to the president, but that the brotherhood of maintenance of way employees had not become a party to it. The maintenance of way men have been ordered to strike Tuesday.

Both the president's proposal and the union's answer were so carefully guarded that not one word of their contents had been given out, the employees' leaders fearing that premature publication would have a harmful effect on the union membership.

When the spokesman of the employees were presented with the president's written proposition yesterday they called a meeting of the union leaders and prepared an answer. They declined to discuss the terms of either the proposal or the answer, declaring that both would be made public today simultaneously.

ATTEMPT MADE TO BURN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

An unidentified person Friday night tried to set fire to the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in the 1400 block on North A street.

A member of the church who stopped in Saturday morning noticed a big hole in the floor of the reading room and smouldering coals below the hole.

She immediately notified Fire Chief Ed Miller who went to the church and investigated. According to the fire chief the fire had gone out when found.

Bibles, prayer books and miscellaneous religious literature had been piled in the center of the floor to start the fire.

There is no question in the minds of officials that the deed was done with malicious intent. No clue to the guilty party has been found.

Haberkern Named to Head County Democrats

William Haberkern was named to be county chairman to succeed Joshua Allen, by the Democratic county central committee Saturday.

Resolutions of sympathy over the death of Mr. Allen were drawn up, and will be sent to his family.

A petition was circulated asking for signatures to have the name of Vice President Marshall placed on the Democratic primary ballot at the forthcoming primary election as candidate for the nomination for president of the United States.

Cold Tonight, But Not As Cold As Past Snaps

It will be cold Saturday night, probably a few degrees above zero. It will not be as severe as February of the past, as follows:

Feb. 11, 10 below; Feb. 19, 15 below. 1905—Feb. 2, 13 below; Feb. 7, 8 below; Feb. 13, 13 below; Feb. 14, 22 below; Feb. 15, 10 below.

1906—Feb. 6, 12 below; Feb. 7, 15 below.

HOG ISLAND TAKEN OVER.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—An agreement with American National Shipbuilding company was reached today by the United States shipping board, by which the board will take title to the land of the Hog Island shipyard at Philadelphia.

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Minister Conveys Message of Co-operation



Dr. Juan Antonio Buero and Mme. Buero.

Dr. Juan Antonio Buero, minister of foreign affairs of Uruguay, is in Washington as a guest of the American government. He is spreading a message of co-operation, pointing out Uruguay's need for motor cars and agricultural machinery and the fact that Uruguay could send the U. S. more raw material than it does if the shipping could be obtained. Mme. Buero, the minister's wife, is being royally entertained in Washington. She is the daughter of the president of Uruguay.

New Garage Going Up On South Seventh St.

Excavation for the foundations of a two story structural steel, concrete and brick building, at 21-23 South Seventh street, has been started by a local architect and builder. The building will have a frontage of 41 feet and 127 feet in depth. The structure is expected to be completed about May 1.

Manlove, Wilson Company, of Cambridge City, will occupy the building, which will be used as an auto sales and repair building. The company will be county agents for several makers of autos.

LIGHT PLANT MUST HAVE COAL CARRIER TO KEEP STOCKED

Until a coal handling device, capable of unloading a cut of cars without interrupting traffic on the C. & O. railroad is installed, the municipal light plant will be unable to keep a large supply of coal on hand.

Plans for the enlargement of the coal storage facilities of the plant have been prepared. The board of works is about ready to advertise for bids for the apparatus.

Immediately after the last coal strike, Superintendent Dillon began ordering coal to protect the consumers of the plant. The railroad administration, however, prohibited the plant from unloading more cars than could be accommodated by the present siding. The administration refused to permit an obstruction of traffic.

This forced the superintendent to rely on the supply he was able to obtain by unloading two cars at a time.

Farm Federation Drive Is Hampered by Illness; Will Continue Into Next Week

Although the farm membership drive staged this week by the Wayne County Farmers' Federation has been hampered somewhat by illness, Gaar Eliason, of Centerville, temporary chairman of the promotion committee, Saturday, said he believed that there were now between 1,200 and 1,500 members in the county.

The drive will be extended until its object, every farmer a member who can be made so, has been reached, said Mr. Eliason, and it will probably run most of next week.

The drive has been with good success where it could be carried on with full forces. Jackson township has been added to the list of 100 per cent townships.

Mr. Eliason is acting as chairman of the membership committee during the illness of Arthur Curme, chief legal adviser.

The Westminster Gazette says: "The dismissal of Secretary Lansing by the president is a dramatic illustration of the peculiar power assigned to the head of the government by the American constitution. What it is, exactly, that Secretary Lansing has done is not very clear, but he would appear to have applied on his own account what has been described as the American principle of one-man management, while President Wilson insists on a monopoly of the idea."

OIL STEAMER ASHORE

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—The steamship Malden of the New England fuel and transportation company reported by wireless early today that she was ashore off Fire Island, N. Y., and asked that assistance be sent immediately. No other details were given in the message. The vessel of 3,099 tons left Boston yesterday for Norfolk, Va.

It is estimated that from \$250,000 to \$300,000 will be required to settle the claim.

OVERSEAS SOLDIERS GET 20 PERCENT PAY INCREASE

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Soldiers who have served overseas since July 1, 1918, will receive an increase of 2