

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 a proper depreciation fund.

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.

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 depreciation 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 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 a matter to be determined by the state commission that supervises public utilities.

Second. The depreciation charge should probably not be less than 10 per cent 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 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 cent, 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 per cent, less whatever amounts are expended for repairs and renewals and which are charged direct to operating expense. This total charge of 10 per cent 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.

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 improvements 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 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.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Mme. Lydia Lipkowska, soprano, formerly of the Chicago Opera company, arrived recently with her husband, Lieut. Pierre Bodin, a French army officer. Mme. Lipkowska, who was in Petrograd in 1914 when the war started, had a home there and a bank account which she estimated to 10,000,000 roubles. They were there when the government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks.

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 E. A. Handley, were announced Saturday by Mr. Handley.

According to the purchasers, a 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 president, C. W. Jordan treasurer, and E. 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.

Absence of Farmers From Homes Causes Delay In Government Census

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Farm enumerating work under the agricultural census is dragging it was stated at the census bureau today because so many farmers live in the city in the winter and are not on the farms when the enumerators call.

Completion of the agricultural census had been expected by officials within the next two weeks but recent reports indicated that inability to reach many farm owners coupled with bad weather conditions, which have completely halted the census in some districts, farming statistics will not be completed for another two months.

Weather Forecast

For Indiana by the United States Weather Bureau—Fair and much colder tonight; Sunday fair. Today's Temperatures. Noon 21 Yesterday. 41

Maximum 41 Minimum 23 For Wayne county by W. E. Moore—Clearing and colder tonight, far 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.

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, 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 Employees 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.

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

Trainers 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.

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 disclosure would do a harmful effect on the union membership.

When the spokesmen 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.

City Census Folios Are Forwarded to Washington

Richmond's count in the 1920 government census was officially closed Saturday, when Jesse Stevens, of Liberty, district supervisor, forwarded the last of Richmond's portfolios to the government offices in Washington.

There are five or six portfolios that have not been completed, but these will be forwarded next week.

Approximately 60 persons, who were not enumerators, sent statements to Stevens, and were included in the portfolios before they were forwarded to Washington.

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 smoldering 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 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.

Haber Kern Named to Head County Democrats

William Haber Kern 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. 12, 15 below; Feb. 13, 13 below; Feb. 14, 22 below; Feb. 15, 10 below; Feb. 16, 12 below; Feb. 17, 15 below.

HOG ISLAND TAKEN OVER.

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.

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 makes of autos.

WAKEFIELD LEASE SOLD; NEW PICTURE HOUSE IS PLANNED

Purchase of the 99-year lease on the Wakefield block, at the northeast corner of Ninth and Main streets, was made late Friday afternoon by the Victor Theatre company of Ft. Wayne.

The lease was held by A. H. Brown. The new picture house is planned. The consideration was not disclosed.

The theatre company was represented by G. H. Heine and W. T. Vesey, former judge of the superior court of Allen county, both of Ft. Wayne.

The real estate now is owned by the heirs of the Rev. John B. Wakefield, a former pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal church, who died several years ago at Los Angeles, Cal.

The property was leased six years ago to A. H. Brown and H. L. Ashley, and at the death of the latter a year ago, the lease became the property of Mr. Brown.

When approached on the question of plans Friday night G. H. Heine said that it would be some months before the plans were ready for the announcement. He said that so far as he knows new the house would have a frontage of about 1500.

There will be no change in the management of the building at present, as the present tenants must be given a convenient time to relocate.

The purchase of the Wakefield block takes in the rooms of the Richmond Light, Heat and Power company to the George H. Nolte company, inclusive.

The property covered by the lease from Main street to Sallor street, a distance of 165 feet.

It will be the policy of the Victor company, said G. H. Heine, to operate a modern high class exclusive picture theatre.

The organization operates a chain of exclusive picture houses in Indiana and Illinois, and is identified with the Richmond Amusement company which has the controlling interest in the Washington theatre. J. L. Weller, local real estate man, closed the transaction.

When Leases Expire. Leases on the rooms expire on or before Jan. 2, 1922. The lease of the Richmond, Light, Heat and Power company expires Jan. 2, 1922, and that of George H. Nolte on Jan. 1, 1921. The Nolte company has been in the present location for 22 years.

A. O. Ahring's barber shop on Ninth street, holds a lease until April 1, 1921, as does the A. J. Linnemann shoe repair shop. The lease of the B. and J. Machine repair shop will expire Jan. 1, 1921, and the one held by the Funk-Bundy and Hinshaw Realty company will continue into effect until April 1, next year.

The expiration of the lease of the Hofer and Hlatt millinery store could not be ascertained.

It was understood Saturday that the theatre company plans to begin work on their building from Sallor street and work forward to the main building, leaving the rooms of the gas company and the Nolte company as they are, and build an entrance through the millinery shop. The two main street stores will be remodeled however, and a new front put on the building.

DUKE WINS SUIT.

BERLIN, Feb. 14.—The former reigning duke of Gotha has won his suit against the free state, which temporarily confiscated his property and incorporated it among the state's assets without affording the duke the slightest reimbursement.

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, Gar Eliason, of Centerville, temporary chairman of the membership 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 met with good success where it could be carried on with full force. 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, chairman.

OVERSEAS SOLDIERS GET 20 PERCENT PAY INCREASE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Soldiers who have served overseas since July 11, 1919, will receive an increase of 20 per cent on their entire base pay instead of on the old base pay authorized during the world war. The war department announced today that the change had been authorized under a recent decision of the comptroller of the treasury and that a private for foreign service would receive \$36 instead of \$33 paid during the war. The increase, however, is not payable for service in the Canal zone, Panama, Porto Rico or Hawaii.

It is estimated that from 250,000 to 300,000 soldiers will submit claims for back payment and that it will require approximately \$1,800,000 to settle the claims.

OIL STEAMER ASHORE

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.

LANSING AND WILSON BREAK BEGAN EARLY

Two Men Were in Almost Constant Disagreement Even Before World War Bullit Incident is Recalled.

POLK MAY TAKE PLACE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—There was no information available at the White House as to a probable successor to Mr. Lansing, but the appointment is to be made soon. John W. Davis, ambassador at London, and Undersecretary Polk are being discussed.

Cabinet meetings will be resumed "very soon," and as announced a few days ago, President Wilson will preside. White house officials reiterated today that he was making rapid strides toward regaining his health.

Frank L. Polk, under-secretary of state, today became secretary ad interim and will serve until Mr. Lansing's successor has been appointed by the president.

Immediately after the senate met, the letters exchanged between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing were ordered printed in the Congressional Record, on motion of Senator Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut.

Lane Also Called Meeting. Secretary Lane declared today that he considered himself "just as much responsible" as Secretary Lansing for the calling of cabinet meetings during the president's illness.

He said "Mr. Lansing called him on the telephone and obtained his approval of the joining before calling the first meeting" and presently secured the approval of other cabinet members also.

There will be no more resignations from the cabinet as a result of the Lansing incident, it was said at the White house today.

Although the correspondence between Mr. Lansing and the president makes the calling of the cabinet meetings the incident which leads directly to the secretary's resignation, persons "on the inside" of the administration say that was only an incident and that the real reasons for the break go back over a period of many months and come from fundamental differences of opinion in policy.

Disagreed Before War. The disagreement between the president and the head of the state department even antedates the entry of the United States into the war. The relations between the two men almost reached the breaking point early in 1917, when Mr. Lansing issued his celebrated statement saying that the United States was daily being drawn nearer and nearer to the break.

It was taken to forecast the entry of the United States. The president made every effort to overtake the statement after it had been given out at the state department, but it was impossible.

When Mr. Lansing went as a member of the American peace delegation to Paris, more differences were had. With other members of the mission, he was not in accord with the president's idea of making the treaty of peace and the covenant of the league of nations one and the same inseparable document.

The idea that such a plan would delay the ratification of the peace treaty and he was supported in this by Henry White and Mr. E. M. House.

Had Serious Quarrels. It may be said with a great degree of authority that while the president and Mr. Lansing were in Paris other differences of more than minor nature developed, and this is confirmed by the reference which the president makes to it in one of his letters.

When President Wilson went back to Paris last March and found that during his brief absence in the United States Mr. Lansing and the others of the American mission had agreed, tentatively, at least, to have the peace terms and the league of nations covenant separated, the situation came very near a breaking point, and probably was avoided because the president thought it so important not to let European statesmen see a split in the American peace delegation.

While Mr. Lansing probably saw and conferred with the president in Paris as much as any other members of the American mission, it was a matter of remark that he saw him very little.

Bullit Incident Last Straw. However, the incident which came nearer causing a break than any other was the sensational testimony of William C. Bullit, one of the experts attached to the American peace mission, before the senate foreign relations committee. Bullit, as will be recalled, reading from a diary, quoted Secretary Lansing as having told him he was out of sympathy with the league of nations covenant, and as predicting that the treaty would fall if the American people ever learned of its full import.

Mr. Lansing, obviously in a very difficult position, did not repudiate Bullit's statement, although it was momentarily expected in Washington that he either would repudiate them or resign his office.

President Wilson was at the time on his speaking tour in the west. To say that he was upset by Bullit's story and his quotations of the Secretary of State puts it mildly. Officials in the presidential party who knew the workings of the president's mind expected to see the Secretary's resignation asked for when the President returned to Washington. These same officials now believe that the breakdown which sent the president home a very sick man was the only thing which prevented it.

Never Saw President. Mr. Lansing, however, never saw the President again and did all his business Continued on Page Nine