

R. T. Charged With Padding Operating Cost

Delaney Says Propaganda for Higher Fares Has Been Included in Regular Expenses; City's Profit Cut Objects to \$423,000 Bill

Charges that the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in the last two years has been including the cost of propaganda for higher fares among its operating expenses were made yesterday by John H. Delaney, Transit Construction Commissioner. Mr. Delaney announced he had served notice on the company that he objects to expenditures aggregating \$423,000, which, he says, being charged to operating expenses, have tended to minimize the company's profits, in which the city is concerned.

Of the amount, the commissioner asserts, \$181,047.58 has been spent by the Interborough "in connection with its propaganda for increased fares." The expense was declared to have been "incidental to the publication of The Subway Sun, The Elevated Express and other higher fare propaganda."

One item of \$100 monthly to Ivy Lee, "adviser of public relations," who supervises the preparation of literature for propaganda purposes, says Mr. Delaney. "The contracts with the city provide for a five-cent fare, and the expense of any propaganda or expenditure looking to a change in the terms of the contract should not be charged against the accounts in which the city has an interest, but should be defrayed out of the corporate funds of the Interborough."

Where Rest of Money Went

The rest of the money, Mr. Delaney asserts, was used "in connection with examinations made at the instance of holders of Interborough Metropolitan and other securities involved in the system." These payments, he declares, were to various accountants and law firms and the receiver of the New York Railway Company.

Mr. Delaney's objections were contained in a statement issued by him. The statement continues: "The vouchers rendered indicate that the payments were made, among other things, for 'thorough consideration of the Brooklyn strike and of the successful unionizing of the Brooklyn roads by the Amalgamated, with the assistance of Hearst and Hyman'; also for 'examining charge made by Mayor Hyman to the District Attorney of conspiracy between the Interborough Company and its brotherhood to bring on strike; also examining various sections of the penal code referred to in his communications to the District Attorney with respect to the coercion of public officers'; for the purpose of procuring an amendment to the public service commission law extending the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission over the rates, fares and charges filed by agreement with the local authorities; and for examinations made for the Interborough-Metropolitan 4 per cent collateral trust bondholders' protective committee and for similar purposes."

"These expenditures were not incurred for the operation of the subway or Manhattan elevated lines and in several instances were not initiated by the Interborough, but by a committee representing stocks or bonds. Under the terms of the contract between the city and the Interborough, only such expenditures as are necessary for the operation of the system can be charged to operating or construction accounts."

Democrats to Discuss Charges

Democratic members of the Legislature, who have called a mass meeting to be held in the chamber of the Board of Aldermen at noon to-day to organize their opposition to Governor Miller's proposals for solving the city's traction problems, it was learned yesterday, expect to discuss Mr. Delaney's charges in its bearing on the question of increased fares.

Senator James J. Walker and Assemblymen Charles B. Donohue, leaders of the Democratic minority, who arranged the meeting last week after Tammany Hall had adopted resolutions condemning the Governor's plans, said yesterday the discussion would be open to the public.

"The issue is not merely whether New Yorkers are to be taxed with higher fares, as the Governor proposes, but also whether a commission sitting in Albany is going to have automatic power to determine how much we shall pay for gas and electricity," said Senator Walker. "We do not know in advance what program of action will develop at the meeting, but we are certain that public interest is stirred up against higher fares and we will have a rousing meeting."

Meetings to discuss the Governor's proposals, as outlined by him in a message to the Legislature last Monday, will be held almost every night this week.

Travis H. Whitney, formerly Public Service Commissioner, will give his views before the 7th Assembly District Republican Club, at Broadway and Eightieth Street, to-night.

Open Drive on Governor
The government board of the city Parliament of the Community Councils announced it would begin a campaign against the Governor's proposal to "deprive the city of home rule" with a meeting to-morrow night in the chamber of the Board of Aldermen. P. H.

La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen, Henry M. Curran, President of the Borough of Manhattan, and Alderman Edward J. Neary, of Queens, are to speak.

Wednesday night a mass meeting will be held at Town Hall, 113 West Forty-third Street, at which Job E. Hedges, receiver of the New York Railway Company, and Oliver C. Semple will speak in favor of the Governor's plans. Mr. Curran and another speaker are to oppose them. A similar meeting has been arranged for Cooper Union on Thursday night.

As a substitute for the Governor's plan, the City Club yesterday announced it would support a measure introduced by Senator Walker for public ownership. Nelson S. Spencer, president of the club, made public a letter to Senator John Knight, chairman of the Senate Public Service Committee, asking for public hearings on the measure. Mr. Spencer said the bill would "give every municipality complete and definite authority to undertake municipal ownership and operation of all public utilities which require a special franchise for the use of the streets." The club last week made public a report in which the Governor's proposals were described as an attempt to introduce the flexible fare system.

Labor to Enter Fight

Organized labor will oppose any attempt to increase fares, according to John Sullivan, vice-president of the State Federation of Labor. He announced that every union in the state had been circulating a letter to members of the Legislature to oppose the Governor's plans.

The Interborough announced that part of a non-rush hour in Brooklyn during the non-rush hours would be curtailed, beginning Wednesday. The announcement says: "Beginning Wednesday, the non-rush local service in Brooklyn will be discontinued, and in lieu thereof the Broadway-Seventh Avenue express trains destined beyond Atlantic Avenue will be through trains.

"The trains will be divided into two sections at the Broadway Brooklyn Museum station. The forward section of the train will continue on Eastern Parkway line to Pennsylvania Avenue. The rear section of the train will continue on the Nostrand Avenue line to Flatbush Avenue.

"This operation affects passengers whose destination is beyond the Eastern Parkway Brooklyn Museum station during the following hours: 11:02 a. m. to 3:33 p. m., and 8:19 p. m. to 12:29 a. m.

6,171 Suicides in 1920; Youngest 5 Years, Oldest 103

3,567 Men and 2,604 Women Took Own Lives; 400 War Veterans and 36 Millionaires in Official List

Suicide is on the increase in the United States, according to statistics for 1920 made public yesterday by the Save-a-Life League.

During the year 6,171 persons ended their lives, official statistics show, and it is believed, there probably were nearly twice this number of suicides in reality. Only about 5,000 were reported in 1919. Of those reported 3,567 were men and 2,604 women. Five hundred of them killed themselves after committing murder. The youngest suicide was five years old and the oldest 103. It cost \$2,000,000 to bury the suicides and the economic loss to the country is estimated at five times that sum.

Four hundred veterans of the World War killed themselves. Farmers and farmers' wives were well up on the list.

Rich women and wealthy presidents and managers of big business concerns, including fourteen bank presidents, ended their own lives in 1920.

Fifty-one physicians, twenty-four lawyers, including eight judges, three editors, nine writers, forty actors and actresses, thirty-four teachers and college professors, twenty-seven college students, twenty-four brokers, twelve clergymen, two evangelists and one Y. M. C. A. secretary took their lives.

Suicide among children shows an alarming increase. There were 707 children listed in 1920, as against 477 in 1919. Girls numbered 484 and boys, 223. The average age of the girls was sixteen and of the boys fifteen. Pistols were used in most cases by the boys and poison by the girls.

Some extremely trivial causes for self-destruction are enumerated in the league's report. One man killed himself because his wife refused to vote for Cox for President, and another because his new suit didn't fit him. A woman killed herself when her husband couldn't eat a pie she had baked. Another wife ended her life when her spouse objected to her using a powder puff.

"Conditions brought about by the enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment have been the cause of not a few suicides," declares the report, "also drug addiction has supplied a considerable number."

Stork Visits Plummer Home

Mr. and Mrs. Howard A. Plummer, 106 East Eighty-fifth Street, announce the birth on Saturday of a son. He will be called Howard A. Jr. This is their second child.

Oriental Colors of Choir Girls' Dress Annoy Baltimore Pastors

Special Dispatch to The Tribune
BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 30.—Garments worn by church singers are condemned in the current issue of The Weekly Church Bulletin, issued by a group of ministers here, including the Rev. Dr. H. P. Almon Abbott, the Rev. Dr. John W. Laird, the Rev. L. W. McCree, of the Federation of Churches, and others.

The cut of costumes is compared with the scantiness of the gowns worn in a musical revue and the colors are described as loud, blazing and Oriental, the writer expressing a longing for magisterial authority in putting a ban on garments that disturb the minister.

"In a day when the garments of supposedly well dressed women are nowhere of conservative cut or soothing colors," the writer says, "the costumes of young ladies in the average church choir certainly do not minister to the congregation's peace of mind. Purples and reds cry out against each other. Soft pastel shades and blazing Oriental shades paste each in a language unsuited to the sanctuary. Worse still, gowns which would have seemed a few years ago to be cut for a musical revue are worn by the sweet and truly pious maiden, who grew up too late to know what elderly folks consider proper in Sunday clothes."

"Of course, it is the minister who suffers most keenly. He knows very well that many of his best thoughts are lost in the congregational consciousness of the feminine garments in the choir loft. Sometimes he longs for the magisterial authority of the old-time Puritan parson, who would have made short work in dealing with such a situation.

Of course, the one decisive and final solution is the vested choir. Here is an end of all classes of color, all anachronisms and absurdities of style, all surveys and comparisons approving and disapproving on the part of the congregation. The choir is scarcely looked at—it becomes a stationary part of the church interior. We cease to speak of 'The girl in the pink hat.' She has become merely a contralto voice, instead of an Auburn-haired maiden who probably works in an office and has a 'steady.'"

Dry Law Gaining As Grafters Are Ousted, Says Ross

U. S. District Attorney Finds Weeding Out of Crooked Agents Having a Noticeable Effect in Brooklyn

Leroy W. Ross, United States District Attorney for Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, told the congregation of the Hanson Place Methodist Church, Brooklyn, last night that a weeding out of grafters in the prohibition enforcement force and the recent signs of cooperation on the part of the police were rapidly making the borough dry.

"The office of the chief enforcement officer was hastily organized," Mr. Ross said "and men were employed at \$30 a week at a time when motormen and conductors were receiving \$40 and \$45 a week, and these \$30 a week men were clothed with the authority to make cases against and make arrests of people who were making far greater sums of money doing illegitimate business than they had been able to do legitimately. The result was inevitable, and there was undoubtedly a large amount of crookedness in this bureau.

"Under Mr. Allen, in charge of this district, and Mr. Chapin, in charge of the State of New York as a whole, the prohibition enforcement office is undergoing a thorough cleaning out. The pay of the men has been raised, fully half of the force has been dismissed, and their places are being taken by men who require much more than the approval of the right party to secure them their jobs, and these men will in the future work not only during the day, but nights, Sundays and holidays. Incidentally, the force in this district has been doubled and will remain at that figure.

"There has been a change in the attitude of the public. Last spring, it was almost necessary to apologize to the jury when a case under the Volstead act was brought before them, but during the last two months convictions have been secured with comparatively little trouble. My office has been trying two, three, four and sometimes five cases a day and verdicts of guilty have come in at the end of some instances, of fifteen or twenty minutes.

"It is well for us to look facts squarely in the face and to be governed by the conclusions drawn from facts and not individual prejudices. You must recognize first that prohibition is here, that it is the law of our land and as such, is entitled to as much respect and obedience as any other law. If you have the right to decide that you will not obey the Eighteenth Amendment, your neighbor has the right to decide that he will not obey the state law against murder."

Mr. Ross said that while 199 permits were issued from the Albany office to persons, authorizing them to deal in liquor, during the last year, only twenty-one have been granted thus far this year, and in the New York office, where 17,024 permits were issued a year ago, seventy-three is the total to date this year.

"I am informed that even with those still to be passed upon," said Mr. Ross, "the total of the entire state this year will not be more than 150, as against 17,200 a year ago."

Coolidge in Asheville For Two Weeks' Vacation

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 30.—Seeking a rest which he said he was unable to get in Boston, Vice-President-elect Coolidge arrived here to-day for a two weeks' vacation, accompanied by Mrs. Coolidge.

They had breakfast this morning at Spartanburg, where they were guests of prominent citizens of that city.

Walker Utility Bill Approved By City Club

Letter to Chairman Knight of Senate Committee Says Measure Will Untie Hands of Cities in Many Crises

Public Hearing Is Asked Enables Any Municipality to Acquire Transit and Other Franchise Corporations

The City Club, through its president, Nelson S. Spencer, sent a letter yesterday to Senator John Knight, chairman of the Public Service Committee of the Senate, endorsing the bill introduced last week in the Legislature by Senator James J. Walker as a permissive measure for municipalities desiring to undertake municipal ownership and operation of public utilities.

"In brief, this measure has for its purpose to untie the hands of all the cities and to put them into a legal and financial position where they can, if necessary, rely upon the fundamental principle of public initiative and self-help in the solution of their utility problem," said Mr. Spencer. "A great deal of careful study and expert advice has gone into the preparation of this measure, and its enactment into law, with such amendments as public discussion may show to be necessary, would be a landmark in the history of the public utility crisis that is now present in New York and other cities of the state."

The City Club asked that Senator Knight's committee grant a public hearing on the measure at an early date. The bill in its original form was introduced by Senator Fowler, of Jamestown, two years ago. It was passed by the Senate in 1919, but did not come to a vote in the Assembly. Some of the chief features of the proposed legislation are as follows:

1. It gives to every municipality complete and definite authority to un-

dertake municipal ownership and operation of any or all public utilities which require special franchises in the public streets.

2. The bill provides that a municipal utility be established either by means of a resolution adopted by the governing board of the municipality or by means of a proposition initiated by the voters, but in any case the process of establishing the utility is surrounded with adequate safeguards as to publicity, deliberation and the approval of the people of the city.

3. Under this bill, when a municipality has in mind the construction or purchase of a utility, it may request the Public Service Commission to make an estimate of the cost of a utility to be constructed, or of the value of an existing utility to be purchased. It provides that in the latter case the municipality shall have free access to the property and to the books and records of the existing utility in order to prepare its case for presentation to the Public Service Commission at the hearings to be held on the valuation. After the commission has made its finding the city can decide whether or not it will proceed to acquire the property by negotiation or through condemnation proceedings. If it decides to condemn then the commission's valuation will be prima facie, but not conclusive evidence as to the value of the property. Furthermore, when the final award has been made the city will be free to accept or reject it, with the qualification that in case an award is rejected the city shall pay the necessary expenses to which the owners of the utility have been put in connection with the proceeding.

Two Forms of Bonds

4. Funds for the construction or purchase of a municipal utility may be provided by the issuance of bonds within the general debt limit, or, secondly, by the issuance of bonds not secured by the general credit of the city, but by a lien upon the utility property alone, or, thirdly, by the issuance of utility bonds secured by a first lien upon the operating revenues of the utility. It is noteworthy that the city of Seattle two years ago effected the purchase of the local street railway lines through the issuance of such certificates entirely outside of the municipal debt limit.

5. The bill provides that every municipal utility shall be in charge of a municipal utility director, responsible to the governing body of the city, and that in case of public operation the director shall have full power of appointment and control of the employees of the utility subject to the civil service law (except as to discharge) and to rules and regulations prescribed by the governing board of the municipality. Such rules must provide means

for the amicable settlement of disputes between the employees and the director.

Utilities Could Be Leased

6. The bill permits, under proper safeguards, the leasing of a municipal utility for private operation.

7. It also provides for the termination of a municipal utility under safeguards as to procedure and public approval.

8. The bill gives to the Public Service Commission jurisdiction to prescribe the form of accounts and to require proper reports from all municipal utilities in order that uniform and accurate statistics of the results of city ownership or of city operation may be available. The commission is given virtually no authority over local utilities except with respect to accounting and reports and with respect to the operations of a municipality outside of its own corporate boundaries. In these matters it is obvious that some higher tribunal must have the necessary powers and in the nature of the case so long as the commission exists it is the most appropriate body to exercise them.

U. S. May Broaden Order Prohibiting Liquor Withdrawal

Further Application of Draconic Regulation Will Depend on Local Conditions, Enforcement Officers Say

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Orders prohibiting the withdrawal of liquor from bonded warehouses, announced last night as having been issued for seven Eastern states, will be extended wherever required by local conditions, prohibition officials declared to-night.

Extension of the prohibition against the outward flow of liquor from warehouses, the officials added, would be governed entirely by the amount of liquor already withdrawn in the various states. Confirmation of reports that the states of Illinois, Ohio and Kentucky would be the next to have their warehouses closed was refused by officials, although they added that the situation in those three states would be given early consideration.

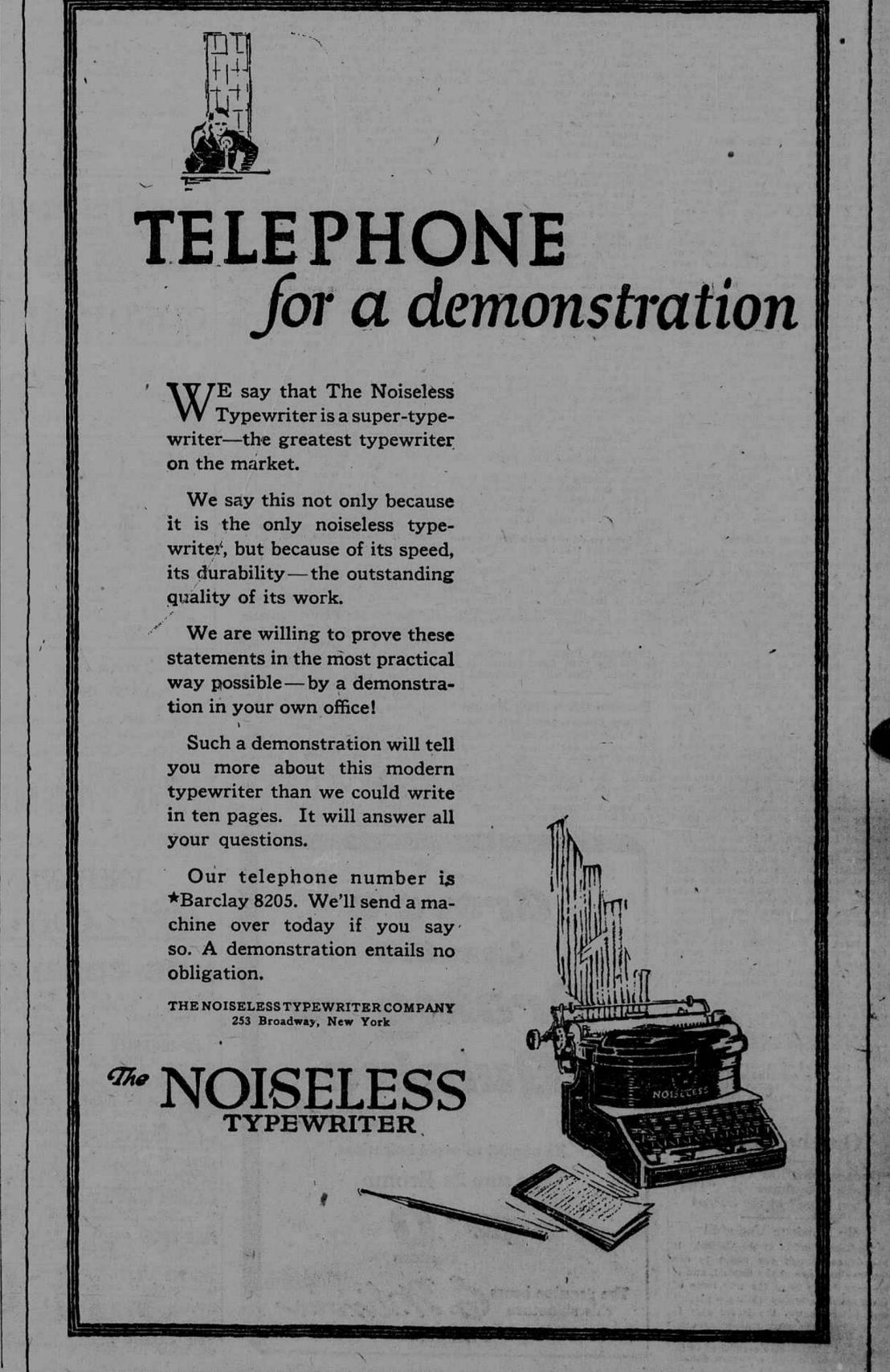
The orders issued last night and effective immediately apply to New

York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The only exceptions are withdrawals of industrial, was reported after months of careful survey of the different localities, covering the activities of "tonic" manufacturers and the amounts of intoxicating liquors issued from the warehouses in comparison to the legal needs.

Plans for concentration of the intoxicating liquors into a limited number of warehouses, officials said, were being worked out pending the passage of the Green bill now before Congress, which would legalize such a movement by the prohibition forces. With concentration that would be permitted, it was said, it would be possible to store all the liquor in the country in from twenty to eighty warehouses, instead of having varying quantities scattered in hundreds of different places. By this means, officials believe, the possibility of illegal withdrawals would be reduced to a minimum.

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