

Port Authority Rejects City's Belated Offer

Commissioners See Nothing To Be Gained Through Conference Now, on Eve of Legislative Hearing

Mayor and Estimate Members Turn Session Into a One-Sided Gathering

The belated offer made by the city authorities to discuss plans for port development with the Port Authority went unaccepted yesterday. The hearing before the Board of Estimate was all one-sided and resolved itself into another attack by the Mayor and other members of the board on the Port Authority plan. Only four persons out of the hundred present in the aldermanic chamber in City Hall stood up to be counted in favor of the bi-state plan, and they were practically silenced by the sharp retorts of members of the board.

The reply to the invitation of the Board of Estimate, a letter was received from William Lea, secretary of the Port Authority, declaring that the commission had no other purpose than to serve at this late date by a public hearing prior to the one fixed for next Tuesday by the Legislature. The letter was addressed to James Matthews, secretary of the board.

Now Up to Legislature

"I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of January 23, containing notice of public hearing to be given by the Board of Estimate and Report, January 26, in relation to the matter now pending in the state Legislature known as Senate Bill No. 41," said Mr. Lea. "I am in accord with the commission on the one hand, and I am sure you that they feel they made a sincere and honest effort to confer with your board as they were directed to by statute, and at a time when your commission's advice and suggestions would be a benefit. We have publicly expressed our regret that your board did not see fit to confer with us.

"When the letter from Secretary Lea had been read, Aldermanic President Murray Hulbert said that he was sorry the commission had taken that attitude, because the Board of Estimate was a representative body, elected by the people and he thought the board should find out what the attitude of the Legislature was to further discuss it. We see no useful purpose that can be served at this late date by a public hearing held prior to the one fixed by the Legislature itself."

"Never Invited, Says Hulbert. "There are three new members of this board," said the Aldermanic President, "and I speaking for myself alone say that I never received an invitation from the Port Authority to confer with them on this matter. I think the place to argue this matter is before the Legislature, and I will be glad to hear what the legislative hearing, when time will be all too short."

Mayor Hylan said the question was in favor of the people of the city were in favor of the Port Authority plan as recommended. Mr. Hulbert disagreed with the Mayor and said that it had been charged that the city had done nothing to substitute for the Port Authority plan and he thought it would be wise to have the plan of the city outlined. When the Mayor said that those in favor of the Port Authority plan were invited to the hearing, the question was answered by three men and one woman.

One of the men who arose said that he was C. L. Riker, of 2555 Marion Avenue, the Bronx. One of the other men said that he represented the Queensboro Chamber of Commerce, but he was not in the room. The third man had nothing to say. The woman said she represented the Women's Municipal League, whose legislative committee had planned the Port Authority plan, and that while the committee did not think it was the Port Authority plan, it was the best before the people and changes might be made in it for the city's benefit.

For Staten Island Tunnel. Mr. Riker and the representative of the Queensboro Chamber of Commerce were cross-examined by the Mayor. Mr. Hulbert and Borough President Biegelmann of Hylan, and before they got through with the two men conceded that while they were in favor of the Port Authority plan they were also in favor of the city tunnel to Staten Island. Mr. Riker said that he was opposed to the Jamaica Bay improvement plan proposed by the city and favored the city tunnel to Staten Island. He declared that the bay was too beautiful to be destroyed by placing a railroad center on its shores.

"Are you in favor of the Port Authority plan?" was the direct question asked the Queens man by Aldermanic President Hulbert. "Yes, in a certain way," he replied, "but I am not prepared to speak on it."

Asked if he would not rather have the tunnel under the Narrows to connect with the Port Authority plan, the Queens man said that he would rather have the tunnel for the city to Staten Island to the north of the island from Greenville, N. J., to Bay Ridge, the Queens man said that he would rather have the tunnel for the city to Staten Island, but would take the Port Authority plan if the city couldn't do better. Mr. Hulbert asked him if he was in favor of having three commissioners from New Jersey have a say in the work for New York City or would he rather have the members of the Board of Estimate, elected by the people of the city, do the work. The Queens man was evidently relieved when Mr. Riker said he would like to answer the question.

Sees Benefits to City. Mr. Riker said it was in favor of the Port Authority plan because "New York City is so situated that it is not independent in these days where interstate commerce is concerned." He said he was not in favor of the city opposition to a plan that can be used for its own purposes.

"Then you favor having the city's money used to develop the Hackensack Meadows?" asked the Mayor. "Yes, if it is for the benefit of the city," was the reply.

Dr. Henry W. e.g. representing the Greater New York Taxpayers' Association, spoke against the Port Authority plan. He agreed with the Mayor that the Hackensack Meadows would be developed at the expense of New York City and the business of the port district. He said that the Port Authority plan went through.

Dr. William H. Allen, representing the Committee on Non-Partisan Facts, wanted the city's engineers and the engineers of the Port Authority to meet and formulate some concrete

Plans to Present to the Legislative Hearing Next Tuesday, but this was not thought wise by the board. Mr. Allen submitted a list of questions propounded by Herman A. Metz, chairman of the committee on a basis of discussion.

Major Hylan declared that if the Port Authority plan was adopted present now paying the city \$10,000,000 in taxes would be relieved of the taxes and the city would suffer in consequence.

Former Justice Augustus Van Wyck urged the members of the board to do everything they could to defeat the Port Authority plan. He told the board to oppose it "to the last minute."

Gas Company Says It Can't Inspect Its Books

Order to Permit Expert to Confer Appraisal to Be Taken Into Court

The question of the power of the Public Service Commission to compel a gas company to open its plants and books to an expert employed by the city was brought to an issue yesterday in the court of the city.

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Chief of Flat Janitors Banked \$6,000 a Month

Chicago Man Accused of Forcing Tribute From Tenants, Landlords and Merchants

Special Dispatch to The Tribune. CHICAGO, Jan. 26.—William F. Quesse, president of the Flat Janitors' Union, appears to be wasting valuable time in a conspiracy to-day the books of the Kenwood National Bank, which Quesse, on a salary of \$400 a month, deposited in three and one-half months a total of \$27,500.

League Backs Maternity Law Committee Named to Promote N. Y. Passage of Enabling Act

Representatives of twenty-seven women's organizations met yesterday at the headquarters of the League of Women Voters, at 119th Street, and formed a joint committee to promote the passage of a New York State maternity and infancy law.

"Times" Is Upheld Again

"Ledger" Loses Its Fight Over News Publication

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday filed an opinion affirming the decision in the Federal District Court in the litigation between "The Philadelphia Public Ledger" and "The New York Times" over the latter's publication of Earl Grey's letter to "The London Times" expressing his views on the Wilson peace note.

Phone Service to Improve

Waiting to Be Abolished Soon, Says Official

H. A. Trax, chief accountant of the New York Telephone Company, appearing yesterday before the Public Service Commission, said New York would shortly receive improved telephone service. He said that great numbers of new instruments were being installed and that the waiting list for telephones, which provokes much complaint, would soon practically be eliminated.

Explaining the basis of the company's application for increased telephone rates throughout the state. He said large sums had been expended for extensions and betterments.

Miller Peads City and State Pull Together

Legislate for the local affairs, the pearly local affairs of the city. This talk about home rule, incidentally, is intended solely for public consumption or to serve political purposes at election. It is a phrase that is fine to conjure with, and some of us who conjure with the same phrase, only to find it the least when it comes to the concrete case.

"I said in my message to the Legislature that matters of purely local concern, unless there was an emergency, should be left by the Legislature to such time as the Charter Revision Commission was able to report, to the end that if some competent legislative tribunal for the city, were set up to deal with those matters they could be referred to that tribunal."

Transit Football of Politics

On the subject of transit the Governor said that he had looked into the matter and he found it had been the football of politics, "kicked back and forth for many years with nothing done except conversation."

As one reason for appointing the Transit Commission, Governor Miller said he found it necessary to break the deadlock "which for years had existed between the Board of Estimate and the state officials."

The Board of Estimate, he said, was a wholly inadequate body by the very nature of its constitution to deal with the problem with which it is required to deal. The solution of this problem, he added, was one of the most important confronting the Charter Revision Commission.

Miller said that the Transit Commission held no powers that were not recognized in previous commissions. The governor continued:

"New York is the only city in the United States which has served its purpose. We still have with us the myth of a 5-cent fare. I say myth because as everybody who rides about this town knows that instead of having a 5-cent fare the people are required to pay 7 and 10 and 12 and 15 and 17 and even 20 cents for wholly inadequate service. And what you are doing here by clinging to this myth of a 5-cent fare is to make it more likely every month that you wouldn't be able to pay at all."

And I want to say to you also, in my judgment, the five-cent fare can be preserved. But it will be preserved by dealing honestly with the problem. It will be preserved by establishing just rule to govern the problem; it will not be preserved on any theory that you can get something for nothing. It will not be preserved on any theory that the people will be carried for less than it costs to carry them, including a proper return upon the highest capital and the highest service.

Demands Aid for Transit Board

Referring to the decision of the Court of Appeals upholding the transit law, the governor said he was interested and he would like to see the transit board receive the assistance and the advice of the public of this community who are so much interested in the public utility which will have to do with the solution of this great problem. I think I need not assure the people of this community that any constructive suggestion or criticism will receive from the Transit Commission the attention which it deserves."

Reviewing the history of the formation of the Port Authority, Governor Miller said that the Port Authority plan proposes to start from the foundation to utilize the facilities which are now got and to begin by properly co-ordinating the existing facilities, then to make extensions of service or facilities to render service just as rapidly as it can be done.

Three Boards to Solve Problems

William C. Breed, chairman of the members' council of the Merchants' Association, who presided at the luncheon, said the association looked to the three commissions to solve the problems of the city and port. Of the proposed St. Lawrence ship canal now under consideration at Washington, Mr. Breed said it would not be in the interest of the commerce of New York or in the interests of the people of New York to build such a vast sum upon the New York State harbor.

Wants Ret Law Continued

The Governor spoke last night to the Bronx Republican County Committee at Morris High School. He said that the housing and rent laws would be continued, he trusted, for another year, and he was confident that their operation would tend to prevent the gouging practices of landlords.

"If capital is induced to invest in low-priced apartment buildings," he said, "I think it will go some distance in solving an acute housing problem. In any case, I assure you that you have a state government in New York with any sound measure for the relief of the housing problem."

When the Governor discussed the transit problem he uttered a fair warning that the Transit Commission would pursue the working out of its plans under the existing inequalities in preferential and perpetual contracts had been corrected.

On City Law Staff

Miss Frances Marion Brandon, who has been named Assistant Corporation Counsel by John P. O'Brien



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Woman Lawyer Appointed Corporation Counsel Aid

Miss Brandon, who supported Hylan Ticket During Last Campaign, Gets Place

The Hylan administration recognized the part played by Miss Frances Marion Brandon, a young lawyer, of 300 Lexington Avenue, in the recent mayoralty campaign when Corporation Counsel John P. O'Brien announced yesterday Miss Brandon's appointment as Assistant Corporation Counsel.

In the election last fall Miss Brandon acted as secretary for Miss Anne Matthews, who was elected Register, and also was an active speaker in the campaigns of Judge Monahan, Borough President Miller and District Attorney Bantam.

Miss Brandon studied law at New York University in the evening and during the day wrote advertising letters she was manager of the advertising for a large department store. She was admitted to the bar in 1917.

During the war Miss Brandon was exceedingly active in war work. She was an associate member of the local draft board No. 145, City College, Long Island City, a speaker in the Liberty Loan drive, and in the Women's Motor Corps, National League for Women's Service and the Red Cross Motor Corps.

Would Abolish Unfair Contracts

"It might be necessary to use a little persuasion on those who have contracts which are arbitrary methods, or should deal justly and fairly with the community. The fact is that past sins of commission and omission have produced the present plight of the owners. The fact that the companies have not been able to give the people proper franchises in the past, they have brought this situation on their own heads. It is perfectly just that they should pay the price of their own misdeeds. When I persuade anybody to do anything, I am persuaded to deal justly with the city."

Housekeeper Says Eno Kept Table Costs Down

Testifies He Delayed Marketing, Hoping He Would Be Asked to Dine Out

Mrs. Helen Desperrens, long-time housekeeper for Amos F. Eno, whose will is being contested, was a witness yesterday. Several relatives contend Mr. Eno was not mentally capable of executing a will at the time he disposed of his \$13,000,000 estate, of which he gave \$5,000,000 or \$8,000,000 to Columbia University.

Kitty Gordon Insists She Is to Wed Ranlet

Says New York Broker Denies Engagement Until She Gets Divorce Decree

Special Dispatch to The Tribune. DES MOINES, Iowa, Jan. 26.—Kitty Gordon, British actress, to-day reiterated her announcement yesterday that she was engaged to wed Ralph Ranlet, New York broker, as soon as she obtained a divorce from her present husband, Captain Henry Berensford, of the English army.

Mayors Reject Hylan Scheme Of Home Rule

Conference Throws It Into Discard With No Ceremony and Puts Dumper on Hearst's Ambitions

For Non-Partisan Plan

Indorse Bills Giving Cities Broader Rights Without Shutting Out Legislature

From a Staff Correspondent. ALBANY, Jan. 26.—The state conference of mayors rejected Mayor Hylan's home rule plan today when the special committee appointed at the recent Buffalo conference reported the proposal was not acceptable.

The report of the special committee, of which Corporation Counsel William S. Rann, of Buffalo, is chairman, urged the conference to continue its indorsement of non-partisan home rule legislation, as it has been doing for a number of years.

The Hylan proposal, which virtually would deprive the Legislature of all jurisdiction over the various municipalities in respect to charter extensions and amendments, was unceremoniously thrown into the discard without any one on the committee save Mayor Hylan's representatives protesting.

Blow to Hearst Scheme

Democratic mayors who are members of the conference, and who are in favor of the Hylan plan, would be a blow to the ambition of William Randolph Hearst, his political lieutenant outside of New York.

In continuing its non-partisan home rule fight the conference announced it would support the bills of Senators James T. Walker and Assemblyman Charles J. Borah, now before the Legislature. The latter two, although introduced by Tammany Democrats, have no connection with Mayor Hylan's home rule program.

Under the terms of these measures the cities are given broader rights in without the Legislature having a voice in the matter. Under the Walker, Walker and Donahue bills it would be impossible for the Legislature to restrict the cities in any one city alone. The cities would be limited to general legislation affecting cities of the various classes.

Large More Veto Power

A number of amendments, largely of a technical nature, were proposed. The only one of importance would amend the rules governing action in the Legislature in voting on a city bill which has been vetoed by a mayor. A mayor's veto can now be overridden by a majority vote. The conference would have this changed so that it would be necessary to obtain a three-fourths vote to pass a bill over a mayor's veto.

Housing Bills Opposed

The conference also disapproved a number of housing bills, including the Duggan measure creating state and municipal housing, and the Straus proposed constitutional amendments enabling the state and the various localities to extend their credit to bondholders.

Girl Drudge Tries to Die

Nutley, N. J. Pupil Despondent Over School Marks

Did Not Fight, Can't Vote

Court Denies Citizenship to Man Who Failed to Enlist

Smith Off if Hearst Is on State Ticket

This Is the Prediction of Tammany Leaders, Who Have Been Confering Recently With ex-Governor

Publisher's Workers, Busy Up State, Have Been in Touch With Handy Men

Prominent Tammany men close to former Governor Alfred E. Smith, who have talked with him recently, united yesterday in predicting that Mr. Smith will not permit his name to go on the state ticket at all next fall if William R. Hearst succeeds in capturing the nomination either for United States Senator or Governor.

Mr. Hearst's candidacy would not be taken seriously if it were not for the fact that his agents are employing the same tactics in working up sentiment for the publisher outside of New York City as they used in 1916, when they brought about his nomination for Governor at Buffalo.

In 1905 Mr. Hearst, who had represented the Manhattan district in the House of Representatives, gave Mayor McCall a terrific battle for the mayoralty, coming within about 5,000 votes of beating him. That showing so impressed Chief Murphy that he decided to name Hearst as delegate on Mr. Hearst at the Buffalo state convention in 1906, after what the late Senator Thomas F. Grady said was "the dirtiest day's work" of his political life.

Called a "Democratic Year"

That was a "Democratic Year" as the politicians rated it. Mr. Hearst, defeated by Charles F. Hughes, being the only nominee on the state ticket to lose.

In 1917 and again last year Mr. Hearst maneuvered Mr. Murphy into supporting John F. Hylan for Mayor, and Mayor Hylan recent started the Hearst boom for an elective office.

Following that the new Hearst program set on the P. T. O.—the Political Union for Progress in Government—now dubbed "Hearst's Pup" by Tammany men, was organized by Walter S. Sweeney, Commissioner of Education, and J. E. Watson, of the Hearst staff, who have planted numberless roots of this political exotic up the state.

Some of the plants blossomed satisfactorily at once, and naked realizations asking Mr. Hearst to make the sacrifice and run for Senator or Governor. This new Hearst hot-house has been visited by "Fingy" Conners, of Buffalo; Jacob Geisler, of Rochester, and former Governor Martin H. Glynn, of Albany, all of whom seemed to enjoy the perfume and temperature and the long and hot days of spring up.

Judge Seabury's Bomb

Then came the bombshell on Wednesday from former Court of Appeals Judge Samuel Seabury, writing down Mr. Hearst as a sinister figure in the path of Democratic success, and in a compact with Charles F. Murphy, the judge called on Governor Smith to lead the Democratic hosts and cast Mr. Hearst overboard.

Judge Seabury last night said as yet he had had no response from Governor Smith. He probably will write him a letter. Meanwhile the friends of Governor Smith have been asking him what he is going to do about it. Last night they were satisfied in their own minds that if Mr. Hearst goes on the state ticket Mr. Smith will stay off. They are still further convinced that if the Democratic state organization "drafts" Mr. Smith either for Governor or Senator he will declare publicly that he will accept only if he is going to be left off the ticket.

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Boy Skater Drowns; Two Saved by Schoolmates

Lads, Using Their Belts for Line, Drag Their Sinking Chums From Bay

Edward Collins, nine years old, of 49 Avenue E, Bayonne, N. J., broke through the ice of Newark Bay yesterday afternoon while skating and was drowned. Two other boys who were skating with him—Leo Quinn, eleven years old, and Francis Sullivan, fifteen, of 22 West Sixteenth Street, Bayonne, were rescued.

The last two named were dragged from floating ice by four schoolmates who made lines with their belts. They had already rescued Quinn and Sullivan and were tossing the belt line to young Collins when the ice to which he had been clinging broke and he sank.

The rescue squad was made up of Cornelius Lagerbach, eleven years old, Christopher, sixteen and seventeen years, respectively, of 468 Boulevard, Bayonne; Joseph Bernstein, fifteen, of 248 Avenue C, Bayonne; and Isadore Blatner, fourteen, of 625 Boulevard. The body of the drowned boy was not recovered.

Thousand's Welcome Rely

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Jan. 26 (By The Associated Press). Governor Zeno R. Rely, upon his arrival from New York at 11 o'clock last night, was greeted by a crowd of many thousands who lined the streets throughout the evening awaiting his arrival.

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