

FIRE INSPECTION SERVICE DEFICIENT

Powell Evans Calls It Hamstrung by Smith Administration Politics

COSTLY TO MERCHANTS

Lack of Fire Inspection Costs \$25,000 a Year

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS a year in "blue slip" insurance charges is being borne by business firms in the city's center because of lax fire-prevention methods under Smith administration.

Powell Evans, chairman of fire-prevention committee of Chamber of Commerce, declares conditions due to antagonism on part of the Fire Department, which is permitted by an "easy-going, slipshod political administration."

Fire loss in 1915, when inspection was at maximum efficiency—\$1,854,900. Fire loss last year, with crippled inspection service—\$2,556,500.

Politics which hamstrung the fire inspection service maintained by the Department of Public Safety has placed an additional overhead charge of \$25,000 a year on merchants in the central business district of the city.

Inspection of buildings in the central business section of Philadelphia, guarded by both rivers and South and Spring Garden streets, is being administered by the Blankenburg administration by eight firemen detailed from fire stations for this purpose.

In the removal of 200,000 piles of rubbish, a year, abolished many other fire risks, a student of the 50,000 buildings in the congested business area and cut down the fire losses enormously.

Under the Smith regime the number of firemen detailed from the various fire houses for this inspection work has fluctuated between eight and twenty, the fire hazard has increased and the underwriters absolutely refuse to remove \$25,000 in "blue slip" charges. These are added to regular premiums in the district and will continue to be added until the inspection service is resumed.

This means that Philadelphia merchants in the central business district are burdened with \$25,000 in additional overhead charge to plague them in their competition with merchants of other cities and other sections of this city.

"I don't think we have a business management of the city now; we have mere politics that administration at the present time; they just do these things without talking to those who know. If they have a good reason for curtailing this inspection service, let them state it. If they have no good reason, let them increase their inspection service."

Director Wilson, of the Department of Public Safety, insisted today that he was for fire inspection work heart and soul, but fell back upon the excuse that the fire department is shy 368 uniformed men, and placed the blame upon Councils for not supplying them. He failed to explain how the Blankenburg administration could maintain its efficient service when laboring under the same disadvantage.

"I think fire prevention is the most important work of the fire bureau," Director Wilson admitted. "It is done under direction of the Fire Marshal. To bring the inspection force up to its full complement now would seriously deplete the forces in the fire stations. The only solution is an increase in the number of hosemen."

Fire Marshal Elliott admitted that the force had fallen to eight or ten men recently, as charged by Powell Evans, but said it had been brought up to twenty men on duty today, and he promised that next month forty men would be put at the work. As for the statement of Powell Evans that \$25,000 in "blue slip" charges would be resumed in full, he said that was all "poppycock." His belief was that the charge would be removed any time the inspection service was resumed.

Bearing out the statement of Powell Evans concerning the increase in fire losses last year, figures of the insurance patrol show 4628 fires in 1916, total loss \$2,556,500, as compared with 4256 fires the year before, loss \$1,854,900.

Mr. Evans' statement concerning the dropping of the \$25,000 blue slip charges followed a conference with the underwriters several weeks ago. There were present at this conference representatives of the Philadelphia Fire Underwriters' Association, J. S. Mallory, former Philadelphia fire marshal and secretary of the Philadelphia Fire Prevention Commission, and the committee from the Chamber of Commerce.

ARMED BANDITS LOOT N. Y. CENTRAL FREIGHT

Hold-Up Train 22 Miles From Buffalo, Overawe Crew and Rob Cars

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 20.—Armed bandits early today held up a west-bound New York Central freight at Athol Springs, twenty-two miles from here, drove the crew away with shot guns and looted the cars.

The freight train was out of Buffalo, bound for St. Louis, Mo. Three of the robbers appeared at the caboose and covered the crew. The trainmen fled out and were held down the track by one of the robbers. The locomotive was detached from the train.

The trainmaster's office here reported that no estimate of the amount of merchandise looted had been obtained. The train later was reported on its way west.

WOULD GIVE \$50,000,000 FOR U-BOAT CHASERS

Philadelphians Ready to Spend That Sum, Says Lieut. Cromwell, of Navy Reserve

Wealthy Philadelphians are ready to spend \$50,000,000 to build submarine chasers for the Government if war comes with Germany.

This statement was made today by J. H. R. Cromwell, a lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserve. Mr. Cromwell is a young stepson of Edward T. Stotesbury and lives at the Stotesbury town house, 1925 Walnut street. He appeared at the Nationalization Court today to swear to the good character of the commander of a vessel owned by him. The commander is Captain Charles Thum, forty, a native of Norway, who called at the Federal Building to obtain his second citizenship papers.

"Mr. Cromwell, after finishing his duty in the courtroom, stopped to discuss the probability of war. He said he thought it extremely near at hand and believed the essential duty of the Government to be the elimination of the submarine menace. Then he mentioned the plans of this center of rich Philadelphians.

"Their identity he would not disclose; he contented himself merely with saying that the \$50,000,000 would be pledged as soon as war was declared. 'I'm willing to contribute my share,' he said. 'It is believed by the Stotesbury family, who will be one of the heaviest contributors to the immense fund.

"The vessel owned by Lieutenant Cromwell and commanded by Captain Thum is the 'Cromwell,' a motor launch of the Pennsylvania with Cromwell; R. F. Bailey, a wireless operator, and a cook who comes from the Philippines. The crew is short two men," Cromwell said.

Captain Thum in giving his Philadelphia address named Paperville road, Chestnut Hill, where the Stotesburys have a fine residence.

Magistrate Call Succumbs to Death

Continued from Page One

In many political fights in that same bailiwick, "Uncle Dave" Lane's own.

"The Judge was a stickler—he always stood for the Organization," were the words of "Pat" O'Donnelly, a friend of the magistrate, living on Girard avenue near Twelfth street.

Call was born in 1855. He attended the public schools until he was twelve years old. Then he changed his mind about going to school any longer. He told his mother he wanted to become a painter and decorator. His pleas that he be permitted to quit school were successful.

At the age of twelve, he was apprenticed to a painter of Irish stock. The painter had a little place near Girard avenue and Broad street. He remained at this place for two years. Then he quit because another painter offered him a \$2 a week increase.

Between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one Call worked at different places. He never changed his trade. Friends who knew him in the days when he wore a pair of fifty-cent overalls and a cheap navy blue shirt say that Call always saved his money.

ENTRANCE INTO POLITICS When Call was in the thirties he had his own shop and had men working for him. He became a follower of "Dave" Lane. Through the latter's influence he obtained the contract for decorating some of the houses in the city. He had a contract for painting the old Mint under the administration of President Harrison. He served a term in the House of Representatives. Call was serving his third term as a magistrate.

Call conducted hearings at his office at Girard avenue and Twelfth street. When not busy with hearings he would often sit around in his rear room of the office and read the various county papers. He had released a man without any security. The man in that particular case had been arrested on a charge of carrying a loaded revolver and of flourishing it at a crowd of women shop girls.

"I don't mean that the man I let go had a certain number of votes up his sleeve," said Call, "but it's simply politics. When you are in politics you must give the glad hand to everybody. It's politics—don't you savvy?"

After the famous July vice Grand Jury made its findings a quarantine was established over the Twentieth Ward. Call was the standard bearer. The police insisted that politics was seldom discussed inside the club, and that it was a gambling place.

Call tried to have the quarantine lifted. He did not succeed. Later the police barred him from the club. Things became so annoying to the "Judge" that he moved the furniture out of the place. He put the furniture in storage.

Magistrate Call is survived by a widow and five children.

SCOTT ELIMINATES DURFEE IN COURT TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Davis Is Victor Over Longacre in Class B of Racquet Club Meet

Giving his opponent the big odds of half thirty, Edgar Scott defeated E. C. Durfee in the second round of the Class A singles court tennis handicap at the Racquet Club today by two sets to one. Durfee won the first three games of the first set so easily that it looked like a walk-away, but then Scott settled down to a very steady game and won four straight. After this it was nip and tuck, but Scott pulled through by six games to eight.

In the first round of Class B S. B. Davis, who was in receipt of half fifteen for a bisquit, defeated John B. Longacre by two sets to one. Davis had all the better of the first set and won by eight games to two, but in the second set Longacre was seen to much better advantage and won by eight games to four. Davis won the first three games of the third set and, handing his opponent a walk without much trouble, the set ended in his favor, 8-4.

MAYOR PROMISES BIG HALL TO CITY

Smith Declares It Will Be at Least as Large as Any in U. S.

NEVER FOR SMALL ONE

All question as to whether Philadelphia is to have a large or small Convention Hall was settled today, when Mayor Smith declared that he never for a moment had considered seriously a hall with a seating capacity of 6000 and that the plan for such was published to sound public opinion.

"The Mayor in his first oral statement as to his stand on the Convention Hall plan let it be understood that he champions the cause of a great hall and that now, since the public generally has declared in favor of a hall as large as or larger than any in the country, that will be the only kind built.

In discussing his plan to give a Convention Hall to Philadelphia he said: "No plans for such a building have been criticized for offering a scheme for a small hall with a seating capacity of 6000 when I made the move against my own better judgment and merely to satisfy some people who thought that a small ornate hall would be satisfactory. In view of the fact that we have but \$1,428,000 available for construction, I never for a moment wanted or approved of a small hall, but rather than the small building scheme, I brought forth to test the case out before the public. In order to do this I had Architect Windrim prepare a drawing of a small, ornate building that could be put in the park.

"No plans for such a building were ever drawn or seriously considered, nor had we any idea of asking for bids for such a small building unless there was an overwhelming demand for it. The publication of the small building scheme brought forth approval and disapproval. It also brought criticism of myself from some papers that claimed to see in it some move of my own. Not only was this far from the truth, but it was exactly opposite to my thought on the matter. I wish to be permitted to have it understood that the small hall plan was merely a 'feeler.'

"I was more than pleased when business men, members of the Fairmount Park Commission and the Art Union agreed with me that a big hall or none should be erected on the Parkway. One paper declared it in response to demands made by these gentlemen that I abandoned my small-hall scheme. This was not true. I had agreed that a small hall would not do. Only a few persons wanted a small ornate hall, but I believe that all will be more than pleased with a building that the whole city may be proud of.

"The question of money is one that will have to be determined after I have had a final talk with Mr. Windrim. We have an every one knows, less than a million and a half dollars to build with, and to build a hall as large as any in the country, for this amount of money, takes careful consideration of materials.

"I can see how my plan in making public an alternative scheme might start discussion, but I do not think that I should be criticized for giving all ideas a showing. It is impossible that the people should know much of the old plans can be used, nor has it been definitely decided how large a building can be constructed, but the people of Philadelphia can rest assured that the convention hall plan finally decided upon will be for a building that for size will compare favorably with the largest in the country. The hall in Kansas City, I think, has a seating capacity of 13,000 persons. They say that Madison Square Garden in New York has a capacity of 16,000. The size of our building will have to be determined after the plans are gone over once again."

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION MAY TEACH PERSIANS

Missionary Sees Relief From Mohammedanism Without Bloodshed

One result of the revolution in Russia, said a speaker at a luncheon of Presbyterian workers in Scottish Rite Hall today, would be the freeing of Persians from the yoke of Mohammedanism and their adoption of Christianity. He does not expect this to be accomplished at once, but it will surely come, he said.

The speaker was the Rev. F. G. Coan, who has been doing missionary work in Persia. He said that many of the Persians had long since been ready to embrace the Christian faith, but had feared to do so openly. The revolution in Russia, Mr. Coan said, will show them that the people are strong enough to do what they will if they only act in concert. He does not look for any revolt or political upheaval; the missionaries have taught the Persians better than to shed blood, Mr. Coan said, but he does look for strength on their part to declare openly their belief in the Christian faith.

There were about 750 at the luncheon. The Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., is trying to raise \$1,000,000 as an extra fund for foreign expenditure, in addition to the usual \$2,500,000. Missionaries who had worked in the various countries which need more money today pleaded their cause. Those who spoke, besides Mr. Coan, who argued for Persia, were Dr. J. W. McKean, for Siam; the Rev. G. W. Dunlap, for the Philippines; the Rev. John H. Mills, for America; the Rev. C. H. Corbett, for China, and the Rev. H. A. Rhodes, for Korea.

BRAVE BANK MESSENGER FOILS HOLD-UP MAN

PITTSBURGH, March 20.—A daring attempt to hold up a bank messenger today was frustrated about noon today when R. J. Hinck, messenger for the Liberty National Bank, battled for several minutes with a robber in full view of many pedestrians. The crowd grew larger and the hold-up man fled after striking Hinck a heavy blow in the face.

Many joined in the pursuit, but the robber eluded all. Hinck succeeded in holding on to his satchel containing valuable papers and a considerable sum of money.

SWEDISH SKIPPER TELLS OF ATTACK BY U-BOAT

Schooner Dag Sunk, He, Wife and Crew Wandered Four Days on Ocean

LONDON, March 20.—Rescued in a pitiable condition as a result of exposure and sufferings at the mercy of the wind and sea for three nights, the captain, his wife and eight of the crew of the Swedish schooner Dag reported their encounter with a German submarine today.

The Dag was sunk March 13, at a point 200 miles west of the Solly Islands. The crew and eight of the crew of the Swedish schooner Dag reported their encounter with a German submarine today.

Lower Rates on Sheep and Goats WASHINGTON, March 20.—Freight rates on sheep and goats to Utah, Idaho and Oregon points on the Oregon Short Line Railroad will be reduced to 10 cents per hundred pounds, effective March 21.

SHOW TO NAME ROSE FOR MRS. STOTESBURY

New Blossom Grown by Edward Towhill Will Be Christened at Festival

Mayor Smith welcomed the country's rose growers this afternoon at the First Regiment Armory, Broad and Callowhill streets, when the first National Rose Show was officially opened.

Other speakers were the Rev. George T. Pennock, of Bethany Presbyterian Church; Judge John M. Patterson, Ernest T. Trig, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and N. B. Kelly, its secretary; A. C. McElwain and S. S. Pennock, who is president of the American Rose Society.

Tonight a new rose is to be named for Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury with a very pretty ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Stotesbury will be present, and Mrs. Oliver Eaton, Cromwell, a daughter-in-law, will have the leading role as christener. The rose to be named is a beautiful pink, a new seedling grown by Edward Towhill, of Roslyn.

Another feature is a new waltz, written by Victor Herbert especially for this occasion. It is called the "American Rose Waltz," and Mr. Herbert will lead Hummel's band when it is played. The waltz was played this afternoon and was voted delightful. When Mrs. Cromwell christens the rose she will say: "I christen thee 'Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury.'"

One of the special attractions is the exhibition of an 8,000 rose in the show. Heretofore, the rose-growing artists have held their exhibition along with the national flower festival, but they decided this year that their flower was worth a show all by itself and decided to hold the first individual display here in Philadelphia.

The show is to be open each afternoon and each night up to and including Friday. There will be more than 200,000 of the most beautiful roses in bloom to be seen. A model rose garden gives plenty of hints to the suburban amateurs. The country's rose growers, both commercial and amateur, have given a big impetus to the show, and the prizes are to be heartily contested. They total about \$5000.

Philly Regulars and Yans Bat Ball Hard

Continued from Page One

Ernie Meyer was the third veteran to toll for Bill Killefer's men. Garry Fortune and Joe Oeschger performed for the Regulars. The midjet, McCalligan, yesterday was drilled in the tricks of second basing, and today he showed to advantage at short.

Oscar Ducey, who has been a non-combatant for the last several days, because of an injury to his leg, was back in harness today and guarded the keystone sack. The usual morning practice preceded the game. For the first time since reporting Jimmy Zinn, the big Texan, who has been suffering with a sore arm, toed the pitching slab and curved 'em over to the batters in batting practice. He declared his whip felt good and no longer had any fears for his pitching arm.

Gene McCann, manager of the New London, Conn. club of the Eastern League, which is owned by Mortimer F. Plant, who also is stockholder in the Phillies, witnessed the game from a box seat. Mr. Plant also was among those present. Mr. McCann has his eyes focused on several of Pat Moran's youngsters. Among those he is bidding for are Bob Gandy, outfielder; Garry Fortune, pitcher; Bill Fish, catcher, and two Cubans, Hodies and Gonzales.

BAKHEMETEFF MAY BE FORCED TO QUIT

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Gossip among diplomats today is that Russian Ambassador Bakmeteff may retire from the diplomatic service to private life here.

Prof. Paul Mihuloff, new Russian Foreign Affairs minister was expatriated from Russia some years ago. He landed as history instructor at the Belgrade University of Serbia. At one time he lectured at Chicago University.

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Introducing the very latest costume for comfort and service, Dewees' Justrite Dress. Your wardrobe is not complete without one. Dewees' Country Club Suits. Special \$22.50 and \$29.50. Dewees' Outingsilk Suits. Special \$35.00.

Think of it! A Silk Suit on sports lines, style and materials up to the minute, only thirty-five dollars. B. F. Dewees, 1122 Chestnut St.

MANN & DILKS 1102 CHESTNUT ST.

Ladies' and Misses' Suits of Tyrol Wool

Spring and Summer Models and Colors

The models, styles, colors are original, new and not on sale elsewhere.

Also the New Hats

MAN & DILKS 1102 CHESTNUT ST.

PATRIOTS CALLED TO PROTECT CITY

Mayor Urges Able-Bodied Volunteers to Guard Valuable Resources

PREPAREDNESS MEETING

A call for all able-bodied and patriotic citizens to aid in the protection of Philadelphia was issued this afternoon by Mayor Smith at a meeting of citizens called by the Mayor to organize a home defense committee.

The Mayor declared that the United States is virtually at war now, and that no time must be lost in guarding the resources of this city and vicinity against attack from enemies of the Government.

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AGED WOMAN SAVED FROM DEATH BY FIRE

Passer-by Rescues Septuagenarian Left Alone in House With Small Child

Death by fire today faced Mrs. Columba Panzella, seventy years old and blind. All of her family were away except a three-year-old grandnephew, Pietro Capola, when fire broke out in their home, 823 South Ninth street.

The old lady and the little boy were on the third floor rear of the building and the fire was working its way upstairs. Albert Abdallah, of 1132 South Tenth street, was passing and saw the flames. He rushed up the front stairs, took care of each in his arms and carried them safely to the street.

Meanwhile the police and firemen had arrived and saved fifteen phonographs from the music store which occupied the front of the building. Max Klaidman keeps the music store.

Vincent Pino's barber shop, next door, was slightly burned. The damage totals about \$800.

ATTRIBUTE DEATH TO BLOW

Coroner Will Investigate Charge Against Foreman

ALLENTOWN, Pa., March 20.—The Coroner has been called to investigate the death of Michael Kostick, whose family says he died as the result of a blow from Harry Kenton, foreman of a gang erecting large turbines at the Allentown power house.

Kostick about two weeks ago insulted his foreman, who knocked him down. Kenton spent a night locked up, but his father obtained his release on cash bail. Several days ago Kostick put in a claim for damages for a week spent at the hospital, but it was discovered he had been working and on the payroll instead. Kostick, who died last night, was about thirty, and leaves a widow and four children.

WELL DONE, THOUGH AND FAITHFUL SERVICE

Secretary Baker's Acknowledgment of Work of Secretary Lane as Strike Mediator

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Great letters are frequently informally settled on the steps of the White House executive offices, which wish to report to you as secretary of the National Defense Council the successful termination of our efforts to settle the threatened railroad strike. Chairman Lane of the strike mediators, said to Secretary of War Baker this afternoon as they met at the entrance of the White House en route to a Cabinet meeting.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant," replied Secretary Baker. "You did most efficient piece of work."

This the greatest domestic crisis in years was officially closed.

SHORT STORY WRITER DIES

Frederick James Rickards Succumbs to Four-Month Illness in His Home

Frederick James Rickards, a short story writer, died at his home at Royersford yesterday after an illness of four months. Arrangements are being made for the funeral, which will be held Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, with services in the Royersford Episcopal Church. He will be buried in the Royersford Cemetery.

Mr. Rickards, who was thirty-eight years old, attracted attention as a writer shortly after his graduation from the Baltimore High School, when he won several prizes. He contributed to Scribner's and other magazines and to Philadelphia newspapers. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Florence Gamble, of Chester County, and two young sons and a daughter.

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AGED WOMAN DIES IN DELAWARE

DOVER, Del., March 20.—Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, probably the oldest woman in lower Delaware, is dead at her home in Milford. Had she lived a few weeks longer she would have passed the century mark. She was the grandmother of James Hall Anderson, a prominent Dover lawyer.

MAIL ORDERS promptly filled when accompanied by Postal Money.

Order for full amount. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

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Additional Entrance from Eleventh St. Subway Station.

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Of Finest \$35 and \$39.50 Grades at \$25

These elegant suits are here at this attractive price because we bought fabrics ourselves and turned them over to the highest class manufacturers of New York to make up for us, in accordance with our own specifications.

The styles reflect the latest authentic ideas of Paris and Fifth avenue. There are models to meet every preference and requirement, developed in French Gabardines, Burellas, Men's-Wear Serges, Finest Wool Poplins, Silk Failles, Chiffon Taffetas, Wool Jerseys and Velours.

Linings are of the richest peau de cygnes and novelty silks. Every new light shade, all wanted dark colorings and all staple colors are included in all sizes and some styles in extra sizes.

FRANK & SEDER—SECOND FLOOR

Wool Jersey \$25.

Every new light shade, all wanted dark colorings and all staple colors are included in all sizes and some styles in extra sizes.

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