FINANCE BOARD FOR STATE URGED

Research Bureau Suggests Commission to Supervise Money Matters of Local Governments

TO ACT LIKE SERVICE BODY

Creation of a municipal finance commission, with power to regulate and supervise the finances of all local governments in the state, was suggested today by the bureau of municipal research.

The suggestion is made to the commission on the revision of the state constitution meeting at Harrisburg. It was contained in a bulletin issued this morning by the bureau.

"Such a commission," the bureau stated, "could regulate and supervise the finances and accounts of the local governments in much the same manner as the public service commission regulates and supervises the finances and accounts of the public utilities.

"It could set up and enforce high standards of financing and accounting for the more than 500 local governments under its jurisdiction; could adopt clear-cut detailed regulations for the guidance and control of the local governments; could modify these regulations as frequently as conditions demanded; could advise and guide the local governments in matters of finance; could accomplish all that any amount of constitutional and statutory provisions could hope to accomplish; could put an end to the great mass of litigation that is constantly taking place in connection with local finance; in fact, could place Pennsylvania in the very front rank in all matters of local finance and accounts."

The bureau recommended that the commission on revision make an exhaustive a study of local finance, both in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

HE GOT AWAY WITH IT

Negro Raids South Street Stores. Captures "Dummy"

Every policeman and detective in Philadelphia is searching today for the boldest thief who has appeared for a long time.

After seizing a dummy clothed in a fur coat from in front of the store of Isaac Black, 1942 South street, the thief was hotly pursued, a policeman commandeering an automobile in the chase.

But the robber coolly paused in front of the store of Joseph Meinster, 931 South street, and stole another fur coat from a dummy. He eluded his pursuers, getting away with all of his booty. He is a negro.

The Cop on the Corner

"LAY down y' sauc'r o' tea an lissep t' this, Mike," says Maggie as she fumbles wit th' evenin' paper. "'Tis here re-lat'd that th' new Council o' Twinty-one is plannin' some surprises f'r th' taxpay'rs whin they orginizo."

"Let me in on some of thim," says I.

"One nov'lty gotten up be th' Rules Committee," says Maggie, "will be a c'mplete sten-o-graph'ic ricord of all that's said be th' new City Fathers."

"Many th' Saints protect us," gasps I. "What hav' th' peace lovin' cit'zens o' Philly done t' deserve sich a cruel fate. Its mesself thinks Hampy sh'ud git t' Francis Burch, chairman o' this misguided committ-ee and sthop 'im in his ne-fa-ri'us purpose. Does he not know th' mountin' cost o' print paper?

"It may be, Maggie, these new Coun-c'lmin plan t' surprise th' new Mayor wit' a miner'tur edi-shun o' the Congriss'nl Ricord. If one o' thim is afflict'd wit' a tick'lin' of th' t'roat or mayhap has had an dequment wit' his wife he has no taste t' speak. All he has t' do thin, under this new ruie, is t' write out a long-wind'd speech and beg leave t' print. Thin his guff appears in th' Ricord same as in Wash-'ngt'n."

"Still such ricords might help some," says Maggie. "Dan Crowley o' th' Fifth ward once tol' me of how th' Pinrose forces trac'd up th' ricord o' a Vare mimb'r of th' Legisla-toor. After a careful searchin o' th' proceedin's they could find no speeches but it were sit down in black 'n' white that one day while crossin' th' chamb'r floor this mimber accidint'lly thripped'd over a brass spit-pa-toon."

OPPOSE IRISH REPUBLIC

Ulster Society to Protest Against Recognition by United States

Opposition to the recognition of the "president of the Irish Republic" by the United States, will be voiced at a meeting of the Ulster Protestant Society tonight in the I. O. O. F. Hall, Broad and Filbert streets.

The speakers for the evening will be the Rev. Dr. George Worrel, supreme grand chaplain of the Loyal Orange Institution, and Samuel A. Wilson, president of the American Federation of Protestant Patriotic Societies.

Cuticura At Once Soothes Skin Troubles

First bathe the affected part with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Dry and gently rub on Cuticura Ointment. This treatment not only soothes, but in most cases heals distressing irritations and other skin troubles. Soap 25c. Ointment 25 and 50c. Talcum 25c. Sold throughout the world. For sample each free address, "Cuticura Laboratories, Dept. 6M, Maiden, Mass." ☞ Cuticura Soap shaves without mug.

Darlington's Chestnut St.

If you want Gifts costing not over $2.00, go to the Second Floor, where we have an entire section given over to inexpensive presents for men, women and children.

HOSIERY
Here is something new and it will please many women. Drop-stitch Silk Stockings in beautiful heather mixtures—$4.50.
Misses' Full-fashioned Silk Stockings (made by McCallum), black and white only—$2.00 and $2.25.
Children's White Silk Ribbed Hose, sizes 4 to 6½—$1.00 to $1.25; others in larger sizes—$1.25.
FIRST FLOOR

FOR BABY
Rattles, Toilet Sets and other novelties, also a complete line of the finest American-made and French garments.
SECOND FLOOR

LINGERIE
Silk Lingerie, Voile Lingerie, Philippine Lingerie, Nainsook Lingerie and the exquisite Paris-made Lingerie. A present any woman or girl will appreciate.
SECOND FLOOR

PERFUMES
Popular odors in the various forms from Coty, Houbigant, Rigaud and Miro-Dena; also Boxed Sachets and fancy Boxed Dorines.
FIRST FLOOR

LINENS
Cluny and Filet Scarfs, Towels, Madeira Tea Napkins in great variety—and we must not forget the popular Oil Cloth Sets at $1.75 and upward, attractively decorated, durable, washable.
FIRST FLOOR

3 Christmas Specials in Men's Gloves
One-clasp Tan Capeskin—$3.75.
For the man who drives his own car, Wool-lined Capeskin Gloves with strap wrist—$7.00.
Warm Wool Gloves, gray and heather—$1.25.

3 Christmas Specials in Women's Gloves
"Darlington Special" French PK Gloves; 1 clasp; white, black and colors—$3.25.
One-clasp Gray Mocha Gloves—$2.85.
French Kid Gloves in white only, value $3.25, for $2.75.

3 Christmas Specials for Children
Capeskin Gloves, warmly lined, tan and brown shades—$2.75.
Tan Suede Gloves with soft fleecy lining—$1.75.
Boys' Wool Gloves in brown and gray—$1.25.

FURS AND BLOUSES
Inexpensive Fur Pieces for women and girls, also Children's Sets, starting in price at $7.50.
Women's Blouses and Waists from $2.00 to $100.00—silk, cotton materials, linen. The handsome and distinctive Paris Blouses are worthy of special mention.
THIRD FLOOR

MOTOR ROBES
Warm, full-size Robes from $6.00 to $85.00; particularly good ones at $16.00 and $18.50.
First Floor, Third Floor

PETTICOATS
Silk Petticoats in the most wanted styles, materials and colorings at $5.95, $10.00, $15.00.
SECOND FLOOR

NECKWEAR
Women's Collars and Sets; Fur-cloth Muffs, Scarfs and Sets; Marabou pieces; Men's Ties at $1.50, $2.00 and $2.50.
FIRST FLOOR

RIBBONS
Hair Bows, boxed, $1.25; chic little Boutonnieres of fruit, berries and flowers; also many other novelties.
FIRST FLOOR

A distinctive piece of Furniture or a handsome Lamp is what many people would rather have than anything else. Such a gift can be purchased most advantageously here. Visit this section tomorrow and make your selection so there will be ample time for delivery.
FOURTH FLOOR

MERRY HOLIDAY THRONGS AT STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER'S

WHAT a wonderful city of smiles this is! The best of it is, every smile will grow broader and happier on Christmas morning—and added to the smiles of those who have helped to make up the jolly throng of shoppers will be the smiles of the shut-ins, of the folks too old and the tots too young to come to the Store, and of those who have been thinking they have little to smile over!

Oh, yes, it will be the merriest Christmas ever known! You can easily foretell that by looking into the happy faces and observing the thousands that are carrying parcels—and we wish to say that carrying parcels helps our delivery department wonderfully.

"Busy Buying Gifts"—No Excuse for a Man's Neglecting His Own Clothing Needs

No man can afford to neglect his appearance, and if—with the added task of holiday shopping to be attended to—he finds his moments unusually precious, all the more reason for selecting that needed new Suit or Overcoat here.

1—Complete and comprehensive stocks—the best selected in this city—insure easy, SATISFACTORY selection to meet your most critical requirements.

2—Plenty of courteous, competent salesmen to make your visit pleasant and satisfactory.

3—Prices unusually low, due to foresighted purchasing when prices at the source were considerably under recent levels.

Winter Suits

At $35.00—Young Men's Double-breasted Suits, in a number of new fabrics, in subdued or colorful effects.

At $40.00 — Men's Worsted Suits, in dark gray, brown and blue fabrics, conservative styles.

At $45.00 — Fine All-wool Winter Serge Suits, in dark blue; models for men and young men.

At $50.00—Hart, Schaffner & Marx Worsted and Cassimere Suits, in new patterns and styles.

At $50.00—Stein-Bloch Suits, for men and young men; new styles and handsome fabrics.

Winter Overcoats

At $35.00 — Ulsterette Overcoats, in attractive colorings, for young men.

At $55.00—Handsome Plaid-back Overcoats, in the popular form-fitting models.

At $40.00 — Ulster Overcoats, roomy, comfortable and well made.

At $75.00 — Stein-Bloch "Channel" Ulsters, of a rich, luxurious fabric.

At $85.00—Richard Austin & Company, LONDON, OVERCOATS, the most perfect-fitting English Coat we ever had.

At $100.00—Montagnac Overcoats, from Hart, Schaffner & Marx; full silk-lined.

Overcoats—Fur-lined or with Fur Collar

Hart, Schaffner & Marx Overcoats, lined with muskrat or marmot, at $245.00 and $350.00. Fur-lined Overcoats, from other reliable manufacturers, special at $77.50 and $145.00, and at $225.00. FUR-COLLAR Overcoats, at $47.50, $65.00 and $95.00. Many of these are being selected for gifts.

Men's and Young Men's Suits and Overcoats—Special at $26.50 and $36.50

Several hundred garments at close to—and in some instances even less than—present wholesale value. Handsome new styles and fabrics for men and young men.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Second Floor, East

Five Kinds of Silk Waists That Would Please

CREPE DE CHINE — so oddly tailored, flesh or white—$6.75 to $10.75.

CREPE GEORGETTE — exquisite in their new embroideries, odd beaded designs, or delicate touches of lace; white, flesh and dainty shades—$6.75 to $12.75.

WHITE CHINA SILK—Tucked and plaited in tailored styles—$6.00.

PONGEE WAISTS — Strictly shirt models or tucked in tailored effects—$3.75 to $6.00.

BLACK MESSALINE WAISTS—All in tailored styles, tucked or plaited, with collars that can be worn high or low—$5.75 to $8.50.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Second Floor, Centre

Corduroy Bath Robes A Gift Suggestion

Not only the cosiness of Corduroy Bath Robes, but the lovely coloring and the pretty styles have made them great favorites:

At $4.95—Of narrow-wale corduroy—in rose, Copenhagen blue or wistaria. One style with Raglan sleeves and shawl collar, or a collarless model with set-in sleeves, pocket and girdle.

At $6.95—A graceful model with rever collar pockets and girdle. Of rose, Copenhagen blue or wistaria wide-wale corduroy.

At $11.50—Bath Robes in picturesque cape effect with deep shawl collar, girdled in front, or a smart breakfast coat style, trimmed with fringe. Both models prettily lined.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Third Floor, Filbert Street, West

Everybody Comes to the Toy Store

Christmas is, first of all, the children's day, and the Toy Store is the liveliest, gayest part of the Store, with Santa Claus as its presiding genius. Tens of thousands of children have talked with him here, and each carries away a little story book and his promise to come to their homes with his pack on Christmas Eve. Come to the Toy Store to-morrow—help Santa Claus to make every child's dreams come true!

Big Dick Cannon—$3.00
Toddler Toys—$3.00 to $4.50
Alabama Jiggers—special at 50c
Artillery Sets—special, $1.25.

Shoo-fly Rocking Horses, $2.15
Samme Kars—special at $3.75
Swiss Music Boxes—90c to $7.50
Dolls' Bedsteads—50c to $15.00
Dolls' Cradles—75c to $2.50
Boys' and Girls' Rocking Chairs—$7.50 to $12.00

Lifelike Baby Dolls—$6.00
Bisque-head Infant Dolls—$4.00
Character Baby Dolls—$1.50
Galloping Horses—$7.50 to $13.75
Velocipedes, all sizes—$6.50 to $19.75
Coaster Express Wagons—$7.25
Velocipede Horse Bikes—$12.50 and $13.75
Toy Kitchen Cabinet Tables—$1.95

California Redwood Kindergarten Blocks—35c
Iron Christmas Tree Fences, $1.50
Ten Pins—$2.15 and $2.65 a set
Games — Bull in China Shop, $1.00; Le Choc, $1.25
Bowling Alleys—special at $1.25
Bagatelle Boards—90c to $4.50
Boy Ranger Cannon, with soldiers — $2.50
Small Cannon —special at 50c
American and French Lead Soldiers—50c to $17.50 a set

Strawbridge & Clothier—Fourth Floor

Smart Dresses for Women Requiring Sizes 42½ to 52½

Crepe de chine, satin and crepe Georgette-and-satin combinations, some on slender, straight lines, others with the fashionable long tunics so becoming to full figures. The bodices have the becoming little vestees, giving a narrow effect, and are finished with lace or crepe Georgette collar. Prices $25.00 to $40.00.

Satin and Crepe de Chine Dresses, Special, $22.50

In the regular sizes. Made in tunic and straight-line styles, one model of crepe de chine is trimmed with cascade fringe. Vestees or round neck-lines.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Second Floor, Market Street

Gifts for the Dearest of Them All

A whole tableful of BABY GIFT NOVELTIES, in dainty white and delicate pinks and blues:

Scores of Rattles, 50c to $1.75.
Coach Straps, $1.00 to $2.50.
Ribbon Holders, 65c and 95c.
Covered Hot Water Bags, $1.65.
Coat Holders, 50c.
Water Toys, 75c and $1.25.
Afghan Clamps, $1.95.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Third Floor, West

If You Intend to Give a Dainty Cotton Waist

We Suggest These, so Delicately Tinted or Touched with Color

Plain blue, pink, tan or lavender, with dainty white collar and cuffs embroidered in color; smart striped effects, or white with a gay little touch of color. All in the simple tailored and semi-tailored effects, with all kinds of smart collars. Prices $2.25 to $4.50.

Strawbridge & Clothier—Second Floor, Centre

STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER
MARKET STREET EIGHTH STREET FILBERT STREET

A Bottle of Water

pictures the magnitude and majesty of Niagara about as well as one poor, little newspaper cut illustrates

A Gathering of SIXTY Styles of Men's Shoes Selling at One Price.

9.85

If you know shoe values, and what they *are now* in other stores, this will set you thinking—*buying* when you see the goods.

All the leathers — including Newest Tans and Cordovans.

HALLAHAN'S GOOD SHOES
919-921 Market Street

4028-30 Lancaster Ave. 60th and Chestnut Sts. 5604-06 Germantown Ave. 2746-48 Germantown Ave.

All Stores Open Evenings Until Christmas

Our Store Will Be CLOSED TODAY

For the purpose of a special inventory we are conducting of our stock. Becker's have adopted a plan of merchandising that should revolutionize retail selling—it should prove a damaging factor to the high cost of living.

Millions of Dollars Will Be Saved by Philadelphians

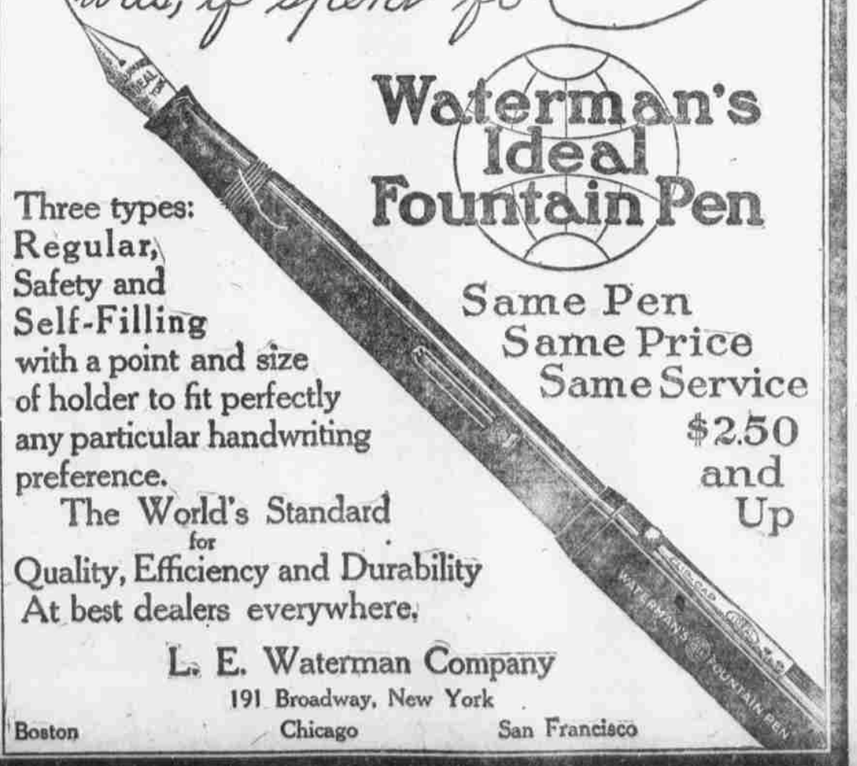
We cannot say more now—but watch for our plan in detail, which will be announced in this paper Friday, December 19, 1919.

These announcements appear in all Philadelphia newspapers, including the foreign-language press.

BECKER'S Quality Clothes
1514-16 Market Street

Your Christmas Dollars 1913 — 1919

The purchasing power of your 1919 dollar is just as big as your dollar of 1913 was, if spent for



Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen

Three types: Regular, Safety and Self-Filling with a point and size of holder to fit perfectly any particular handwriting preference.

The World's Standard for Quality, Efficiency and Durability At best dealers everywhere.

Same Pen Same Price Same Service $2.50 and Up

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