

City News

REFORM NOTE SOUNDED BY CONTROLLER BROWN

SUGGESTS CUTTING DOWN OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Communication Recommends that Public Work Be Out in Halves Until Revolving Fund Catches Up With Expenditures—Asks that Set Sum Govern Annual Drain on Fund.

Chairman W. E. Satterlee of the city council committee on ways and means has received a communication from City Controller Dan C. Brown giving in detail the condition of the revolving fund for the construction of permanent improvements, particularly paving, sewers and curbing.

This state of affairs has grown out of the practice of making improvements before the money is actually available and the exact cost determined. In his statement for the work last year, Mr. Brown shows that there was allowed by the board of tax levy for the city's portion on paving, sewer and curb work, the sum of \$1,070,000, which was added a balance of \$31,274 from the sale of permanent improvement bonds in 1905.

For this year there is supposed to be available for the city's portion \$1,250,000, but from which last year's deficit must be deducted, leaving only \$1,115,274 available. If there is as much work this year as last, and this seems to be contemplated, the deficit at the end of the year will exceed \$85,000.

The county auditor has spread on the books for collection this year assessments for sewers, paving and curbing, aggregating \$298,358. By over-expenditures there is a deficit of \$61,412, which leaves only \$246,862 available from the revolving fund. This, with the \$113,274 coming from the city's portion, leaves only \$360,221 to be expended in 1906.

Mr. Brown calls attention to the fact that the method of making appropriations from the revolving fund is very different from that originally intended and the result is that this fund of more than a million dollars has been depleted by more than \$500,000. Instead of waiting until the money is actually in the hands of the city treasurer, the city is now anticipating the payments which are expected to be made, and these expectations are rarely realized. This is wrong from a business standpoint and contrary to the provisions of the charter.

Mr. Brown recommends that the permanent improvements be cut down fully one-half for several years, or until the revolving fund contains enough for one year's work including the city's portion from the permanent improvement fund; that all revolving fund work be stopped absolutely for one year in order that the fund be built up where it should be; that the amount to be expended annually from the revolving fund be determined absolutely by the city controller and city engineer before any work is done; that the council shall not order improvements in excess of the amount found to be available.

To comply with these suggestions will not be a pleasant duty for the city council, in view of the clamor from all parts of the city for improvements. All the city fathers admit the necessity of reform, but do not relish the task.

Alderman Satterlee has called a meeting of the committee on ways and means for next week and at that time will interview the city controller at greater length. It will be a most important conference for the city, for it will undoubtedly have as one result a great diminution in the amount of public improvements for this year.

AN ITALIAN CELEBRATION.

Members of the order of Dante Alighieri and their families will celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of the organization of the order in the twin cities in St. Paul this evening at Central Annex hall, Sixth street West and Washington avenue. Speeches by prominent Italians of Minneapolis and St. Paul, followed by dancing will be the evening's program. Orchestra Cortese will furnish the music.

IMPROVED APPARATUS ADDED TO EQUIPMENT

Fire Department Soon to Own New Hook and Ladder Truck.

Chief J. R. Canterbury of the fire department has purchased one of the latest hook and ladder trucks on the market and it will probably be put into service by the close of the week.

The ladder is the product of one of the well-known companies in Chicago and is built on the most modern plans. It is eighty-five feet in length, which is the limit set by the large fire departments. Experiments have been made by nearly all the large companies and it has been learned that a ladder longer than that is unsafe and that ladders must be used above that height.

The new ladder is equipped with counter weights enabling two men to raise it to the full height in ten seconds. It will be placed at the Cataract station on the East Side and the one used there at present will be taken to the west side of the river.

Another ladder of the ordinary type is being made at the fire department shops at Third avenue S and Twelfth street. This ladder is not equipped with the new devices, but will be well made and will reach at least sixty-five feet.

Immediately after the West hotel fire, when the lack of ladders was so plainly shown, Chief Canterbury asked the council for money to purchase new ladders. The work has been rushed and both ladders will soon be ready for use.

"We still lack a few ladders," said Chief Canterbury, "and we should have a few more stations, but this new addition to the fighting apparatus will greatly strengthen the department."

DISCUSS LIVE TOPICS

Liberal Men's Club is New Organization in St. Paul.

Its purpose is to be the discussion of "live" public matters, the Liberal Men's club was organized in Huntington St. St. Paul, last night, by members of the Universalist and Unitarian churches of St. Paul.

Membership will not be restricted to any religious sect and the club will seek to interest a representative group of business men.

H. W. Childs, formerly attorney general of the state, was the speaker for the night, his subject being "Taxation." P. J. Smalley presided, and George J. Cooper was temporary secretary. These officers will continue in service until formal organization is effected at the next meeting.

JAPS HAVE NONE THE BEST OF U. S. NAVY

Hospital Ships of Mikado, if Anything, Are Inferior.

However much the army can learn about medical and sanitary science from the work of the Japanese medical staff in the Russo-Japanese war, the navy is fully abreast of the Japanese and perhaps a little in advance of them. This is the conclusion reached by Surgeon William C. Brainstead, who was sent by the navy department to observe the working of the Japanese marine surgeons.

In his report to the surgeon general, Dr. Brainstead says that the Japanese hospital ships are, if anything, inferior to those of the United States navy. This is the conclusion reached by Surgeon William C. Brainstead, who was sent by the navy department to observe the working of the Japanese marine surgeons.

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TAKES BROAD TOPIC

Dr. Montgomery Talks on Problems of Pain and Disease.

"The Problems of Pain and Disease," is the subject of Dr. Montgomery's sermon at the Fowler Methodist church this morning. This topic is a present day one and most interesting to the public generally.

In the evening Dr. Montgomery is announced to give his patriotic lecture on the subject "George Washington, the First American." He will dwell on the power of personal character in public affairs and the secret of the marvelous strength of Washington, the first president and the greatest actor in the revolutionary drama.

Miss Frances Vincent, the talented young soprano, will render "Star Spangled Banner." The Rapid Transit company gives splendid service for the accommodation of the Fowler crowds, giving from four to six special cars each Sunday.

GAME IS PROFITABLE

Minneapolis Man Said to Find North Dakota Farmers Easy.

William Shannon, formerly proprietor of the Windsor hotel, at First avenue N and Washington, is accused by the police of Kansal, N. D., of conducting a big mitt game there and swindling several farmers out of amounts varying from \$75 to \$200.

Shannon is said to have worked his game for several days, and his victims were too proud to tell of their losses. One man, however, was brave enough to admit that he was easy and told the police. As a result Shannon was ordered out of town.

TO GATHER THE NEWS OF A STATE BY PHONE

IOWA INDEPENDENT COMPANIES TO INVADE TELEGRAPHIC FIELD.

Will Arrange to Secure and Distribute News to Newspapers Along Lines of Larger Press Associations—Minneapolis Telephone Officials Think Plan is Feasible.

Invasion of the telegraphic field, in a more general way than ever before, is possible, thru a new use to be made of the telephone. While in a limited way newspapers now receive the news of the day from their country correspondents by telephone, and while, when the telegraph wires are down, the telephone is resorted to by the large newspaper organizations, this plan has never been perfected.

Gathering the news of central Iowa by telephone instead of by mail and telegraph is the innovation proposed by one of the big independent telephone companies of that part of the state. The plan as outlined by the company promises early fulfillment and includes the employment of a newsgatherer at each point touched by the line, the duty of this employee being to gather and transmit to central points the news suitable for the daily papers of the state.

The entire service will be in charge of a competent newspaper man, and operated much on the same plan as the other newsgathering agencies. It is figured that a dozen cities in Iowa now have evening papers that could be supplied by this service, and in a more expeditious, as well as more thorough, manner than at present. It is cited that in the event the service proves satisfactory it might be extended to reach papers in Omaha, St. Louis and Chicago, as well as the twin cities.

Use Telephone Now.

Twin city daily papers resort to the two telephone systems daily to procure news from their correspondents. Newsgatherers who have their daily "string" of happenings to send in call up the northwest editor every day. When a murder or some disaster, or an item of important commercial news, is to be reported, the telephone system is very satisfactory, inasmuch as it enables the editor to ask questions on points which the correspondent has failed to mention.

A regular news bureau would be simply an elaboration of the use that the telephone system is now put to. News would be collected from the regular correspondents in all points on the list, and would be "cleared" thru the central bureau to all subscribers to the bureau.

Elder H. Moulton, president of the Tri-State Telephone company, the independent system, pronounced the plan entirely feasible. He had not heard of the scheme being applied on the system, but he believed it to be satisfactory and possible.

H. J. Pettengill, president of the Northwestern Telephone Exchange company, said:

"In a great many localities in different parts of the United States the newspapers themselves use the telephone for collecting news, and they have arrangements with their correspondents to call them up every day. Whether this would be a possible plan for the whole of the United States I am not sure, but for local purposes I consider it entirely feasible."

STATE LOANS

School Fund Loaned to School Districts and Counties.

School district loans amounting to \$60,000 and county drainage bond loans coming to \$46,000 were made from the permanent school fund today by the state board of investment. Of the ditch loans Benton county got about \$20,000; Morrison, \$15,000; Mills, \$4,500, and Douglas, \$4,500.

The question was raised as to the method of making county ditch loans. George T. Simpson, assistant attorney general, advised the board that they might be serviced either on auditors' certificates or on engineers' estimates.

DIAMOND FOR SITTLE

Departing Employee of Eitel-German Honored by Fellows.

C. J. Sittle, who has been with the Eitel-German Drug company for five years, has accepted a position in Kansas City, and will leave shortly for his new home. Last evening he was guest of honor at a banquet at a downtown cafe, and was presented by E. A. Fuge, secretary of the company, with a diamond pin, the gift of his fellow employees. Present at the banquet were C. M. Keenley, J. H. Reynolds, R. German, H. N. Haines, R. C. Bradley, C. A. Schmidt, M. Thompson, R. E. Kron, E. C. Oakley, J. C. Fee, C. Sievers, S. Jones and Mr. Fuge.

SURVEY OF STATE'S LANDS NEARLY DONE

Engineer Ralph Reports to Drainage Board—To Extend Gun Lake Ditch.

At a meeting of the state drainage board at the capitol Saturday afternoon, George H. Ralph of Crookston, engineer of the commission, presented a report of his survey of all state lands in the northern part of the state.

He reported he expected to have the work of surveying 70,000 acres of state lands completed by June 1. This land is scattered thru St. Louis, Itasca, Beltrami, Clearwater, Roseau, Kitson, Marshall, Becker, Wadena, Cass, Aitkin and Carlton counties. His work is already completed except in the northern part of Itasca, and in St. Louis county.

"The work of surveying has been much simplified by doing it in winter," reported Mr. Ralph, "as the swamps are all frozen and may be traveled over in perfect safety."

The commission received a petition to extend the Gun Lake state ditch lands to drain 900 more acres of state lands, as well as other property. Bids were ordered called for by the commission that the work may be done as soon as spring breaks. The estimated cost is \$800.

A petition was received for a new ditch in Clearwater county. The Clearwater ditch would cost \$8,000, and as the commission has not this amount of money to spend, it was laid over till a later meeting.

LOCATES PLUNDER

South Side Boy Tells Police Location of Stolen Goods.

South Side policemen are getting valuable experience as junk dealers these days, owing to the willingness of Fred Fred to show up in Minneapolis where a South Side gang had planted stolen articles.

Fred was arrested Wednesday night and found guilty in the juvenile court the following day. He was released on condition that he would show up everything that had been stolen by the gang.

After a day's work in following him to the collection, the police ended their work with a valuable collection which Captain Sinclair dealt out to the original owners yesterday. In the collection were six pairs of skis, seven sleds, several pairs of gloves and bedroom sets stolen from stores along Cedar avenue.

Fred says that he hid the stuff hidden in sheds and cellars near the station and that as soon as he can get a line on it he will turn it all over to the police. The police, who have been compelled to follow him, hope that he is at the end of his string, for most of them have lame backs carrying the junk to the station.

KENTUCKY LEGISLATURE WANTS GOPHER ADVICE

Asks Insurance Commissioner O'Brien to Instruct It on Insurance.

T. D. O'Brien, state insurance commissioner, was invited Saturday to visit Frankfort, Ky., and explain the insurance situation to the Kentucky legislature, and make suggestions for desirable and needed legislation for the control of insurance in that state.

The invitation came from Insurance Commissioner Henry R. Prewitt of Kentucky and is taken at the Minnesota capitol as a compliment to Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien, however, is unable to accept the invitation. Saturday afternoon he was suffering from an attack of tonsillitis, and on consulting his physician, was told not to attempt to make the trip to Kentucky.

Insurance Commissioner Zeno M. Host of Wisconsin, who has also been invited to go to Kentucky, on being urged by Mr. O'Brien, will make the journey. Mr. O'Brien has written Commissioner Prewitt a long letter outlining his opinions.

20 GIRLS INJURED IN FATAL EXPLOSION

Hercules Powder Plant Blows up and Three Men Are Killed.

By Publishers' Press. Louisiana, Mo., Feb. 17.—In an explosion at the Hercules powder plant, eighteen miles north of here today three men were killed and twenty girls injured.

The explosion occurred in the punching house, which is equipped with machinery, and the debris from this structure demolished the old punching house, where a number of women and boys were at work.

The Hercules plant is one of the largest dynamite manufacturing in the country. It produces one-fourth of the output of the United States last year.

COUNT THE YEARS

The eighth anniversary of the Swedish hospital will be celebrated Tuesday evening in the Swedish tabernacle, Eighth avenue and Seventh street S. An interesting program has been arranged. The principal addresses will be made by the Rev. A. F. Elmquist, Ph.D., in English, and the Rev. Olof Bodien, in Swedish. This meeting will be of especial interest to all friends of the hospital, which is now the most successful institution of its kind in the city. There is no admission fee.

RINKER SUGGESTS PLAN TO GET BEST MATERIALS

WOULD HAVE TEST LABORATORY FOR PAVING, ETC.

City Engineer Declares It is Absolutely Necessary that City Provide Own Laboratory, and Says Such an Institution Should Be Self-Supporting—Dr. Hall Indorses Plan.

City Engineer Andrew Rinker is preparing a communication to the city council recommending the establishment of a municipal testing laboratory for the purpose of testing cement, brick and other paving and sewer material.

"Minneapolis has reached the state when a complete municipal chemical and testing laboratory is a necessity," said Mr. Rinker today. "At the present time the city engineer's department maintains a cement testing plant at the sewer department warehouse. We are obliged to go to the chemist of the health department for our water analyses, and to the state university for our analyses of crocoite, asphalt and oil."

"The building inspector is about to establish a cement testing plant for his department. The health department, in addition to analyzing water and milk, also analyzes and tests coal and many other things. All this work should be done under one department, as it can be more economically conducted in that manner and a more systematic record of analyses and tests could be kept."

Self Sustaining.

"I have no intention whatever of interfering with any other department in making this suggestion. Personally I care not under which head the laboratory is placed, but it should be complete and do the entire work of the city."

"I am satisfied that such a laboratory would be self-sustaining. This department does a great deal of work for private concerns, for which they would gladly pay, as it is very essential for their business. Not only do local purchasers of cement call for our tests, but many country dealers as well. Thousands of barrels of cement are used in this city every year, and a small fee on each barrel, say 2 cents, would bring in considerable revenue. In addition there would be haulies of water, coal, etc."

Dr. P. M. Hall heartily approved of the plan when it was broached to him and suggested that such a department should be consolidated with that of the gas inspector, one of whose principal duties is to analyze gas and gasoline and test street lights.

ACCORDING TO CUSTOM

North High Seniors Will Give Annual Entertainment.

The present senior class of North high will give the sixteenth annual senior entertainment in the school auditorium on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 21. For many years it has been the custom of the graduating class to leave behind it some memorial, either useful or ornamental, preferably both, and the proceeds of the senior entertainment are always devoted to that purpose.

The affair is in charge of a committee composed of Easdar Smith, chairman; John Oswald, Fredes Duffey and Hazel Witche. The program is a good one, among the more prominent entertainers being Claude Madden, violinist; J. L. Hjort, tenor; W. L. Nolan, humorist; the Minnesota quartet; Miss Williams, dramatic reader.

ASSIGNEE IS THRU

Order is Filed Winding Up Affairs of Richards-Lundeen Co.

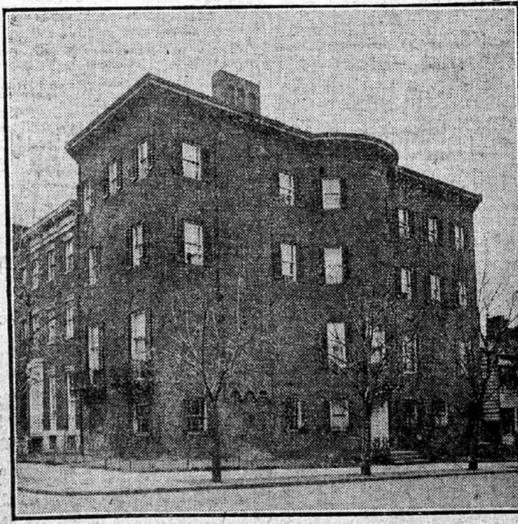
The judges of the district court yesterday filed an order allowing the final account of the assignee of the Richards-Lundeen company, thus winding up affairs of the concern that have been in the district court for over two years.

By the order filed yesterday the assignee, Nils O. Werner, was allowed \$12,000 for his services, and the attorneys, A. Ueland and John Lind, were allowed \$3,000 in addition to the fees already paid them. According to the final account there remains, in round numbers, \$115,000 to be distributed among several hundred creditors.

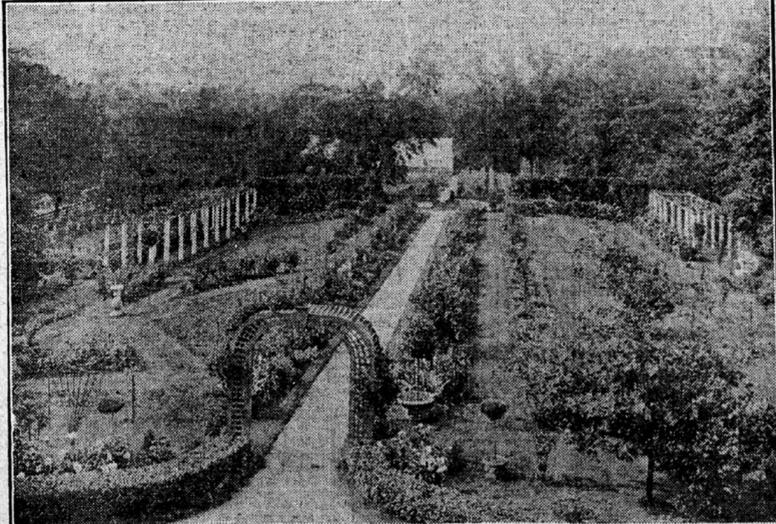
SHILOH DEDICATION SET

Wisconsin Monument Will Be Unveiled April 17.

Notice has been received that the Wisconsin Shiloh monument will be dedicated April 17. It is the desire of the commission that a good number of the veterans of the Fourteenth, Sixteenth and Eighteenth Wisconsin regiments of infantry that participated in the memorable battle of Shiloh be present when the monument is unveiled. Many of these veterans now live in Minnesota.



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