

# REPORT BY SENATOR BROWN ON DETAILS OF GAS BUSINESS

(Continued from First Page.)

"Third. That the company availed itself of that portion of section 6 (since repealed) of the 1885 act authorizing it to convert percentage of indebtedness in the sum of \$200,000 into capital stock.

"Fourth. That the certificates of indebtedness were issued without any express authority of law; their validity and so much of the capital stock as they represent is therefore open to serious question.

"Fifth. If certificates of indebtedness represent no actual indebtedness due from the company but, in fact, represent earnings and profits, they operate as an unauthorized increase of capital stock in violation of law."

### Earnings of Company.

"On the price of gas the report says: 'The last annual report of the company made to Congress, February 1, 1910, purporting to give a detailed statement of its business for the year ending December 31, 1909, shows the net earnings, after deducting operating expenses to be \$96,312.74. This was 12 per cent plus on a capitalization of \$790,000, assuming the certificates of indebtedness to be a part of the capitalization. If we exclude the certificates of indebtedness, a net earning of 24 per cent plus on the actual capital stock is reported by the company.

"It goes without argument that such a net income is excessive unless the facts shall disclose that the actual value of the plant and the actual amount invested is far greater than its capital stock.

"On page 2 of the report, it appears that what is called a regular dividend of \$200,000 had been paid to the stockholders, also, an 'extra' dividend of \$200,000 or, in all, 20 per cent plus in dividends during the year. In addition to these dividends, the company expended \$20,000 in extensions, constructions, etc., and had left a surplus of \$28,555.02.

### Keeping Dividends Down.

"When this report of the company for 1909 is considered in connection with its history since 1884, as shown on the legislative journals of Congress, and as shown by the various reports of Congressional committees, it would seem to be the duty of Congress to inquire fully into the affairs of the company.

"From the hearings had by former committees of Congress and from their reports it may be learned that the dividends kept pace with every increase in the earnings of the company. It appears to have been unable to increase the capital stock fast enough to keep the dividends at a reasonable rate on their face.

"The treasurer of the company in a letter to the Hon. Samuel J. Randall, in 1881, declared that the thirty-one and one-half years, the average of gas and stock dividends had been 15.8-10 per cent. After 1881 the dividends seem to have averaged much higher, 19 per cent in 1882, 20 per cent in 1883, 22 per cent in 1884, 20 per cent in 1885, although the company earned 17 per cent, according to the Spence report.

### Regulation of Prices.

"On February 3, 1890, the company, in answer to an inquiry, informed Congressman J. W. Babcock that the company had paid in the year 1889 dividends in the sum of \$60,000 or more than 20 per cent on its capital stock, and he remaining much higher, 19 per cent. It must be conceded that Congress has the power to regulate the charge for gas. How can Congress regulate the power with justice to the company and the public in the absence of information touching the facts sought to be elicited by this inquiry?

"The company is entitled to a fair and reasonable return on its investment; the value of the investment in dollars must be known in order to determine what would be a fair and reasonable return. 'This return must be paid by the public from every standpoint, the inquiry should be ordered.

"Again, the inquiry should be ordered to the end that any corporation engaged in the capitalization of all public service corporations may be declared established by Congress and subject to the jurisdiction of all corporations subject to its jurisdiction. The company under discussion and its subsidiaries to Congress an immediate opportunity to declare a wise and prudent public policy in respect to capitalization of corporations generally. The opportunity should not be lost."

## MEYER TAKES HAND IN MARINES CASE

### Secretary of Navy Promises to Send Views to Committee.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer promised today to send to the House and Senate Committee on Naval Affairs this afternoon an urgent request that they report, favorably, the department's bill preventing places of amusement from refusing admittance to marines or any man wearing the uniform of the United States.

"This is the direct result of the incident of last week at Chase's Theater, when that house refused to admit to one of its performances Corporal Powell and Private Algase of the Marine Corps.

Mr. Meyer had a conference with the President today and it is understood that Mr. Taft is not only in sympathy with Mr. Meyer's action in the matter, but has promised to use the Administration's influence for the prompt passage of the bill.

Senator Chamberlain today introduced a bill in the Senate making it a misdemeanor to discriminate against the uniform of the army, navy, Marine Corps, or the National Guard. The bill was the result of the Chase Theater incident a few days ago.

It is provided in the bill that any discrimination in the District or in the Territories against those who wear the uniform of the army, navy, Marine Corps, or the National Guard is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50, or one year's imprisonment, or both. The discrimination is defined under the provision to the bill as a misdemeanor.

Any person in uniform, applying to any firm or corporation in the District for admission to a public theater, and offering to pay the usual prices, must be admitted under the proposed law. Any refusal on account of the uniform subjects the theater people to the penalty.

### Meyer Awaits Report.

Secretary of the Navy Meyer is awaiting a report from the Judge Advocate General of the department before taking definite action in the matter of the expulsion of two marines from Chase's Theater.

The judge advocate general's office will be ready to report what steps can be taken against the theater as soon as the report is received and read the reports of the two ejected marines. These two men, Corporal Powell and Private Al-



SENATOR NORRIS BROWN.

gase, are at work today on their reports of the treatment they received when they were denied admission to the theater.

Mr. Meyer is still determined to do everything possible to compel the theater to admit the Marines in uniform whenever they choose to buy tickets to the theater.

P. B. Chase today endorsed the bill introduced in Congress by Representative Hobson, proposing to regulate dress in theaters and making the admission of men wearing uniforms compulsory if their behavior was good.

Chase Will Not Oppose.

"I will not oppose the measure," Mr. Chase said, "it will relieve the management of the leading play houses in Washington of any further responsibility in the matter.

"I have always been an advocate of clean amusements and the closing of theaters on Sunday," Mr. Chase said, "I believe these two questions more deeply interest Washington than the question of dress."

## AERONAUT'S MEMORY WILL BE HONORED

### Former Associates of Selfridge to Place Tablet at Monument's Base.

When the monument to be erected at Arlington in memory of Lieut. Thomas E. Selfridge is unveiled there will be placed at its base a bronze tablet commemorative of the life and work of the young officer who lost his life at Fort Myer, Va., September 17, 1908. The tablet is a tribute of affection from the associates of Lieut. Selfridge in the Signal Corps of the army and from other friends.

Lieutenant Selfridge is the first and only United States army officer to lose his life for the cause of aeronautics. He was one of the best informed men in the Signal Corps on this subject, and his knowledge of aeronautics had made him a recognized authority on that science.

Lieutenant Selfridge was studying aeronautics with a view to applying his knowledge for the benefit of the Signal Corps. He met death from an accident which occurred when, with Orville Wright, he made an aeroplane flight at Fort Myer September 17.

The young officer was a member of the Aeronautical Experiment Association formed by Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, of telephone fame, and was also a member of the Aero Club of America. He was born in California in 1882, and was graduated from West Point in 1902. In April, 1908, he was assigned to duty with the Signal Corps of the army. His father is a prominent business man of California.

## IRON AIR CRAFT BUILT IN GERMANY

TRIER, Germany, March 14.—An immense iron air cruiser to carry from fifty to sixty persons or ten tons of freight, traveling from forty-four to fifty miles an hour, is approaching completion here, and will be launched early.

FOR **Sore Throat AND Cold in Chest** USE **Omega Oil**

It reduces the inflammation that causes the trouble. Trial bottle 10c.

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"THE DEPARTMENTAL BANK"  
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Open daily from 8:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m., Saturdays, 8:30 a. m. to 12 p. m., and from 6 p. m. to 8 p. m.

## DISMISSAL THREATS ARE NOT HEEDED

### Labor's Move to Extend Philadelphia Strike Has Failed, Employers Say.

### MANY BODIES REFUSE TO QUIT

### Employers Talk of Long Shut-Down—Five Policemen Dead, Is Rumor.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., March 14.—That efforts of labor to starve Philadelphia into forcing the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company to arbitrate and thus end the general strike, have failed, is asserted by many. Grocery stores, milk depots and bakeries are running. Not 10 per cent of the employees of these establishments belong to unions, it is declared.

Hundreds of striking mill employees in the Kensington district have returned to their looms and a number of hosiery, yarn, cotton goods, textile and carpet plants have reopened.

The belief is growing among conservative business men that the worst of the strike is over. While strike leaders deny this statement, there seems to be ground for belief that there is discussion among the union men themselves that may lead many to go back to work.

The Central Labor Union's almost revolutionary action is regarded as a desperate effort to win.

Action Is Drastic.

It withdrew all "dispensations" and ordered every union to quit by tonight or be dismissed from the Central Labor Union.

It requested every labor union and union man to withdraw all money from banks, because bankers are aiding the street car companies.

It called upon every man employed in furnishing food to quit work immediately.

It ordered every union to demand a readjustment of wage scale, regardless of existing contracts.

The brewery workers, numbering 10,000, and one of the strongest in the city, refused to quit, because permission was not granted by their international organization. The Typographical Union refused to quit. Numbers of other unions refused to strike.

They may be discharged from the Central Labor Union, but declare this does not affect their union standing, as they are affected with the American Federation of Labor through their international organizations.

No Runs, Say Banks.

Banks and savings institutions all over the city report emphatically that there have been no runs today and no withdrawals of accounts beyond the ordinary day's business. They expect some unions to withdraw union accounts, but say individual accounts are undisturbed.

Many strikers returned to work today at Baldwin's locomotive works. Figures were refused by the management, which declared the plant now able to run full time. Only 1,500 of Baldwin's strikers

## SUCCESS OF ORGANIZERS IS AWAITED BY GOMPERS

### Labor Leader Will Not Go to Scene of Trouble in Philadelphia Until He Is Satisfied Organizer Can Accomplish Nothing.

Before going to Philadelphia himself to take a personal hand in the general strike there, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation, intends to send a squad of his best organizers there to see what they can accomplish in the way of bringing victory to the cause.

Organizer Pierce is due in Philadelphia today, and will address a large mass meeting tonight, which is expected to last all night. Tomorrow, Organizers Wyatt and Flynn, who are now at South Bethlehem, Pa., in connection with the steel workers' strike, will go to Philadelphia, and before the end of the week a dozen of these men—paid by the federation and experienced in all sorts of strikes and organizing work, will be on the scene of action in the Quaker City.

Mr. Gompers today, said he had not determined when he will go to the scene of the strike, but strongly intimated that he would go within a day or so unless the organizers meet with such success that his presence will not be necessary.

The report that many of the men who are "out" on the general strike in Philadelphia, are losing their enthusiasm and are beginning to desert the ranks of labor and are going back to work, was emphatically denied at the offices of the American Federation of Labor today.

According to one official who is in a position to know whereof he speaks, the condition is just the contrary. He cited the case where half of the force of the Deacon Saw Works, has "gone out" over Saturday, and that reports have been received to the effect that other men, who have been working since the call for the general strike, will go out today and tomorrow.

It is also considered certain at the local headquarters that the general strike throughout Pennsylvania, as has been rumored, will be called within a few days unless the situation in Philadelphia changes in the meantime to the satisfaction of organized labor.

Secretary Morrison, of the Federation, has received several letters within the past two days from the Pennsylvania organizer who has been speaking throughout that State in reference to the general State strike, and it is understood that Mr. Morrison has been informed as to the possibilities of this move, and that the issuance of the call simply awaits the word from the federation.

Police Make Raid Upon Pool Room

Proprietor Forfeits Deposit When Charged With Permitting Gambling.

With only a dim light burning, casting flickering shadows of a company of men seated around a green-covered table, with real money chinking now and then, and the occasional dull dropping of little round checks on the propped-up table, uninvited guests came through the back door of the pool room at Lawrence P. Higgins, at 270 K street northwest. "I'll raise you ten," said Higgins.

"Make it twenty-five," came back Policeman T. B. Scanlon. Higgins thought at first it was a bluff, but he saw the raise, and covered it at the third precinct station with \$25 collateral, which he forfeited in Police Court this morning, when charged with permitting the operation of a gambling table.

Sergeant John Evans, Policeman T. B. Scanlon and J. R. Stringfellow made the raid on the place Sunday morning at 5 o'clock. There was a hurried shuffling of feet, also of cards, but not in the usual way, the dropping of money and a precipitate departure of six men through the windows when the officers got into the room. Five men were captured, but were not required as witnesses.

## What Congress Did IN THE SENATE.

SEN. JAMES F. OYSTER appeared before the special committee to investigate the cost of living.

SENATOR BROWN made the report from the Committee on Corporations Organized in the District of Columbia, in favor of a sweeping investigation of the Washington Gaslight Company.

SENATOR CHAMBERLAIN will attempt to have the resolution referred to the District Committee.

SENATOR CHAMBERLAIN introduced a bill for the purpose of compelling theaters to respect the uniform of the army and navy, and Marine Corps.

A number of District bills were passed today.

## IN THE HOUSE.

The House met at noon.

Immediate consideration of District bills was begun and several District measures passed.

## RAILWAY WORKERS READY FOR STRIKE

### Twenty-five Thousand Await Answer to Their Ultimatum.

CHICAGO, March 14.—Representatives of 25,000 members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers are awaiting a reply today from managers of the forty-nine Western railroads to their ultimatum demanding arbitration of every point of difference.

The managers offered Saturday to arbitrate the question of a wage increase but refused to submit questions involving the authority of railroad officials and the discipline of employes to mediators.

In a letter to W. C. Nixon, chairman of the general managers' committee, President W. S. Carter, of the Brotherhood of Firemen, sought to place the responsibility for a general strike, which appears inevitable, upon the managers. Carter emphatically denied the managers' statement that the whole controversy cannot be submitted to an arbitrating committee. He says the 25,000 members of the brotherhood will strike rather than yield any point in the dispute.

A majority of the members have already voted to strike. Carter would not say when such a strike would be effective if it is decided to call it.

Chairman Nixon believes there will be no strike.

## DONATION IS MADE TO HEBREW COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, March 14.—A single donation of \$5,000 toward the building of the proposed new Hebrew Union College on Clifton avenue, this city, was the first fruit of an address recently delivered by the president of the college, Dr. Kaufman Koster, in Temple Beth-el, New York city. News of the donation was received today by Secretary Isaac Bloom.

## NURSING MOTHERS

show the beneficial effects of **Scott's Emulsion** almost immediately. It not only builds up but enriches the mother's milk and properly nourishes the child.

Nearly all mothers who nurse their children should take this splendid food- tonic, not only to keep up their own strength but for the benefit of the child as well.

ALL DRUGGISTS

Send 2c. name of paper and this ad. for our beautiful Savings Bank and Child's Sketch Book. Each book contains a Good Luck Penny.

SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl St., N. Y.

## AN OCCASION OF IMPORTANCE

# The Smoot-Coffey Co. Inc. Announce the Opening

### Of Their Improved Store for Tuesday, March 15th

And the balance of the week at hand, and extend to their friends, former patrons, and the public generally a cordial invitation to attend.

Many departments have been rearranged for the convenience of patrons, and the entire store redecorated. Upon this occasion we shall make

## A Notable Exhibit of Novelties and Exclusive Ideas for Women's Wear

The high character of the merchandise invariably offered by this house is well known, but attention is directed to the broader scope of the stocks in the various departments.

## Exceptional Values in Quality Merchandise

will be placed on sale Tuesday morning to add interest to the opening. We cannot guarantee how many days these lots will last, but when sold they will be replaced by others equally as important.

<p><b>Women's Tailored Suits,</b> In serges and mannish worsted fabrics. Specially priced at <b>\$2.50 and \$25</b></p> <p><b>Women's Lingerie Waists,</b> Beautiful models. Value, <b>\$2.25</b>, \$3.00, at <b>\$2.25</b></p> <p>A FINE ALL-WOOL SERGE, in black, navy and white; 50 inches wide and the usual \$1.25 quality. Opening price, per yard <b>\$1.00</b></p> <p>40-INCH WHITE LAWN; 20c quality. Per yard <b>12 1/2c</b></p> <p>WOMEN'S PURE SILK HOSE, black only, with linen soles and garter tops. \$1.25 value. Opening price, per pair <b>95c</b></p>	<p><b>Irish Lace Neckwear.</b> Cleverly Designed Jabots with real Irish lace trimming—a special purchase for the opening. <b>85c to \$8.50 each.</b></p> <p><b>45-INCH ALL-WOOL MERCERIZED BATISTE;</b> extra value. <b>15c</b> per yard</p> <p><b>WOMEN'S ONE-CLASP GLACE GLOVES;</b> pique sewing; black and white, with stitching in self and contrasting colors. <b>\$1.50</b> quality, at <b>\$1.00</b></p> <p><b>WOMEN'S 25c HANDKERCHIEFS,</b> with scalloped edges and hand-embroidered corners. <b>19c</b> very dainty; opening price <b>19c</b></p> <p>A FINE 36-INCH PERCALE; 15c quality. Per yard <b>12 1/2c</b></p> <p>50c SATIN SASH RIBBON, 7 inches wide, in white, pink, blue, lilac, Nile, Alice blue and black. A desirable quality and the best colors. Opening price, per yard <b>29c</b></p>	<p><b>The Metal Laces</b> Will be offered in various grades—gold, silver and bronze effects—"Chantecler" and other designs.</p> <p><b>Specially Priced.</b></p> <p><b>NOVELTIES IN PARASOLS;</b> specially priced at <b>\$5.00</b></p> <p><b>WOMEN'S MERCERIZED SILK VESTS;</b> 75c quality. For the opening <b>50c</b></p> <p><b>WOMEN'S PURE SILK VESTS,</b> with hand-embroidered edges. Sold usually at \$1.25 and \$1.50. For the opening <b>\$1.00</b></p> <p><b>COLORED SILK WAISTS,</b> in stripe and check taffetas; very charming styles; special for the opening <b>\$5.00</b></p> <p><b>WOMEN'S 35c AND 50c LISLE HOSE,</b> in tan, black and colors. Per pair <b>25c</b></p>	<p><b>The New "Shedwater" Foulard Silks</b> texture unexcelled and designs of merit; the foulard which actually sheds water. Sold throughout the country at 85c a yard. Opening price <b>75c</b> A FINER GRADE, \$1.00 PER YARD.</p> <p><b>Shantung Brilliant</b> for summer suits; great variety of new shades; \$1.50 quality. For the opening, per yard <b>\$1.00</b></p> <p><b>CLARK'S O. N. T. SPOOL COTTON, KING'S 500-YARD BASTING COTTON and BARBOUR'S 3-CORD LINEN THREAD;</b> all 5c spools. <b>2 FOR 5c</b></p> <p><b>6c PAPERS MON-ARCH PINS.</b> <b>3 FOR 10c</b></p>
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## The SMOOT-COFFEY CO. Inc., 1216 F Street Northwest