

VOL. CXXXI—No. 73

MAYOR FISHER IS AVERSE TO REPORT

Opposes Granting Privileges to Postal Telegraph Cable Co.

DELINQUENT IN TAXES

Corporation Claims Immunity From License, and Suggests That Case Be Tried in Court

The city fathers were in session about an hour last night. Most of the business was of a general nature, which will be found in the official proceedings.

Board of Aldermen.

Six Aldermen were present last night. But little new business came before the board.

President Field introduced a resolution, which was referred to the committee on light, providing for placing incandescent lights in Fayette alley, at its intersection with Lee and Union streets.

The committee on light reported adversely on a resolution introduced by Mr. Brockett in the Common Council providing for the erection of an arc light at the intersection of Cameron and Washington streets. Messrs. Fitzgerald and Brill stated that it would cost \$75 a year to maintain the light, while there were now two gas lights at the intersection. Besides people owning property in the locality had protested against the erection of poles, which would be indispensable should Council order an arc light for the intersection.

Mr. Ballenger suggested that a new contract would soon be made with the Alexandria County Lighting Company, and moved that the resolution be recommitted to the committee.

This was favored by Mr. Wilkins, but opposed by Messrs. Fitzgerald and Brill. Upon a vote being taken the motion was lost by the following vote: Ayes, Messrs. Ballenger, Wilkins and Mr. President—3. Noes, Messrs. Brill, Robinson and Fitzgerald. The report of the committee was then adopted.

The Aldermen concurred in the action of the Common Council upon all papers sent in.

COMMON COUNCIL

The Common Council disposed of a number of matters which have been before the body for some time, final action being taken on the ordinance to set aside \$67,000 for public improvements in the newly annexed territory which is equal to 12 per cent. of the value of the real estate in the district at the time the annexation was made, as well as the ordinance providing for the issuance of \$70,000 annexation bonds to provide the funds for this purpose.

The only flurry in last night's proceedings was caused by the reading of a letter from Mrs. Margaret V. Prettyman, of 122 north Pitt street, asking that the Duncan Stables, at Cameron and Pitt streets, be prohibited from keeping wagons and carriages standing in front of their premises and using the streets for hitching and unhitching their teams.

Councilman Brumback stated that there was already sufficient law on the subject, and said that all that was needed was to have the matter referred to the proper officials to see that the law is carried out. He moved that the communication be laid on the table. The remainder of council did not agree with him, and his motion was defeated.

A resolution by Councilman Bryan that the matter be referred to the committee on streets and general laws was passed.

The placing of signs at the street corners to denote the names of the streets, a subject that has been hanging in city council for more than a third of a century was brought to a head last night, when the street committee reported on a resolution to have the work done. The committee stated that it would cost \$146.50 to have the streets in the central portion of the city labeled and \$408 for all the streets of the city. The majority of council favored the first

proposition, and Councilman Wattles presented a new resolution providing for the expenditure of \$146.50. This went to the committee on streets and general laws.

Mayor Fisher returned without his approval, the report of the committee on streets granting the Postal Telegraph and Cable Co., the right to remove certain poles within the city limits on the ground that the company had not paid its city license of 50 per annum for 2 years. The veto was sustained.

Councilman Bryan introduced a resolution providing that the committee on light and general laws should examine into and report on the electric light franchise between the city and E. E. Mandeville and successors, the first ten-year period of which will expire in a few months. The resolution was adopted.

FRIGHTFUL WRECK

At Least Fifteen People Killed When Three Trains Crash Together.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 29.—At least fifteen persons were killed and 30 persons injured, some of them fatally, when three crack trains of the New York Central railroad—one of them the Twentieth Century Limited—crashed together in a fog, one mile west of Amherst, Ohio, early today.

All the dead and injured were passengers of the first section of east-bound train No. 86, New York Central officials stated. If the coaches had not been all-steel, C. S. Goodwin of the New York Central stated, the loss of life would have been much greater.

Eight identified bodies have been removed from the wreckage. A. W. Baetz, an Amherst undertaker at the scene of the disaster said he saw sixteen apparently dead carried from the smashed coaches.

The first section of train No. 86, east-bound, was coming to a stop as a block signal was thrown against it and had sent back a brakeman with a lantern and fuse.

In less than two minutes, the second section of No. 86 crashed into the rear of the first section, plowing through the rear steel coach and overturning three cars.

In less than a minute, the Twentieth Century Limited struck the wreckage. Five of its coaches were derailed. Fire broke out in the coaches.

New York, March 29.—At 10.25 the Lake Shore office here announced that their reports showed fifteen dead in the wreck at Amherst.

"This is not final, but we believe it accurate," it was stated.

RUSSIANS SAVE CANAL

Master Strokes of Muscovites Salvation of Allies.

Petrograd, March 29.—The Russians have saved Verdun and the Suez Canal.

That is the view held by the leading military critics who see in the great offensive against the Austro-Germans and the drive through Persia and Armenia two master strokes which may prove to have been the salvation of the allies.

Germany has been forced to shift troops back to the eastern front that were needed for the Verdun enterprise. Turkish troops and German officers that were being concentrated for the drive into Egypt had to be recalled to reinforce the armies facing the Russians.

Gen. Polivanoff, the Russian minister of war, in an interview granted to neutral correspondents, says that he believes all the great German plans for mighty operations in the west and the Orient have been upset.

Although the Russians have suffered severe casualties in their attacks against the strong German positions along the Dvina River and in front of Dvinsk, the results have more than offset the losses as fortified works have been carried by storm which the Teutons had regarded as impregnable.

Berlin, March, 29.—Desperate fighting on the eastern front with the Germans repulsing furious attacks, is reported. The Russians in their offensive have it is said lost 80,000 men in killed and wounded.

FOUND—A small pocket book containing small change and key. Owner can obtain same by calling at this office and paying for advertisement.

STORE FOR RENT—Suitable for any kind of small business. \$15.00 per month. Call 921 King Street.

WATER COMPANY MAKES DENIAL

Attorneys File Answer With Corporation Commission

THE CHARTER IS CITED

Water Declared to Be Healthful, Containing Nothing in the Nature of Bacteria.

In a sweeping denial of the charges of the water consumers of Alexandria city and county who petitioned the State Corporation Commission to compel the company to furnish more and better water, and to reduce its rates, the Alexandria Water Company, through its attorneys Col. Francis L. Smith and Gardner L. Boothe, filed its answer yesterday with the commission in Richmond. The commission named Charles M. Brown, of Roanoke, as special agent to come to Alexandria, investigate the water company and take testimony of the water consumers who complain of the service.

In its answer the company cites the charter which was granted to it by an act of the state legislature in 1850 and denies that the commission has any power to exercise jurisdiction over and regulation of the water company. It denies that it has a monopoly of supplying water to the people of Alexandria and declares that the same can be and is being furnished by other parties.

In reference to the purity of the water the company states that since June 1914, it has established a chlorine plant for the purpose of destroying and bacteria or deleterious substance that might be in the water, but states that there is no such bacteria as the water is pure, healthful and fit for use. The company states that this is supported by chemical analyses which are made frequently by an expert bacteriologist.

Reference is made to the new reservoir and dam, built at a cost of \$200,000, as an answer to the statement that there is not a sufficient supply of water. This new work gives a storage capacity of 600 million gallons, sufficient to supply the city of Alexandria with one year's consumption, and the company says that as soon as its financial condition will permit this reservoir will be connected with the city supply. It declares that there is "no city in the United States with a population of the size of the city of Alexandria which enjoys so large, full and ample a flow of healthy water as the city of Alexandria."

In answer to the statement that the pressure is so low that the water will not flow to the second stories of houses when water on the first floor is flowing the company declares that this is caused by the size of the pipes within the houses and not from any lack of water or pressure.

The statement is made by the company that the claim in reference to the high portion of the city not being supplied with water because they are higher than the reservoir is met by the announcement that the company has purchased the high service system of the Rosemont Development Co., on King street extended from which it proposes to supply the consumers of Rosemont and George Washington Park as desired.

The company makes a complete denial of the statement that sufficient water is not furnished for fire protection owing to the size of the mains. It declares that the mains are of sufficient size but if there is a lack of water it is caused by the small openings from the mains, to the fire hydrants. The company declares its intention to construct a new 12 inch main on Madison street from Washington to Fairfax street which will augment the supply of water available for fire use but is unable to do so because of the failure of the city to grade Madison street.

The company declares that it is unable to make any plans for furnishing water for the annexed territory until the city has designated the

streets to be laid off and the grades established.

A complete denial is made of the right of the corporation commission to change the regulation of the company in reference to the collection of water rents in advance.

The same position is taken in reference to the rates charged by the company but a statement is attached showing the rates in 375 cities of the United States and it is claimed that the rates of the Alexandria Water Company are as low if not lower than the average rate charged by all the privately owned companies in the United States.

It is declared that Alexandria city enjoys the free use of water for fire protection and in other localities where the water is furnished by a privately owned company charge is made for this service.

Declaration is made that the rates throughout the city are uniform and that no discriminations are made.

In reference to the charge that the earnings of the company are beyond a fair return upon the investment the company answers that while it is true the affairs have been managed in an economical manner and that the company is prosperous, that no dividends were declared for many years after its incorporation. The company has on hand a cash balance of less than \$1,000 and has a floating debt of \$225,000 bearing interest at the rate of five percent.

In answer to the charge that the company has purchased real estate in excess of the amount to which it is entitled by the charter it is stated that the only land purchased has been for reservoirs, storage sheds, etc.

LOCAL BREVITIES

Attention is directed to the notice of John E. Waller, Clerk of Gas. A discount of 30 cents on each 1000 cubic feet of gas used will be allowed on all bills paid by April 1st.

Funeral services for George H. Travers took place this afternoon at 3 o'clock from the home of his mother, Mrs. Margaret Travers, 622 north Patrick street.

The work of rebuilding the plain mill of Aitchison and Bro. which was destroyed by fire several months ago has commenced. The contract has been awarded to G. W. Jones and it is expected that the mill building will be ready for occupancy in three weeks time.

Post F. of the Travelers' Protective Association of this city has endorsed Daniel V. Sales, of Lynchburg, formerly a resident of this city as national president of that organization.

Alexandria city delegates who left last night for Roanoke to attend the state Republican convention which convened in that city this morning were John U. Schwarzman, city chairman; J. A. Eggborn, Captain Fountain Beatty, D. E. Robey and Thomas Bayne.

The monthly meeting of R. E. Lee Camp, Confederate Veterans will be held Monday night at which time officers will be elected and arrangements made for the annual Memorial day exercises which will be held May 24th.

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

Prohibition and Woman Suffrage Side-tracked by Committee

Washington, March 29.—The House judiciary committee yesterday wrote the words "indefinitely postponed" on its records with respect to national prohibition and woman suffrage. The action means the defeat of these issues in the House, at least for the present session of Congress. The vote was 10 to 9, with two members absent.

With the advocates both of prohibition and suffrage vainly endeavoring to get separate votes on their respective resolutions, the meeting of the committee developed into a spirited affair. By a shrewd parliamentary move, the anti-woman suffrage committee, led by Representative Charles C. Carlin, of Virginia, succeeded in linking the resolutions and forced a single vote on the two issues.

The committee met in executive session, but it is understood that Chairman Webb author of the national prohibition bill, felt compelled to vote against his own measure because it had been coupled with the suffrage resolution.

WILL REMAIN IN OFFICE 2 YEARS

Auditor Moore Issues Statement as to His Resignation

PUTS HIS DUTY FIRST

Urged to Remain at His Post Until Matters of Taxation Shall Have Been Adjusted.

Richmond, March 29.—Formal announcement was made in a written statement by State Auditor C. Lee Moore yesterday that he would not resign his office until the next General Assembly convenes. What he will do two years hence, he says, he does not know, but he still has the matter of his resignation under serious consideration.

The State Auditor, following the announcement some two weeks ago that he expected to resign from the service of the State, has received hundreds of letters and telegrams from all sections of the State urging him not to resign. It is known that the highest officers in the State government have requested him as a duty owed to the State to remain in office until the tax matters are adjusted.

It is known that rather a tempting offer has been made to Auditor Moore the salary offered being considerably in excess of the \$4,500 he receives from the State. The State Auditor feels, however, that his duty to the State is above financial consideration and that in view of the tax matter now in process of adjustment it is his duty to remain in office.

The State Auditor has received letters from scores of city and county treasurers impressing upon him the importance of remaining at the helm certainly during the next two years. The new segregation tax plan has not been perfected and all the amendments enacted by the last Legislature have not yet become effective. It would be detrimental to the State's interests, it is pointed out, if a new and untrained man should be placed in charge of the Auditor's office, since it would be impossible for him to render that service which only experience and intimate knowledge of the duties of the office make possible.

Auditor Moore has been connected with the office since 1884. He has been Auditor for four years, during which time the whole department has been reorganized and more taxes have been collected, and less have been evaded, than ever before in the history of the State.

Following is the written statement issued by the Auditor.

"Being urged to make a positive statement at this time whether I will resign before the assembling of the next General Assembly two years hence, it gives me pleasure to say that it has been very gratifying to learn through the complimentary letters from all sections of the State that I have performed by duties as a public servant in a manner which has been beneficial, both to the Commonwealth and to the localities, and that my services in the opinion of all are more needed now than ever. Recognizing as I do that trained and experienced effort alone can yield the revenue which will be necessary to handle the State's financial affairs for the next two years, because the appropriation act for those years, whilst drawn upon conservative lines requires an expenditure of \$7,650,000 a year, and the fixed revenue of the State at this time is several hundred thousand dollars short of the amount, and it is only with the aid of a handsome surplus in the treasury at the close of business September 30, 1915, and the omitted taxes already assessed, now in process of collection, and effective enforcement of the new tax laws applied uniformly throughout the State, that a sum sufficient for the financial needs of the State will be provided.

"I feel at this time my duty lies imperatively to remain at my post at least so long as I can be of service to the Commonwealth in successfully administering the affairs over which I have charge and to accomplish that result if possible. "Honored, as I have been by the people of this state through their representatives, by being placed in charge of one of their most important offices, certainly the office upon which is placed very large and responsible powers, the proper exercise of which is so important to the people of the State, financial remuneration should be, and is with me, a minor consideration. "I take this opportunity to express to the press and to the people of Virginia, who have communicated with me personally and by wire and by letter my heartiest gratitude for the interest taken, and in recognition and appreciation of their desire for me to remain in this office, and my purpose to serve the State being always first with me, I confidently expect to do so at least until the convening of the next General Assembly."

compish that result if possible. "Honored, as I have been by the people of this state through their representatives, by being placed in charge of one of their most important offices, certainly the office upon which is placed very large and responsible powers, the proper exercise of which is so important to the people of the State, financial remuneration should be, and is with me, a minor consideration. "I take this opportunity to express to the press and to the people of Virginia, who have communicated with me personally and by wire and by letter my heartiest gratitude for the interest taken, and in recognition and appreciation of their desire for me to remain in this office, and my purpose to serve the State being always first with me, I confidently expect to do so at least until the convening of the next General Assembly."

ALLIES CONFERENCE
Affirm Community of Views and Unity of Action.

Paris, March 29.—The following official statement was given out yesterday afternoon at the conclusion of the conference of representatives of the eight allied powers.

Before separating, the allies' conference unanimously voted the following:

"First—The representatives of the allies, at their meeting in Paris, March 27 and 28, affirm the complete community of views and solidarity of the allies. They confirm all the measures taken to bring about unity of action and unity of battle front. "By this they mean at one and the same time unity of military action, assured by an agreement concluded between the general staffs; unity of economic action, whereof this conference has regulated the organization and unity of action.

"Second—The allied governments decide to place in practice in the economic domain their solidarity of views as interests. They charge the economic conference which will be held shortly in Paris with proposing measures aimed at bringing about this solidarity.

"Third—With a view to reinforcing and unifying the economic action to be exercised in order to prevent the revictualing of the enemy, the conference decides to set up in Paris a permanent committee upon which all the allies will be represented.

"Fourth—The conference decides: "1. To pursue the organization undertaken in London of an international central bureau for freights. "2. To proceed in common and with the shortest delay to seeking practical means to employ for equitably distributing among the allied nations the charges resulting from maritime transports and to stop the rise in freights."

Extraordinary precautions were taken to prevent any news of the real deliberations from leaking out in the second session of the grand allied council of war opened at the foreign office this morning. The first session of the economic conference was held this afternoon. It is expected that the economic and special conference will last the greater part of the week. All phases of the war have been considered—financial, political, resources and military operations. The fact that Japan and Portugal were called in at the last moment and both have representatives present indicates that the delegates have been looking far into the future in their deliberations. It is believed that the question of financing Portugal has been considered.

Berlin, March, 29.—Tentative terms of peace are being discussed for the first time by the allies at the war conferences now in session in Paris, according to information from Swiss sources today.

In spite of officially inspired articles appearing in the English and French newspapers, the allies are seriously considering means of bringing the war to an early end. Berlin expects no peace hits from allied sources until the allies make their expected attempt to break the German front in the west. The Anglo-French offensive will be launched late in April or May, it is believed here, and will be followed by certain defeat and the beginning of informal negotiations for peace.

Martha Washington Candies, Fresh every day, at P. O. Cockey's 325 King.

MOST GIGANTIC WAGE STRUGGLE

Railroad Men Throughout Country Will Strike Tomorrow

WANT INCREASED PAY

Threats of Nation-Wide Walkout Said to Have Been Made if Demands of Men Are Rejected

Washington, D. C., March 29.—Between nine and four o'clock on Thursday, March 30th, in cities dotting the map in every part of the United States, including such widely separated points as Boston, New York, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Denver, New Orleans, Atlanta, Savannah, Cincinnati, and St. Louis, in fact in every city on which a railroad large or small has headquarters, the first act will be staged in a movement which ushers in the most gigantic wage struggle which the industrial world has yet seen and which may precipitate the most colossal strike which any country has experienced. Committees representing the engineers' firemen, conductors and trainmen's Brotherhoods will present demands for increased wages which the railways say they cannot grant while threats to resort to a nation-wide strike if necessary to enforce their demands have been made by spokesmen for the Brotherhoods and have been credited to some of their leaders.

While committees are presenting the demands to the Southern Railway at Washington, to the Seaboard Air line at Norfolk, and to the Atlantic Coast Line at Wilmington, similar committees will be presenting them to the Louisville and Nashville at Louisville, the Central of Georgia at Savannah, the Florida East Coast at St. Augustine, the Mobile and Ohio at Mobile, and to other railways of the Southeastern territory at their general offices.

The Brotherhoods are asking for increased wages by demanding that the eight-hour basis be adopted for computing the pay for a day's work and that time and a half be paid for overtime. This would increase the hourly rate and would also increase the amount of time of which overtime would have to be paid, so that a man now being paid \$4.00 for a day of ten hours would have to be paid \$5.50 for the same work. The demands apply to all men in road freight, yard, and hosting service. Passenger employees are not included as their pay is already based on a day of less than eight hours.

Railway officials point out that there is nothing in the demands to limit the number of hours a man may work and say that the movement is merely for increased wages for those classes of railway employees who already receive the highest pay, receiving 28 per cent of the wages paid out by the railways, though constituting only 18 per cent of the railway employees.

Under their agreements with the Brotherhoods, the railways must reply to the demands before the expiration of thirty days.

NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS

Gas bills for quarter ending March 1, 1916, having been delivered, this is to notify all gas consumers that all bills paid on or before April 1, 1916, will be entitled to a discount of 30 cents per 1000 cubic feet. After that date no discount will be allowed and all delinquents will be required to make an early settlement. By order of Committee on Light.

J. B. WALLER, Clerk of Gas.