

THE COLUMBIA EVENING MISSOURIAN

THIRTEENTH YEAR

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GAS PLANT IS PURCHASED BY ST. LOUIS MEN

New Owners to Spend \$25,000 in Improvements and to Request a 20-Year Franchise.

SALE PRICE IS \$100,000

W. H. Fitch, Thomas D. Miller and J. R. Cullinane the Buyers—Rates to Be Increased.

The plant of the Columbia Gas Works has been purchased by W. M. Fitch, Thomas D. Miller and John R. Cullinane, all of St. Louis. The price was \$100,000, according to James E. Boggs, attorney, who represents the purchasers.

The new owners will take charge at once. Next Monday night they will present to the City Council an ordinance asking for a twenty-year franchise in the city. This franchise will also specify rates which the new concern proposes to charge and sets forth the specifications regarding the extensions of mains and service under which the company will operate. The present company operates without a city franchise.

To improve the plant the new company will spend immediately \$25,000 in improving the plant and extending mains in such a way as to improve and increase service.

Mr. Fitch is vice-president and farm land officer of the Mississippi Valley Trust Company. Last spring he came to Columbia in an effort to form a stock company to purchase the plant. The proposal did not succeed because of the failure of Columbia residents to purchase bonds. No bonds are to be offered for sale by the new owners.

Mr. Miller and Mr. Cullinane are gas engineers in St. Louis. The purchasers promise that adequate service will be afforded patrons at all times. They will remain in Columbia until Monday to be present at the Council meeting Monday night.

THE SERVICE OF THE present company has been inadequate for years. The company has failed to extend mains and no effort has been made to get a sufficient supply of gas to users, especially to householders.

The rates proposed under the ordinance asking for a franchise are in excess of the present rates. The new company proposes to charge for its gas according to the following schedule: For the first 3,000 cubic feet, \$2.10 for each 1,000; for the next 3,000 cubic feet, \$2; for the next 4,000 cubic feet, \$1.90; for the next 5,000 cubic feet, \$1.80; for the next 5,000 cubic feet, \$1.70; for all over 20,000 cubic feet, \$1.60.

The rate now in effect is on a differential arrangement and is \$1.65 for the first 10,000 feet and \$1.55 for all over that. A 10 per cent discount for prompt payment reduces these prices on both schedules. On a cash basis the actual rate at present is \$1.50 for the first 10,000 cubic feet and \$1.40 for all over that amount.

Section one of the ordinance asks for a 20-year franchise and deals with details in regard to extension. The other sections are:

Section 2. That the Public Service Commission of Missouri or any other body which by law is authorized from time to time to prescribe the conditions under which such gas may be manufactured and distributed therein, and until changed by such lawful rate making power of the State of Missouri, said Gas Company shall have the right to charge the following prices for gas actually sold and delivered each month through each meter to the consumers thereof within said city:

The first 3,000 cubic feet, \$2.10 per thousand feet.
The next 3,000 cubic feet, \$2.00 per thousand feet.
The next 4,000 cubic feet, \$1.90 per thousand feet.
The next 5,000 cubic feet, \$1.80 per thousand feet.
The next 5,000 cubic feet, \$1.70 per thousand feet.
All over 20,000 cubic feet, \$1.60 per thousand feet.

A minimum charge of \$1.10 per month for each meter in use in said city may be made and a discount of 10 cents if paid as herein provided. All bills for gas shall be due and payable at the office of the Gas Company on or before the 10th day of each month following the month for which bill is rendered, and when so paid the consumer shall receive a discount of 10 cents for each thousand feet so consumed; and when the minimum bill is charged the consumer shall have the right to a discount of 10 cents if said bill is paid at the office of the Company on or before the 10th day of the month succeeding the charge. No consumer shall be entitled to the dis-

THE WEATHER

For Columbia and vicinity: Partly cloudy to cloudy weather tonight and Sunday, probably with light snow; continued rather cold; lowest temperature tonight about 25.

For Missouri: Fair tonight and probably Sunday, except unsettled in the extreme south portion tonight; not much change in temperature.

Shippers' forecast: Within a radius of 200 miles of Columbia the lowest temperature during the next 36 hours will be west 26; north 20; east 26; and south 32.

count herein mentioned if his bill for gas consumed is not paid within the time herein mentioned. The above rates may be charged by said Gas Company from and after the first day of the month next following the passage of this ordinance and until such rates are either reduced by said Company voluntarily or until such rates are changed or modified by authority of the rate making power which may be established at the time by the laws of Missouri. For the purpose of this Section of this Ordinance, the date on which the meters are read shall be taken as the end of the month.

Section 3. The Gas Company at all times, whenever it opens the streets, avenues, alleys, parks or other public places of the City of Columbia for the purpose of laying gas mains, making connections therewith, or repairing the same, shall do so in accordance with ordinances, rules and regulations of the City Council of the City of Columbia, Missouri, now in force or as may hereafter be adopted.

Section 4. The Gas Company at its expense shall make all gas connections from its gas mains to the curb line of the street; and the Gas Company, at the expense of the consumer, shall make such further extensions as are or become necessary to the place where a meter is to be connected.

Section 5. Said Gas Company shall further extend its mains or enlarge the capacity of its mains from time to time for customers in all places wherever and whenever the number of bona fide consumers, applying in writing to be supplied with gas, shall agree in such applications to purchase gas of said company provided such consumers shall not be less than one bona fide consumer for each 100 feet of main required or necessary to be laid in order to reach such consumers.

Section six provides against discrimination in rates; section seven for acceptance of the franchise and section eight provides it shall go into effect upon passage.

MEXICO OPENS NEW HOSPITAL

First to Be Finished Under Recent Law—Next Will Be in Columbia.

The first county hospital of the state under the new county hospital law was formally opened at Mexico yesterday. Boone County will have the second at Columbia.

The new hospital was open to doctors and visitors during the day. The building is thoroughly modern in equipment and construction. It has large sun parlors and a novel lighting system for calling nurses to the patients' beds. Thirty-five patients can be comfortably accommodated.

Dr. F. G. Nifong gave an address in the high school auditorium at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

A banquet was given for the visiting doctors at the Hoxsey Hotel last night. Dr. C. H. Nielson of St. Louis was the principal speaker. Dr. A. W. McAlester and Dr. Guy L. Noyes, of Columbia, also made short talks after the dinner.

Dr. A. W. Kampachmidt, Dr. J. E. Thornton and Dr. C. M. Sneed, together with Doctor Nifong, Doctor McAlester and Doctor Noyes, doctor to Mexico, returning last night.

WAR HERO KILLS HIMSELF

Lieut. Pat O'Brien Left Note Saying He Was a Coward.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 18.—Lieut. Pat O'Brien distinguished himself for conspicuous bravery and gallant conduct through five wars and served with honors as a member of the Royal Flying Corps during the World War. Today he is dead by his own hand, and in a note written shortly before his death he branded himself "a coward." He shot himself with a 45 calibre pistol at the Alexandria hotel here. O'Brien's home was in Moline, Ill.

Virginia Dare, the motion picture actress, is O'Brien's widow and it is believed he took his life after an unsuccessful attempt to effect a reconciliation with her. She had refused to see him. O'Brien is the author of a war book, "Outwitting the Hun," in which he told of his remarkable escape from a German prison camp.

Parker Hospital Nurse Resigns. Miss Eugie Sappington has resigned her position as nurse at Parker Memorial Hospital, where she has worked for the last few years.

CHILDREN OF CHINA TO HAVE NO CHRISTMAS

Perhaps Our December Bills Are High, But Can't We Contribute Some to Save a Life?

LOCAL FUND IS \$106.50

Columbia's Contribution to Aid the Starving Babes of the East Is Steadily Growing.

CHINA RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS
Previously acknowledged...\$ 77.00
A Columbia subscriber..... 1.50
Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Meyer..... 2.00
Miss Julia M. Rocheford..... 12.00
A Rocheport subscriber..... 2.00
Henry Reinhart..... 5.00
Miss May Miller..... 3.00
Mrs. W. L. Oliver..... 1.00
Total.....\$106.50

I was tired when I came home tonight after an hour's Christmas shopping. There were still things I must get for the family. Together with the Christmas dinner and the decorations, they would run my December bills high. As I was thinking of these things, one little yellow canary began to sing in an irritatingly discordant way.

"Cold, are you?" I asked, poking at the fire. Mary had bought the silly bird. "Hungry, then?" I said in an unpleasant voice. "You're always wanting something."

"No," was the answer. "But in China they are hungry. The people I need to sing to, before I came here to live in this disgusting cage, are dying of hunger."

"Yes, I read the headlines about it while ago. Those people are like grasshoppers; they never provide for the next year. They are without capacity for leadership."

"They eat the leaves from the trees," the bird said. "The babies have the faces of old men. They will never grow up if they do not have food."

"The Chinese government ought to have anticipated a dry year like this and gone in for a thorough system of irrigation. Look what the Chaldean engineers did in Mesopotamia four thousand years ago. The Chinese government has squandered its money on a cadaverous army. The whole country is corrupt."

I wrapped up the doll I had bought for Mary Jane and, as I talked, fearing she might come in and see it.

"The little Chinese girls will not have dolls next week. That doll you bought for Mary Jane cost about \$3, didn't it?"

"Three and one-half," I said. "Dolls cost a lot these days."

"That would keep the little Chinese girl alive almost two months longer," the bird persisted. "Her father has no money; she will not hear the Chinese nightingale sing next spring."

"But," I interrupted angrily, "How do you expect me to give them money with the big bills I have this month, and the Christmas dinner still to be thought of?"

"Mr. Chinaman is eating boiled leaves."

"Must I be annoyed in my own house by this foolish bird?"

"You might as well shut up," I said. "As I saw he was going to speak again I picked up my check book, which was lying among the packages, and filled out one of the slips."

"There, I hope you're satisfied," I said vindictively.

But the bird did not answer; he was sound asleep.

ARMOUR HEIRESS TO WED

James J. Mitchell, Jr., to Share \$700,000 Fortune.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Two of the greatest fortunes in the Middle West will be merged by the marriage of Miss Lilita Armour, sole heiress of J. Ogden Armour to James J. Mitchell, Jr., eldest son of James J. Mitchell, bank president, and director in a score of companies. The announcement of the engagement was made today.

Miss Armour's fortune is estimated at \$10,000,000, and she is heir to the Armour estate valued at \$60,000,000. Mitchell's father has a fortune estimated at many millions.

HALF OF MEMORIAL FUND

War Mothers Continue Campaign to Raise \$1,000.

That the county court will make good any deficit in the \$1,000 Memorial Fund that is being raised by the War Mothers of Boone County, was the report made at a meeting of the local chapter yesterday afternoon in the Commercial Club rooms.

One hundred and sixty-seven dollars was added to the fund this week, making the total more than \$500 raised in Columbia. One thousand dollars must be raised by January 1 in order to receive the state appropriation of the same amount.

The Ashland chapter, which was recently organized, is raising money to ward the fund, although the exact amount of the contribution has not been reported. Trips to Centralia, Hallsville and Sturgeon will be made next week by members of the local chapter, in the hope of increasing the contributions throughout the county. A campaign is being carried on in Rocheport, although no chapter has been organized there. Citizens of Columbia have been generous in their support of the fund but further donations will be appreciated, according to Mrs. W. B. Nowell, secretary of the local chapter.

Mrs. J. W. Ridgeway was admitted to the local chapter, at the meeting yesterday.

AERIAL CABLE IS INSTALLED

Telephone Company Is Adding to Equipment—Metallic Circuits Planned.

The Columbia Telephone Company is installing along Stewart road the first of 32,574 feet, or more than seven miles of aerial cable which will when completed give Columbia full metallic circuits on all local telephone equipment.

The cable being installed on the Stewart road contains seventy-five pairs of wire and weighs 165 pounds a foot. With good weather, A. L. La Force, plant chief of the telephone company, estimates that all the work will be completed early in the spring.

The new arrangement will greatly increase the facilities of the local office, which has been unable to fill contracts for telephones because of lack of material. All the material for the cable work is in Columbia, with the exception of some of the inside supplies. Work will be pushed to completion, Mr. La Force stated.

J. A. Hudson, president of the company, is in Wisconsin and will not be back until the middle of next week. It is not known just what relief the cable installation will afford the local telephone situation.

G. W. ROBINSON SELLS FARM

Dean Walter Miller Sells Two Lots on University.

One hundred and fourteen acres of farm land twenty miles northeast of Columbia have been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bowen from G. W. Robinson for \$9,120.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Miller sold lot number 6 in Hockaday's subdivision of Price's addition to Mr. and Mrs. Reuben E. Lucas for \$1,500. The lot is on University avenue between Hockaday street and College avenue.

Miller also sold an adjoining lot, number 5, to Mr. and Mrs. Boyd W. Lucas for \$1,500.

Laura Jones sold sixty feet of the north side of lot number 2 in Cook's addition to Jack Booth and Lucy Booth for \$1,500. The property is on the east side of Fifth street near Lyons street.

Henry Merkel, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Merkel sold a third interest in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 14, township 48, range 12 to Turner A. Smith for \$4,000. The land is six miles east of Columbia.

U. H. S. CLASS GIVES PARTY

Presents Play Representing Old Country Schools.

The senior class of the University High School gave a party to all the students of the school last night, from 8 to 10:30 o'clock in the high school building. They gave a play entitled, "Hicksville Center District School," which represented the country school as it was several years ago.

This was followed by a musical number by the members of the senior class, and refreshments and the coming of Santa Claus.

The decorations consisted of a large Christmas tree upon which were placed the presents for the members of the class. The evening ended with the singing of Christmas hymns.

SANTA CLAUS CATCHES FIRE

Russell Hobbes, Meets With Accident at Douglas School.

Christmas trees are not always smooth sailing for every one. Last night Russell Hobbes, negro, who was acting as Santa Claus at the Douglas School, caught fire and received some minor burns.

M. U. ALUMNI START WORK FOR MEMORIAL

Campaign to Honor Students Killed in World War Is Launched in New York City.

DINNER GIVEN AT START

Telegram Received Here Says All of Next Week Is to Be Devoted to Raising Money.

The half-million-dollar campaign to build a University Memorial Building and Tower in memory of the fifty-two University of Missouri men who were killed in the World War was launched last night in New York City at a dinner of the New York Alumni Association, Odus Guitler, Jr., of Columbia who is director of the Memorial campaign, was present at the dinner.

A telegram received by the Columbia Evening Missourian late last night from Oscar E. Riley said:

"The University of Missouri Memorial Campaign was opened at the City Club, New York City, tonight with a small but enthusiastic meeting. Every Missourian present contributed.

"At President Earle Pearson's call, everyone present volunteered to serve as a committee of one to call personally on five New York alumni. The whole of next week will be devoted to the Memorial Building campaign. Each worker will give half a day.

"Mr. Guitler, campaign director, said that he was much pleased with the spirit shown by the New York alumni and with the warm reception extended him during his first day in New York. None of the wealthy alumni could attend the dinner tonight, but all have asked that Guitler call at their offices."

PLAN TO TRAIN OFFICERS HERE

U. S. Inspector Recommends Sending Instructors From 8 States to M. U.

The R. O. T. C. of the University of Missouri has been recommended as a training unit for all R. O. T. C. instruction officers in the Seventh Corps Area. The recommendation was made by Lieut. Col. C. H. Muller following his inspection of the local unit last week.

Colonel Muller said that the recommendation was made because the training plan as devised by Col. W. E. Persons and the other officers stationed here was superior to that in any other unit in the area. Lack of proper buildings, he said, was the only handicap of this University unit.

If Colonel Muller's recommendation is set upon favorably at Washington, it will mean that all officers on duty with R. O. T. C. units in the Seventh Corps Area will be sent here for courses of instruction.

"It would be a tremendously big thing for the University of Missouri," Colonel Persons said this morning. "It would bring officers here from thirty-eight different schools and their contact with the officers and faculty here would be of mutual benefit."

The Seventh Corps Area includes Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Arkansas and Missouri.

STRIKE REPORTED IN DETROIT

Announced Cut in Wages Was Cause of Street Car Walk-Out.

DETROIT, Dec. 18.—Detroit faced a street car strike today when the Detroit Union Railway Company announced its intention of cutting the employees' wages.

The executive committee of the local street railway employees' association have drawn an ultimatum which declares that the men will not stand for any cut in wages. W. D. Mahone, international president of the association, announced today.

DEATH OF MRS. W. S. SNYDER

Mother of Mrs. J. H. Coursault Was in Columbia Last Fall.

Mrs. W. S. Snyder, the mother of Mrs. J. H. Coursault, died this morning at Corpus Christi, Tex. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder spent part of last fall in Columbia visiting their daughter and then went south on account of Mrs. Snyder's health.

Stamp Windows Open at 7 a. m. For the convenience of the business men of Columbia the stamp window of the Postoffice will open at 7 o'clock in the morning instead of 8 o'clock next week during the Christmas rush.

Mrs. William H. Grant Here. Mrs. William H. Grant of Kansas City will arrive Sunday afternoon to spend the holidays with her sister, Mrs. E. C. Clinkscales, 506 Stewart road.

Retail Prices Down

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Retail prices of imported commodities has decreased 2.5 per cent during the past year up to the close of November.

COLUMBIA'S BRIDE-TO-BE



Miss Faye Overlees, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Overlees, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, who will wed J. C. Henry, of 719 Hitt street, on December 27. They will live in Columbia.

BOTH HOST AND A GUEST

John T. Mitchell Belongs to Columbia and Centralia.

When the Columbia Commercial Club entertained the Centralia Commercial Club last Thursday night one of the speakers was in the peculiar position of both host and guest. He opened his talk with an address of welcome as a host and then, as a guest, gave a response. He was John T. Mitchell who lives in Columbia and is a banker in Centralia. In telling the story on himself, Mr. Mitchell said the business men of the two cities that he brought a ticket as a member of the Columbia Commercial and then invited himself to come as a guest since he was a member of the Centralia group also. He spoke of beneficial results to be obtained by co-operation between the two cities.

One of those called upon for a brief talk at the dinner, was J. P. Hestler, third president of the Columbia Commercial Club. After discussing the abolition of all non-constructive criticism between the two cities and the establishment of a better mutual appreciation, Mr. Hestler offered a toast looking forward to a lasting spirit of cordial co-operation and friendship.

PETER FENTON DIES SUDDENLY

Death of Retired Farmer May Have Been Hastened by Mule Kick.

Peter Kemper Fenton, of 296 Forest avenue, died suddenly this morning from an attack of apoplexy. He had been in ill health for some time. About fifteen days ago he was kicked by a mule. This morning he seemed better, but lived only a few moments after he was struck.

Mr. Fenton was 43 years old and a retired farmer, having lived in Boone county all his life. He is survived by his wife and two daughters, Ocy and May.

Burial will take place at 1:30 o'clock Monday afternoon in the Rocky Fork cemetery.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE

Sunday School Class Entertain in Elementary School Girls.

Dean Walter Miller's Sunday School class of the Presbyterian Church gave a Christmas tree at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the church for the children who have been attending their industrial school.

The following program was given, followed by gifts of candy and toys for the children:

Reading.....Miss Florence Schaper
Vocal solo.....Miss Anna Payne
Vocal solo.....Miss Edith Hammock
Christmas carols sung by the children.

The members of the industrial school are twenty-five small girls between the ages of 12 and 15, who have been meeting every Saturday afternoon at the Presbyterian Church and who are being taught to sew by different members of Dean Miller's Sunday school class.

Ag Club Elects Officers

The Ag Club Tuesday night elected the following officers for the next year: President, Ed Mayer; vice-president, Melvin Woods; secretary, R. H. Banell; treasurer, Hazare Streeter, sergeant-at-arms, Grell Campbell, and cheer leader, Dave Fritz. These pages will be reserved in the 'Saxitar' two pages for pictures of the Ag Club and the stock and poultry judging races, and one page for pictures of Farmers' Week and the Barnwarming.

TO CALL BACK AMBASSADORS FROM GREECE

Britain and France Ready to Act to Show Opposition to Constantine's Return to Throne.

ARE WAITING ON ITALY

Arrival of King in Athens Tomorrow Will Mark New Phase of His Turbulent Career.

By United Press.
PARIS, Dec. 18.—Great Britain and France have agreed to a plan whereby they and Italy will simultaneously withdraw their ambassadors from Athens, Greece, leaving only charged d'aires to look after their interests, the French foreign office announced today. The execution of the project lacks only the endorsement of Italy.

This method of reducing Greece to the rank of a third-rate power in the eyes of three big European nations is designed to indicate the Allies' opposition to the restoration of King Constantine, who is due to reach Athens tomorrow.

The romance of being a king has not all passed. Few monarchs have had a more turbulent rule than Constantine I, King of the Hellenes. He came to the throne in the uncertain year just before the World War and was driven out with the fading power of the Germans in the Balkans.

He has spent the three years of his exile by living the quiet life of a retired gentleman in the exile-burdened country of Switzerland. Now, summoned back to the throne by a vote of his people, he finds opposition, not only on the part of an important faction of Greeks, but also from the Allies, who aided in his previous removal from power. The foregoing dispatch is an indication of the Allies' feeling.

TO VOTE ON HONOR SYSTEM

The University Faculty in Doubt as to Its Continuance.

It is planned to take, during the enrollment on December 31 and January 1, a vote on the honor system by all students in the University. The faculty is in some doubt as to how far the present student body is in favor of the system, and it recognizes that, although an effective honor system is one of the best possible things for a university, a poorly functioning one, without strong student support, is a positive detriment. It is to determine the strength of this support that the vote is to be taken.

The plan proposed is to have each student given a ballot along with his study card. The ballot is to be filled out by the student, but not signed, and will be deposited in a box provided for the purpose when the study-card is given up, or earlier. The ballot will contain two questions, the first on the retention of the system for the whole University, the second on its retention of upper class courses (number 100 or over in the catalogue) only.

No student can be compelled to vote but, in the interest of getting reliable information for settling this important question, it is hoped that all will vote and conscientiously. The voter should understand that a vote for the retention of the system will be taken to mean that he favors student responsibility for preventing, reporting, and penalizing dishonesty in all university work, and not merely that he undertakes to refrain from dishonest work on his own part.

CHAPTER AT WOODLANDVILLE

Columbia Rebekahs Will Install Lodge Tonight.

A new chapter of the Rebekah Lodge is to be installed at Woodlandville this evening by the local chapter. Mrs. Ora Van Pelt, state vice-president, and Mrs. Clara Ficklin, district deputy president, will have charge. The new chapter will be known as the Woodland Rebekah Lodge and has thirty-one members.

The members of the Columbia lodge who will take part in the installation are: Mrs. Anna Starret, Mrs. Dolly Brady, Mrs. Frances Martin, Mrs. Lizzie Claff, Mrs. Norma Head, Mrs. Mantie Miller, Mrs. Irene Pratt, Mrs. Ada Boutwell, Mrs. Clara Ficklin, Mrs. Viola Whitaker, Mrs. Pearl Douglas, Mrs. Brookshire Fry, Mrs. Alva Armstrong, Mrs. Fannie Shelton, Mrs. Pearl Hathman, Miss Stella Hagan, Mrs. Willie Slate and Mrs. Lavinia King. Mrs. Slate is the captain and Mrs. King the musician for the local chapter.

Boatman Trial Set for Dec. 29.

George Boatman, a farmer living near Hallsville, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Constable Glover McAllister, charged with felonious assault on his father. Boatman was released this afternoon on \$500 bond and his trial set for December 29.

Boguslaw Released on Bond.

San Boguslaw, charged with the theft of an automobile belonging to J. B. Hopper, was released at 3 o'clock this afternoon on a \$20,000 bond. The bond was furnished by E. W. Case, a professional bondsman from St. Louis.

Robbers Obtain \$20,000.

By United Press.
COLUMBIAVILLE, Ill., Dec. 18.—Yeggs blew the safe of the Columbiaville postoffice today and escaped with \$20,000 in currency and stamps. A number of Christmas packages were rifled.