

FRENCH LINES HOLD

Although the War Office in Paris Admits the Loss of the Village of Brabant in Verdun Region, Where Tremendous German Assault Is Being Delivered

250,000 MEN HURLED ON 25-MILE FRONT

Emperor William Has Taken Up His Headquarters, Together with the Crown Prince, on the Verdun Front, Where Fighting Is Going on with Great Fury

Berlin, via London, Feb. 24.—Further gains for the Germans in the region north of the French fortress of Verdun were reported by the war office to-day. The statement says that the entire wooded district northwest and northeast of Beaumont and the forest of Herbe are in the possession of the Germans. The announcement also was made of the capture by the Germans of the villages of Brabant, Haumont and Samogneux in the Verdun region.

Paris, via London, Feb. 24.—The fighting is continuing with undiminished intensity in the region north of Verdun, the war office announced to-day. The loss of the village of Brabant was admitted. The war office declares that the French line has not been broken at any point.

London, Feb. 24.—Emperor William has established his headquarters at the German positions facing Verdun, according to information received from Berlin by way of Copenhagen by the Evening News.

The great battle on the western front, where more than 250,000 Germans are assaulting the French lines along a 25-mile front to the north of the fortress of Verdun, is the outstanding feature of the current war news. To take Verdun is one of the chief ambitions credited to the German crown prince, and the present effort under his command is on a scale that indicates the most determined effort yet made to break down the barriers with which the French have protected the stronghold.

At the last accounts the battle was still raging with great fury, both sides keeping up a continuous fire from all their available artillery and throwing masses of troops into the fray. The losses on each side are extremely heavy. In the fighting on the second day the Germans pushed their way at points two miles inside of the former French lines and less than eight miles from the fortress. The French claim to have checked the German advance at most points.

FRENCH WELL PREPARED.

Expected the Assault to Be Delivered on Verdun.

Paris, Feb. 24.—The battle of Verdun continues with growing intensity. It extends over a front of 40 kilometers (25 miles), and seven German army corps (280,000 men) are engaged. This announcement was made officially by the war office last night.

The official statement reads: "In the region north of Verdun the German attack, as was foreseen, developed into a very important action, for which powerful preparations were made."

"The battle continued to-day with increasing intensity, and was energetically withstood by our troops, who inflicted extremely heavy losses on the enemy. The bombardment with shells of heavy calibre was uninterrupted, and our artillery responded with equal violence. It extends along a front of nearly 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Malancourt as far as the region opposite Etain."

"The actions of the German infantry were carried out by very heavy effective, comprising troops of seven different army corps, who followed each other during the course of the day between Brabant-sur-Meuse and Ormes."

"At the approach to the village of Hamont the enemy was not able, notwithstanding his efforts, to dislodge us from our positions. In the Bois des Caures, of which we hold the greater part, our counter-attacks stopped the enemy's offensive."

"East of the Bois des Caures the Germans were able to penetrate the Waville wood, forming a series of bloody encounters."

"North of Ormes the enemy's attacks against our lines at Herchebois were arrested by our counter-attacks. There was no infantry action on the left bank of the Meuse, nor between Oros and Fromesey."

BRITAIN'S AIM IS NOT ALTERED

Premier Asquith Declares His Country Is Just as Determined as Ever to Free Belgium and Serbia.

London, Feb. 24.—Premier Asquith found himself unexpectedly face to face in the House of Commons yesterday, with a new demand for the government's views on peace. He took up the gauntlet almost eagerly, and in a brilliant 15-minute speech made it clear that the British government's determination to carry the war to the end without compromise, had not abated since the early days of the struggle.

The prime minister's stern declaration created a deep impression on all parts of the House, and this found reflection subsequently in the lobbies.

The occasion for the premier's pronouncement was a speech which Philip Snowden, of the Independent Labor party, injected into the debate on the consolidated fund bill, a routine measure providing appropriations mainly for interest on the national debt.

Mr. Snowden urged that the time was ripe for peace negotiations, maintaining that there was little or no hope for a crushing victory on either side, and that if the war went on all participants would be bankrupted in men and money.

Mr. Asquith's speech in reply was followed by a score of speeches, for the most part applauding the premier's position. Two or three so-called peace advocates supported Mr. Snowden, but found themselves scarcely tolerated by their audience. The only applause during any of the pro-peace speeches came from a spectator in the strangers' gallery, who was promptly ejected.

Stephen Walsh, for the Labor party, denied that Mr. Snowden expressed the opinion of Labor.

The House of Lords continued yesterday the debate on the blockade. Baron Sydenham finally withdrew his motion for a stricter blockade after the earl of Crewe, lord president of the council, had further clarified the government's position.

GERMAN NAVAL MAN DIED IN BERLIN

Admiral Von Pohl, Whose Retirement as Head of German Battle Fleet Was Announced Two Days Ago.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 24.—Admiral Von Pohl, whose retirement on account of ill health from his position as commander of the German battle fleet, was announced two days ago, has died in Berlin.

BRITISH STEAMER CAPTURED.

The Westburn Puts Into Port Under German Flag.

London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch received from Santa Cruz, Tenerife (Canary island), says the British steamer, Westburn, has put in there for repairs flying the German flag and with a prize crew of seven men and one officer. The officer is believed to belong to the German raider Moeve.

In addition to her crew, there are 200 prisoners taken from various British vessels on the Westburn. The Westburn left Liverpool January 21 for Buenos Aires. The Westburn is a vessel of 3,300 tons. She was built in 1903 and is owned by J. Westall of Sunderland. The prisoners on board came from the British steamers Flomeno, Horace, Clan McTavish and Cambridge, the British bark Edinburgh and the Belgian steamer Luxembour.

The Westburn, after her departure from Liverpool, was last reported as passing St. Vincent, Cape Verde, February 4. The Flomeno left Newport, England, for Valparaiso, January 21, and the Horace left Buenos Aires January 26 for Liverpool. The Luxembour was on a voyage from Newport for Buenos Aires, having departed for the South American port January 18. The bark Edinburgh sailed from Raungoon, India, September 22, for Liverpool. The Luxembour and the Flomeno had been placed on the missing list. The Cambridge cannot be identified.

The fact that the steamship Westburn has among the prisoners on board men from the British steamship Clan McTavish, sunk after an exciting battle by the German raider Moeve off the west coast of Africa in January, seemingly would indicate that the Flomeno, Horace, Edinburgh and Luxembour had met a similar fate. The Moeve, which captured the British South African liner Appam, which was later taken into Hampton Roads by a German prize crew, in addition to disposing of the Clan McTavish, destroyed six other steamers, the Corbridge, which probably is the Cambridge referred to in the London dispatch, Trader, Author, Ariadne, Drumonby and Farringford.

WRECK VICTIMS ARE RECOVERING

Meanwhile Two Inquiries are Under Way—One by Interstate Commerce Commission, and Other by Coroner.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—Two inquiries into the rear-end collision of passenger trains at Milford Tuesday, which caused ten deaths, were under way to-day. The interstate commerce commission opened an investigation this morning, while that of Coroner Mix, which was started yesterday, was still in progress.

Twenty victims of the wreck still remained in hospitals, but all were recovering.

PASSENGERS SCARED.

When Piston Rod on New Haven R. R. Engine Snapped.

Wallingford, Conn., Feb. 24.—Passengers on express train No. 53, from Boston to New York, on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad, were given a scare and shaking up near Galeville last night, when one of the piston rods on the engine snapped in twain. The engine sped along the rails for a quarter of a mile before the engineer could bring his train to stop. None of the cars left the tracks.

PORTUGAL HAS CAST HER LOT WITH ALLIES

Commander of Naval Division Took Forceful Possession of 36 German and Austrian Vessels Lying in Tagus River and Hoisted the Flag of Portugal over Them

GOVT. CLAIMS NO PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Captain Leotte Rego Apparently Took the Action on Own Initiative, Directing His Operations from the Destroyer Guardian—Portugal Has Long Been Ready

Lisbon, Wednesday, via Paris, Thursday, Feb. 24.—Captain Leotte Rego, commander of the naval division here, at 4 o'clock this afternoon apparently on his own volition, took forcible possession of 36 German and Austrian vessels lying in the Tagus river, hoisted the Portuguese flag on them and saluted them with a 21-gun salvo from the Portuguese fleet.

It is said that the act of Captain Rego was totally unexpected by the governing authorities, who were unaware of the step until it had been carried out. Rego directed his operations from the destroyer Guardian.

Despite many rumors since the outbreak of the war, that Portugal was on the point of declaring a state of war with the central empires on account of treaty relations with Great Britain, no such declaration had ever been made. The Portuguese congress voted to cooperate with the allies whenever that step seemed necessary.

CONGRESS FEELS AGITATED OVER SHIP WARNING

Pres. Wilson's Emphatic Stand Against Action to Warn Intending Trans-Atlantic Passengers Meets with Opposition.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24.—Democratic members of the House foreign affairs committee to-day began a canvass to ascertain the sentiment of the House on the question of warning Americans to keep off armed ships of European belligerents. This is being done as a result of the agitation in Congress yesterday, following the introduction of resolutions on the subject.

Although the president had let it be known that his resolutions would embarrass the government in diplomatic negotiations with Germany on submarine warfare, such strong pressure was brought to bear for action that the committee felt it could not be ignored.

When Congress assembled, agitation for action warning Americans overshadowed all other questions, and President Wilson's supporters were working to hold the administration forces in line. Word went to the capitol that the president's opposition to any action by Congress was unshaken and that Chairman Stone and Flood of the committee in dealing with foreign relations would explain his position fully. It was apparent that much of the chafing in Congress was due to the lack of information of the president's attitude. Administration officials outside of Congress professed to be undisturbed and expressed confidence that the president's position would be supported.

Germany has not yet replied to the latest request from Washington for a declaration that the previous assurances for the safety of unresisting liners apply to the conduct of the new submarine campaign.

Senator Gore announced to-day he would offer a concurrent resolution, expressing it to be the sense of Congress that Americans should keep off armed belligerent ships. Such a resolution would differ from his bill for the same purpose in that it would not require approval by the president. It seeks to remove as the cause for war the injury of any American on an armed belligerent ship.

Senator Gore sought to introduce the resolution and bill by unanimous consent to-day, but Senator Brandegee, Republican, of Connecticut objected and shut the proposal out. Senator Gore will try again to-morrow.

CUMMINS A CANDIDATE.

Iowa Senator Wants to Be President of United States.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 24.—United States Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa yesterday filed affidavits with the secretary of state as a candidate for the presidency of the United States on the Republican ticket.

Don't Believe It.

Caller—Marjorie, if you drink so much tea you will be an old maid. Marjorie—I don't believe that at all. Mamma drinks lots of tea and she's been married twice and isn't an old maid yet. —Boston Transcript.

LOPOFF RUTLAND R. R. IN RECOMMENDATION

Massachusetts Public Service Commission Makes Report on New Haven R. R. Investigation.

Boston, Feb. 24.—Recommendation that the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad should further divest itself of properties not essential parts of its system are contained in a report by the state public service commission to the legislature, made public yesterday. The report is based on an investigation of the capital expenditure and investments of the road ordered by the last legislature.

Disposal of the Rutland Railroad company stock should be required within three years; the securities of all gas, electric and water companies should be sold within a similar period; and four small street railway companies which the New Haven owns, directly in Connecticut, should likewise be divested from the railroad system, according to the commission.

The report recommends that the New England Navigation company be dissolved and its assets and liabilities taken over by the New Haven company. Disposal was recommended also for the Subway and Westchester Construction company, the Roxbury Central Wharf and the South Bay Wharf and Terminal company.

The commission held that the New Haven could properly retain interests in its steamship companies, "provided the consent of the interstate commerce commission were secured," and favored the retention also of the New Haven's interest in all controlled railroad companies except the Rutland, including the New York, Ontario and Western holdings, however. It was reported, might well be sold if the transaction could be arranged without financial loss to the road.

Limitation of the dividends of the New Haven company to not more than five per cent was recommended as a means of providing against reductions in book values and actual losses to be incurred through sale of the several properties as ordered by the federal dissolution decree, and recommended by the public service commission. The commission suggested that the five per cent dividend limitation be made effective until such time as the net amount of such losses had been offset by appropriations from earnings or by contribution from stockholders.

The question of federal incorporation of the New Haven company was suggested by the commission as deserving of serious study.

PLEADED GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

Charles W. Porter, Former Postmaster at Guildhall, Will Be Sentenced in U. S. Court Later.

Burlington, Feb. 24.—The U. S. grand jury last yesterday brought in an indictment against Charles W. Porter, charged with the embezzlement of a little over \$320 from the postoffice at Guildhall. The respondent was taken into court and pleaded guilty, Judge Howe continuing his case for sentence. Porter was postmaster at Guildhall when the embezzlement occurred and he was arrested in Illinois about two months ago and brought back to this state to await trial.

The trial of Hattie E. Moses vs. James K. Howe of Tumbidge was started in the afternoon, the case growing out of injuries received by the plaintiff when attacked by a bull owned by the defendant. A jury was drawn as follows: M. L. Brooks of St. Albans, O. G. Carpenter of Essex Junction, Francis F. LaMotte, George Foss of Hyde Park, W. B. Johnson of Essex, James Murphy of Charlotte and Thomas Magner, J. Frank Kiddler, Charles A. Niles, Edward L. Plant, G. N. Roberts and Frank Talcott of Burlington. Court was then adjourned to two o'clock in the afternoon, when the case was taken up.

The first witness called was James K. Howe, defendant in the case, who was called by the plaintiff. Other witnesses heard were Frank J. Ackerman, Mrs. Orr, Truman Parshey, Frank Durkee and F. M. Ashley. There were three other witnesses heard when the case was resumed this morning. The testimony taken yesterday afternoon was in regard to the purchase of two bull calves by the defendant from Mr. Ackerman. It was one of these calves which injured the plaintiff as she was passing through a field, out of which the case grew.

Other cases on the docket for trial are Roy McGowan vs. Postal Telegraph company, the matter of the tug boat "Paul Leroy" et al. William H. Moses vs. James K. Howe, a companion case to the one on trial, George N. Ostrander vs. Amos N. Blandin and trustees, Maud Rannels, admx. of Fred W. Rannels, vs. town of Royalton, and the bankruptcy cases of Fraser Slate company and Martin H. Gibson, alleged bankrupts.

Charles R. White of this city and Albert P. Ayers of Swanton were given the oath and admitted to practice before the United States district court. Both attorneys have been admitted to practice before the supreme court.

OPPOSE NEW MILK TARIFF.

Farmers Meet at Lyndonville and Take Action.

Lyndonville, Feb. 24.—At a largely attended meeting of farmers yesterday with F. A. Rogers of Meriden, N. H., members of the executive committee of the New Hampshire state grange and also a member of the advisory board of agricultural in attendance, strong resolutions were passed opposing any revision of the tariff on transportation of milk and cream whereby the farmer will be obliged to take a less price for his milk.

VERMONT BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Edmond J. King, St. Johnsbury Restaurant Keeper, Has Big Debts.

Rutland, Feb. 24.—Edmond J. King of St. Johnsbury, a restaurant proprietor, yesterday filed a petition in bankruptcy. His liabilities are \$7,932.28 and he has assets of \$4,282.12, with \$200.

There is due secured credit of \$96. Nearly all the 49 unsecured creditors live in St. Johnsbury.

SLAIN AFTER DISPUTE

A. C. Gibson, a Prominent Lumber Contractor of Sharon, Bled to Death This Morning, After Receiving a Gun Wound in Thigh After Dispute over Lumber

CHARLES LATON ALSO CLAIMED OWNERSHIP

Gibson Went to J. L. Condon's Farm This Morning to Get the Lumber and Was Warned by Member of the Laton Family to Desist, Which He Refused to Do

South Royalton, Feb. 24.—A. C. Gibson, a prominent lumber contractor of the town of Sharon, residing near the Royalton line, bled to death this morning after receiving a shot wound in the thigh while attempting to load some lumber at the farm of J. L. Condon, at what is known as the Quimby place. The shooting is alleged to have taken place after an argument between Gibson and Charles Laton as to the ownership of the lumber.

According to the report now available, Gibson bought the lumber of Condon, but was advised that it was better not to go after it for the present time as there might be trouble with Laton, who also claimed ownership. Gibson replied to the warning by saying he didn't think there would be any trouble. So he started for the woodlot this morning to get the lumber. It is alleged that he was met by one of the Laton family and was told not to proceed any further. Gibson persisted in his course and received a bullet wound in the thigh. The wound bled so profusely that the victim died before medical aid could be summoned. It is also said that there was a wound over the head which might have been inflicted by some blunt instrument. The body remained at the Condon farm for some time.

The county authorities were notified of the shooting, the sheriff and the state's attorney being called, after which a physician from the state laboratory of hygiene in Burlington was summoned. It is reported that one member of the Laton family has already been placed under arrest.

Both the Laton and Condon families are comparatively newcomers in this locality, but the victim of the shooting was one of the best known men in this vicinity, coming from a family that has long been located here. The victim of the affair was 55 years of age and leaves his wife and three children, two sons and a daughter. For many years, or practically all his life, he has been engaged in lumber contracting jobs and, therefore, had a wide acquaintance throughout this section of the state, being familiarly known as "Al." He was a very popular man in his home town and in surrounding towns. For some time he was engaged in contracting for the Champlain Realty company in Rochester and vicinity.

VETERINARIAN IN DISCUSSION.

And Dr. Guy N. Welsh of Northfield Was Elected President.

Burlington, Feb. 24.—The semi-annual meeting of the Vermont Veterinary Medical association, which was postponed from January 22, was held yesterday afternoon in the roof garden of the Hotel Vermont, with an attendance of 20 members, the meeting being presided over by Dr. Robert Weir of Rutland, president of the association. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Dr. Guy N. Welsh of Northfield; first vice-president, Dr. John Thomas of Wells River; second vice-president, Dr. John Cady of Morrisville; secretary, and treasurer, Dr. George Stephens of White River Junction, (re-elected). It was voted to hold the next meeting of the association at Rutland on July 12 and 13. The meeting was concluded with a clinic this morning at the experiment station stables, conducted by Dr. F. A. Rich, professor of veterinary science at the University of Vermont.

At the session yesterday afternoon Dr. J. C. Parker of St. Albans read an interesting paper on "Anthrax," which was followed by a general discussion of this subject, and Dr. E. O. Barr of Barre told of the symptoms of several interesting cases which had not been diagnosed. An informal banquet was held last evening in the dining room of the Hotel Vermont, at which Dr. William Cashmore of Jericho acted as toastmaster. State Livestock Commissioner F. L. Davis of White River Junction, who was to have made an address, was unable to be present because of illness and no formal speeches were made, but there were impromptu remarks from nearly all in attendance.

Less Reason to Be.

Father—Aren't you sorry now that you hit Willie Jones? Bobby—I ain't half as sorry as he is.

AGED RESIDENT DEAD.

Loren H. Hooker Recently Observed His 90th Birthday.

Loren H. Hooker, one of Barre's oldest residents, having passed his 90th birthday on February 12, last, died at 3 o'clock this morning at his home, 101 Prospect street. Shortly after observing his birthday in a quiet way, Mr. Hooker was taken ill, and his sickness developed into pneumonia, which was the cause of his death.

Mr. Hooker was born in Peacham, Feb. 12, 1826, being a son of Hartwell and Cynthia Hooker. He passed his early life in that town and vicinity, and came to Barre over 60 years ago. Since then he had been a resident of this place, being engaged a long time in carpentry and allied occupations. For some time he had been retired from active work. He was prominently identified with Hedding Methodist church here and was one of the oldest Masons in Barre.

Mr. Hooker was married three times. His third wife was Julia A. Phillips of Montpelier, and she survives him. A sister also survives, she being Mrs. D. G. Bickford of Elmira, N. Y., and being now the last of fourteen children. There are many nephews and nieces.

The funeral will be held at the Hedding church Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, being preceded by a prayer service at the house. Rev. E. F. Newell will officiate and interment will be in Elmwood cemetery.

SENTENCES IMPOSED

On Two Youthful Clothes-line Thieves in Barre.

House of correction and industrial school sentences were imposed in city court last evening when Henry Ladlower and Clyde Laforest, two River street youths, were arraigned before Magistrate H. W. Scott on petit larceny complaints charging them with the wholesale denudation of clothes-lines in the north end. The respondents each pleaded guilty and Laforest was sentenced to serve the remainder of his minority in the state industrial school at Vergennes, or until Feb. 28, 1919, the alternative being a sentence of several months in the house of correction. Ladlower, the older of the pair, was sentenced to serve not less than four months with a maximum of five months in the Rutland institution. They will begin their sentences at once. Yesterday was a busy day with officers assigned to the trail of missing wash and laundry matter. The more they looked the more they found and evidence pointing to the allegation that Ladlower and Laforest were making a business of stealing clothes continued to accumulate. Several people who missed clothes-line articles last month called at police headquarters to identify clothing uncovered by the police in their search.

This morning Mr. and Mrs. John Abbey of 37 Branch street were arrested on complaints made to Grand Juror William Wishart charging them with having received and aided in the concealment of clothes alleged to have been taken from clothes-lines by Laforest and Ladlower. Abbey was taken in custody on North Main street by Acting Chief Harry Gamble and Mrs. Abbey was arrested by Officer John W. Dineen. It is stated by the authorities that a portion of the goods recovered was found at the Abbey home. When arraigned before Magistrate Scott the man and his wife each entered a plea of not guilty. Bail was fixed at \$100 and the case was continued for hearings to be held this afternoon.

GUILTY OF LESSER CHARGE.

Jose Pardo Admitted Breach of the Peace Last June.

A change in the charge from one of assault with intent to kill to that of breach of the peace resulted this morning in a plea of guilty being entered by Jose Pardo, an upper Graniteville man, who was alleged to have been mixed up in a fracas in Barre town last spring. Magistrate H. W. Scott imposed a \$10 fine and costs of \$16.65, which the respondent paid. The case was the outgrowth of a shooting, in which a countryman of Pardo received a bullet wound in the hand on the 13th of June. The affair happened when a number of Spanish people assembled in upper Graniteville for a bowling tournament. Pardo was represented to-day by J. Ward Carver and E. R. Davis, and State's Attorney F. E. Gleason, who pressed the original charge against the respondent, delegated Grand Juror William Wishart to appear for the state.

CONDUCTING LOTTERY CHARGE.

M. Hirsch of Boston Held for Trial at Bellows Falls.

Bellows Falls, Feb. 24.—M. Hirsch of Boston, arrested on charge of conducting a lottery, was released under \$200 cash bail. In municipal court this afternoon the case was continued until Monday morning.

Hirsch, it is alleged, is connected with a furniture company of Boston, and was making collections from patrons of the firm when arrested. These collections are made weekly, and when a certain amount is paid in the customers are to receive furniture. The state alleges that the full amount has not been paid in by some of the customers, but they have received furniture, thus furnishing the basis for the lottery charge.

BLOOD POISONING FEARED.

Assistant Superintendent Reinhart of Boston & Maine Also Had Operation.

Woodsville, N. H., Feb. 24.—Assistant Superintendent Reinhart of the Boston & Maine railroad yesterday underwent an operation for appendicitis and his condition is critical. Fearing that blood poisoning had developed arrangements were made late in the afternoon for a microsopical analysis at the Mary Hitchcock hospital at Hanover. Specimens of blood were taken to the hospital the messenger being carried to Hanover on a light engine. Arrangements were quickly made for the trip and the B. & M. engine No. 1484, in charge of Engineer W. R. Page, left Woodsville at 5:45, and reached Woodsville on the return at 7:45, making the round trip of 102 miles in exactly two hours. The engine showed signs at Hanover that the messenger for the hospital might drop off. At White River Junction the locomotive was turned and made the return trip on a clear iron.

BOTH CITIES ARE OPPOSED

Barre City Council Refused Traction Co. Plan; Montpelier Tabled It.

VIGOROUS ACTION BY THE FORMER

Montpelier Evincing a Desire to Accord with Others

Fresh evidence that the Barre city council is not to submit to any overtures for an abrogation of the franchise granted to the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company was at hand last night at a special session of the council when a resolution rejecting the latest request of the company for a modification of its intercity and local trolley service was adopted unanimously. In a tone of unmistakable firmness and in language capable of only one construction, the resolution, after refusing the petition presented at the regular meeting Tuesday night, went on to place the blame for the company's present financial predicament on its alleged policy of unfairness in dealing with the public.

Action on the proposal of the traction people to institute sweeping changes in its service for the purpose of reducing expenses was not taken until the question had been pretty thoroughly discussed, but when it came to voting on a resolution offered tentatively as a reply to the petition, the council seemed to be of one accord. A searching examination of the company's past history played no unimportant part in the discussion and the possibility of its future activity was also considered from a number of angles. Alderman Healy suggested that the city councils of Barre and Montpelier and the selectmen of Berlin would do well to confer jointly before finally taking action, but when it was recalled that a conference with all principals involved was held last summer the suggestion was dropped.

It was on the motion of Alderman Rossi, seconded by Alderman Keast, that the following resolution, offered by the latter alderman, was adopted: "Resolved by the city council of the city of Barre: Whereas, a petition has been presented to this city council by the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power Co., requesting a modification of the schedule for car service, as provided for in section 15 of the franchise granted to the aforesaid company by the city of Barre; and having fully considered the reasons set forth by said company in said petition for said change; we hereby refuse to grant said petition and disclaim the same, as we do not believe the public should be made to suffer for what we believe to be the effect of poor management on the part of the company.

"It is our opinion that the causes which have led to the present financial position of the company have been due largely to its pursuing a policy that was objectionable to the traveling public, a policy which for the time being has alienated their good will and support, which they had heretofore cheerfully given."

Before the council adjourned at 6:30 this evening, a small budget of routine business had been transacted and a protracted discussion of street department trucks had prolonged the session. A warrant of \$400 in favor of the Barre Savings Bank & Trust Co. for a six months' interest due March 1 on \$20,000 4 per cent school bonds was approved for payment and a resolution appropriating \$127.65 for the care of public parks, which was read for the second time, was adopted.

The petition of the Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company to change the running time of its trolley cars, and including a proposition to change a 10-cent fare from April 1 until Dec. 1, was laid on the table by the Montpelier city council at the final regular meeting of the present board last evening, aldermen and mayor voting as one on the question. The petition corresponds in every detail to one submitted to the Barre council two nights ago and the local board evidently wished to act in accordance with the other municipal corporations interested.

A motion to shove the bill of George I. Blanchard, for the rental of land for the past year and a half, on the shelf, was defeated by a ye a and nay vote 4 to 2 and, immediately, the council voted to pay the bill. Some members wished Mr. Blanchard to render a statement to the effect that he would rent the land for \$75 per annum, but the others were of the opinion that his word should suffice.

The settlement of the Mary Castron matter, so called, was left to the discretion of the overseer of the poor after an opinion on the case had been heard from the city attorney, George I. Hunt. The town of Berlin makes the claim that the support of the woman should fall on Montpelier inasmuch as she was transported from that city to the town following her discharge from Heaton hospital. The city attorney stated that he understood the facts to be such that the city could not be held responsible. According to his information, Overseer Laphier paid 25 cents toward the hire of a team to carry the woman away from the hospital after her recovery from an illness. It was the city attorney's belief that the hospital people and Mr. Laphier might be held liable but he failed to see where the city could be, and several cases decided by supreme court were quoted.

Final settlement was made by the council with J. E. Cashman, the contractor, for his work in constructing the new city hall buildings, it being voted to pay him \$2,198, upon recommendation of Architect F. A. Walker. Architect Walker was also paid \$250, the balance due for his work in connection with the new building.