



MYSTERY SHROUDS METHODS OF MEN IN LAND GRAB DEAL

Visits to Property Owners in Vicinity of 21st and Race Streets and Vague Offers to Buy Assume New Significance in Light of Municipal Court Project.

Proposed Purchase of the Magdalen Home Admitted by Those in the Secret to Be Only the "Entering Wedge" in \$2,000,000 Building Fund.

Mysterious calls by mysterious men on property owners in the vicinity of 21st and Race streets, the site for the proposed \$2,000,000 "marble hall" grab of the Municipal Court, have taken a new meaning to those who entertained the men since the plans of McNichol-Penrose forces have been revealed.

For months before it was even whispered that the Detention House at 23d and Arch streets, built only six years ago, was to be abandoned persons who owned property in the path of the grab have been asked to tell what they would sell for. Sometimes the "agents" have said they represented the city, but more often they have come from "persons who did not want to figure in the transaction until it was closed."

No one knows who these men are. But they have been unsuccessful in most cases, as the neighborhood is made up of thirty people who saved until they had enough to buy a home and who intend sticking to it despite alluring offers to sell.

Some property owners stopped talking very quickly when asked if any one had tried to buy options on their land. Options, like dead men, tell no tales, it has been pointed out. Records at City Hall are innocent enough. There is one exception, however.

It is known that one of the properties owned by Mrs. James P. McNichol, a four-story brick house at 22d Race street, directly across the street from the "Marble Hall" property site, would be exchanged in value for the extent of the grab being perfected. It is valued now at \$5000.

Antoninich at the land grab is being followed by what one critic among those familiar with the scheme of the Municipal Court.

It was pointed out today that the gang majority in Councils was willing enough to buy options on their land. Options, like dead men, tell no tales, it has been pointed out. Records at City Hall are innocent enough. There is one exception, however.

ONLY THE "ENTERING WEDGE" Executive Clerk Fred C. Simon, of the Municipal Court, admitted that the \$200,000 item in the loan bill and the ordinance passed over the Mayor's veto to acquire a small plot at 21st and Race streets were only the "entering wedge" in the scheme to hear the Municipal Court in magnificent buildings on an expensive tract.

"We proposed to add 100,000 to the plans to the Magdalen home property," said Simon. "The \$200,000 in the loan bill was to be the basis of a building fund. After getting the first projects we intended acquiring more by new ordinance until the plans were carried out."

The new House of Detention at 21st and Arch streets would be abandoned if the land grab plans went through. This was admitted by promoters of the grab scheme.

The House of Detention was completed only six years ago, and it is still in good condition, according to Mrs. Henry P. Richardson, wife of the superintendent and assistant to him.

"The halls are very crowded during the court days," said Mrs. Richardson, "and the noise of passing street cars makes it hard to hear in the courtroom. If it were not for the court here, we would be able to manage very well."

to deserve all the hard things said of it by those who want to build a new one. "On court days," she said, "the halls are crowded so that it is almost impossible to pass. And the judge has only one small room to himself. If people were to come in here they would have to go out into the hall to get a room to entertain them in."

The advisory board, of which Louis Wolf, George Q. Horwita, Louise Jurist, and others are members, complain because their meetings are interrupted, they say, by the noise of street cars passing along Arch street and turning north on 23d street. Their meeting room is at the side facing 23d street, but they have to go over into the building "store" room for their meeting because the cars make so much noise, according to Mr. Horwita.

Meanwhile Municipal Court officials and other organization men are considerably upset by the publicity given their plans. There is an impression that the plans for buying the rest of the property may be submerged for a time in the hope that the size of the grab and the methods chosen to make it may be forgotten.

FENCIBLES MUST SURRENDER ARMORY TO THE CITY Dilatory Tactics of Councils Force Vacation of Broad Street Site.

Owing to the dilatoriness of City Councils to act on an ordinance providing for an extension of the lease of the State Fencibles' Armory building at Broad and Galloway streets, that military organization will be compelled immediately to vacate and deliver up possession to the city.

The lease of the armory building expired on March 1st, and the city declined to renew it. For the reason, according to Councils, that the establishment of the Municipal Court made it necessary for the city to find quarters outside of the City Hall for some of its departments in order to make room for the new court.

After judgment had been entered on the lease, Mr. Purth stated immediately that he would take a rule to show cause why the judgment should not be opened. A motion for a continuance of the judgment was introduced in the City Councils on Monday.

Assistant City Solicitor Edgar W. Lank stated that Director Porter had no authority to act for the city in such a way, and the Law Department was trying to get possession of the armory. The court said that Councils was the only authority for leasing city property, and the rule to open judgment was discharged.

MAN ACCUSED OF SHOOTING AT BICYCLIST WITH BALL Police Declare He Fired When Rider Continued Loud Ringing.

Bicycle bells should not be rung on the Sabbath in the opinion of Joseph Bolden, of 17 West Pine street. It is alleged that he shot at a bicyclist on the morning of Sept. 24th. Bolden was held under \$500 bail by Magistrate Peter J. McLaughlin of the Court of Sessions, this morning.

According to the police, Bolden had been residing in the neighborhood of West Pine and Thompson streets, ringing his bicycle bell in a particularly loud and persistent manner, and Bolden expressed his objection to the nuisance several times to the cyclist without being able to persuade him to stop. Finally Bolden drew a revolver and the police shot him at the Hall. The bullet missed and he fled in the form of an automobile standing in front of the garage owned by Edward Miller. A number of men standing in front of the garage narrowly escaped being struck.

Spanish Course to Aid Business Prompted by the suggestion of exporting firms engaged in the South American American business, a Spanish and Spanish-American course in law and customs opens tonight in the West Branch Y. M. C. A.

GENUINE RELICS A chairwoman's man tonight met on the highway an aged dandy of his acquaintance with his arm in a sling.

"Is your arm broken?" asked the chairwoman solemnly. "No, boss, it ain't broken—only sun-burned." "Ah, been hunting?" "No, suth, I've been hunting been shooting at trees." "Target practice, eh?" "No, suth, I ain't target practice, I ain't shooting at trees." "I don't understand."

DOMINION REFUGEES HERE WITH WAR TALES



Passengers who arrived in port on the American liner Dominion today. Nearly all had some war experience to tell, eager to make it known and glad to see this city, who left Brussels a day after the German occupation of the city; John Vrooman, an American Boy Scout, who lived in England for three years and had a chance to see what war activity is like; Captain Frank V. Avery, U. S. A. retired, who spoke highly of the German army and mobilization; De Forrest Hart, of Chicago, who arrived from South Africa and spoke of the sentiment among England's erstwhile enemies and present loyal subjects, the Boers, and Mrs. K. Gabel and her son, Milton, who were in Berlin at the height of the warlike enthusiasm.

REFORM MEMBER OF COUNCILS RESIGNS TO BALK MACHINE Simmington Retires in Order to Permit Election of Successor in November Who Will Uphold Mayor's Hands.

James Simmington, Common Councilman from the 23d Ward, and candidate for the Legislature from the 19th District on the Democratic and Washington tickets, resigned from Councils at 10 o'clock today. Mr. Simmington came to City Hall with Alexis J. Limeburner, also Councilman from the 23d Ward, and handed his formal resignation to President McCurdy.

Back of Mr. Simmington's resignation is the fight of the administration leaders in Councils to muster enough votes to stand behind Mayor Blankenburg in his reform measures. Legally, Mr. Simmington, two other Common Councilmen might have remained in Councils until January 1, 1915. By resigning then, however, the seat of one reform Councilman would have been vacant until the November election next year.

The resignation of Mr. Simmington at this time gives an opportunity for his successor to be elected on November 4, this year. Mr. Simmington intends to cooperate with the reform leaders in his ward to have elected a man who will stand by the Mayor in order that the numerical ratio of administration and organization Councilmen will remain as it now is.

Several men have been considered by the administration leaders to fill the Councilman vacancy. Among these is Jacob Rothkugel, who lives in the southeast corner of 22d and Dauphin streets, is the most favored. Mr. Rothkugel resigned as nominee for the Legislature on the Washington party ticket in order to perfect fusion in the 19th District. His sacrifice in resigning, his friends say, makes him the logical candidate to take the place made vacant by Mr. Simmington.

The Democratic party and five from the Washington party will meet tonight to determine upon the candidate. Provided they agree upon a name the Washington party Ward Committee will meet tomorrow night to endorse their choice. The Democratic Ward Committee will meet on Thursday night to take similar action.

Mr. Simmington was elected to Common Council in 1911 at the time Rudolph Blankenburg was elected Mayor. Last year he was re-elected with little opposition. Two other Common Councilmen represent the Twenty-eighth Ward. Alexis J. Limeburner and Charles J. McKinley. In Select Council William H. Quigley represents the ward.

POLICE SEEK BODY OF MAN WHOSE WIFE SCOUTS SUICIDE IDEA NEWS-POST QUILTS; RADICAL PAPER HAD EXCITING CAREER

Whether Harry Carr, 215 North Tenth street, Camden, is a suicide or not is expected to be determined by a view from the police boat Reuben today. The man's coat was found on the Market street bridge over the Schuylkill River early today, but his wife, whom it is alleged he tried to kill last night, scouted the suicide theory, saying her husband did not "have nerve enough" to take his life.

This theory is also shared by John Layton, a Camden detective, who said today Carr was wanted in Camden for robbery and he was still hunting for him, despite the fact persons testified to seeing the man jump from the bridge today. Layton says he believes the coat left on the bridge was put there for a "bluff." Carr was out on probation under a suspended sentence for previous theft when a new warrant was sworn out for his arrest, charging him with larceny from R. M. Hollingshead, a soap maker of Camden.

According to the police of the 23d street and Woodland avenue precinct, a small boy came to them this morning, saying he had seen a man jump from the Market street bridge and that his coat was left on the ledge. The coat was found and the police boat Reuben sent to scarp for the supposed body.

In the pockets of the coat found on Market street today was a letter addressed to Harry Carr, 215 Green street, Philadelphia. Subsequent investigations have led the police to adopt a theory that the owner of the coat was the same Carr wanted in Camden for larceny. Other papers found in the coat pockets strengthened this idea.

P. J. McGARVEY RE-ELECTED Patrick J. McGarvey was re-elected county president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at the closing session of their convention held last night in Apollo Hall. Thomas E. O'Neill was elected vice president; John P. Horvath, recording secretary; Bryan J. Tansley, financial secretary; Patrick J. Fitzgerald, corresponding secretary. Patrick McLaughlin, the national president, attended the meeting.

REFUGEEES ABOARD LINER DOMINION TELL TROUBLES Steamship Docks at Washington Avenue Wharf After Uneventful Voyage From Liverpool.

With hundreds of passengers from all parts of the European war zone on board the American Line steamship Dominion landed at the Washington avenue wharf from Liverpool, this morning. The liner arrived after an uneventful voyage, on which no obstacles were encountered, "not even a German cruiser," as Captain W. E. Ingham put it.

But if the voyage of the ship was uneventful the experience encountered by many of the passengers on the continent were different. Many of the women, and particularly the women, have experiences of all sorts to relate.

A graphic story of the occupation of Brussels by the German forces was told by Miss Elizabeth Doerr, of this city, who left Brussels a day after the arrival of the German army there.

"I shall never forget the sight," said Miss Doerr. "One million men, like a great rolling cloud, passed through the city. It took them three days and three nights to do it, and when they got through Brussels was forsaken. There was hardly a bit of food in the city. Not a drop of milk could be gotten. All the food stores and warehouses were emptied by the Germans and the palace and public houses were occupied by the new German garrison left behind by the main army."

"It was on August 20 early in the morning when we received orders that all flags but the German and the American flags must be removed from sight. A short time after the receipt of this order the first German officer, riding on a bicycle, entered the city. We saw him, for, encouraged by the report from the American legation that the city would be surrendered without resistance, we took a chance and went out for a promenade. Behind the officer came 40 cavalry men with rifles ready to shoot if any sign of sniping should appear. And then came the real sight. One million men, one huge, endless cloud of humanity entered the city. It seems strange, but all of them were in uniform, and every one was and then, round by some noise and sound, would hurriedly open their eyes and look about them."

PRaise FOR BRAND WHITLOCK. Great credit is due to Brand Whitlock, the American Minister to Belgium. I don't know what the Americans in Brussels would have done without his valuable aid. But that is not all. The fact that Brussels was saved from the fate of Louvain is due directly to the efforts of Mr. Whitlock. On the eve of the arrival of the German army a meeting, at which the city authorities and Mr. Whitlock were present, was held in the City Hall. It was at first suggested that the Belgians defend the city to the very last man, but Mr. Whitlock prevailed upon the civil and military authorities to surrender the city, saying that it would be useless to make any resistance, since it would be overcome and would only result in great loss of life and property.

"I am glad to say," continued Miss Doerr, "that all the art treasures of Brussels have been saved from seizure by the Germans, because they had all been previously removed to England, but Miss Doerr said that after leaving Brussels it took her 12 hours to get to Ostend, whereas the trip should not take more than two hours. She left Philadelphia in July and went to Brussels to complete a course in music.

PRaise GERMAN METHODS. Great admiration for the efficiency of German mobilization was expressed by Captain Frank P. Avery, U. S. A. retired, who arrived from Vienna and Munich. Captain Avery, who resides in Washington, and is a veteran of the Spanish-American war, said that the speed, efficiency and marvelous precision of the German mobilization was the admiration of every man who knew anything about military science. "The people in Vienna and in Munich and all Austrian and German towns we passed are simply crazy for us. The patriotic frenzy that has been aroused among the population in Vienna hundreds of women were clamoring to go to war and wanted to join the army."

ROTTEN HOSE BALKS FIREMEN IN FIGHT AT \$50,000 BLAZE

Could Not Carry High Pressure Streams to Burning Plant of E. J. Spangler & Co. — Prediction Upheld.

Rotten hose, which burst when attached to the high-pressure fire main, a thing predicted recently by Director of Public Safety Porter, held up firemen early this morning at a \$50,000 fire in the envelope and paper plant of E. J. Spangler & Co., 1237 to 1240 North Howard street. A girl who discovered the blaze fainted after rousing neighbors, and a policeman, whose home is across the street from the burned building, ran eight blocks in his bare feet to turn in two alarms.

The bursting hose this morning is the second experience of that kind firemen have had in less than 48 hours. Late Saturday afternoon three separate lines of hose burst while firemen were fighting a big blaze at the Roesch packing plant, Second and Brown streets, and in one instance spectators were drenched.

The fire this morning was discovered a few minutes after 6 o'clock by Miss Irene Yale, 1233 Howard street, two doors from the burning building. She was aroused by the crackling of flames and when she saw the blaze she screamed "fire" and then fell back in her room in a faint.

Her mother, Mrs. May Yale, aroused neighbors, including Policeman Bender, of the Front and Master streets station. Hurrying out to send in an alarm, Bender fell down stairs, but was not hurt. The bluecoat, in his pajamas and without shoes or stockings, ran two blocks to Girard avenue and sent in an alarm. When he returned the envelope plant was blazing so fiercely that he ran back again and turned in a second alarm.

By the time policemen and firemen arrived the three floors of the plant were ablaze and the flames were threatening adjoining dwellings. The family of James Schreiner, 1235 Howard street, had persistently refused to heed the calls of neighbors to flee to the street. Policemen Cooper and Casper finally ran into the house and carried out three children, after which the parents followed.

Several firemen were partially overcome by the thick smoke, but after being treated by ambulance surgeons from three hospitals who came to the scene they returned to work. No one was injured.

HAD TO TURN WATER OFF. The hose that burst had been run up a small alley from a high-pressure plug near Howard and Thompson streets. Firemen had been using it to direct a strong stream of water on the rear of the burning building. They had to turn off the water and run a line of new hose. This is the second time the Spangler plant has been burned down. The first was about three years ago and an equal amount of damage was done at that time. It was estimated today that the loss ran in the neighborhood of \$50,000. So far the prediction of the blaze has not been determined.

Firemen learned that the quick spread of the flames was due to the fact that it started somewhere near the elevator shaft. This started as a fire by leading the fire to the upper floors within a few minutes after its start.

Only quick work by the firemen in running new lines of hose Saturday night prevented the fire at the Roesch plant from spreading through the neighborhood. Recently Director Porter declared that he would not follow the suggestions of the National Board of Fire Underwriters to test all hose before it is used in tests. Councils will not provide for new hose that is badly needed. The Director agreed with the fire underwriters, who said 90 per cent of the hose being used in this city is defective. He went further and said most of it is rotten, intimating that to test it would be to invite a repetition of the Baltimore fire in this city.

THE WEATHER Official Forecast. WASHINGTON, Sept. 28. For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Fair tonight and Tuesday, with frost in exposed places tonight; moderate southerly winds.

High barometric pressure has continued since Saturday over the eastern half of the country, attended by generally fair weather and temperatures somewhat below normal. The great of the high area is north of Lake Erie this morning, and light to heavy frosts are reported from the lower Lake region, New York, New England and northern and central Pennsylvania. The disturbance of slight high pressure over the Rocky Mountain slope, but it has caused but little precipitation thus far. There are indications that a tropical storm is developing off the Louisiana coast, with storm warnings are displayed along the middle Gulf coast.

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin Observations made at 8 a. m. Eastern time

Table with columns: Station, Bar., Therm., Wind, Sky, Precip., etc. for various locations like Abilene, Texas, Albany, N.Y., etc.