

HUGE LAND GRAB HID IN COURT BILL BY ITS PROMOTERS

Acquisition of City Block Contemplated in Measure Jammed Through Councils Over Mayor's Veto—Map of Property Defaced to Conceal Boundries.

A great land grab to be put through by the Vane-McNichol-Pennock-controlled Councils is back of the bill to condemn land for the Municipal Court at 21st and Race streets. The bill was passed Tuesday over the Mayor's veto. On the surface the Municipal Court plan meant the purchase of a small corner lot at 21st and Race streets.

Instead of the name of the street when you saw the sketch? Judge Brown said he hadn't noticed it. "But don't you know why the street was blocked out?" Judge Brown turned on his heel and walked toward his office. "I'm not answering conundrums," he said at the door.

GERMANS HOLD 50,000 Exchange Plans Reduces Early Estimate of 250,000 Prisoners.

LONDON, Sept. 26.—The Central News Agency has received the following dispatch from Rome: "A message from Berlin says the General Staff, having agreed to the complete official lists of prisoners, has found it necessary to admit that the totals already announced were erroneous. The aggregate number of prisoners in German hands is now reduced from 250,000 to 50,000, of whom 30,000 are Russians."

GERMANS AGAIN REPULSED IN POLISH MOVEMENT

Rennenkampf, on Offensive, Checks Swanson, Inflicting Heavy Damage. PETROGRAD, Sept. 26.—It is announced that the Russian army of General Rennenkampf has assumed the offensive and has repulsed the Germans who tried to invade Russian Poland in the direction of Suwalki. White details are lacking, the early reports to the General Staff indicate that the results have been serious to the Germans, who were driven back by Russian troops with the loss of many men and a number of cannon.

GERMAN PLAN IF VICTORIOUS Would Have Made France Ally Against England and Russia.

LONDON, Sept. 26.—It is said here that the plan of Germany, in the event of her crushing France at the outbreak of the war, was to force the republic to become her ally against England and Russia in consideration of not asking a war indemnity. Without in any way implying a lack of trust in France's integrity of purpose it is felt in influential circles here that the declaration signed by Russia, France and Britain is opportune. None of the Allies will demand terms of peace without the previous agreement of each of the other Allies, and it may be taken for granted that there will be no talk of terms so far as the Allies are concerned, until German despotism is effectually crushed. It will be "a war to a finish."

POET ARRESTED AS SPY D'Annunzio Released After Being Held for Making Notes in Paris.

PARIS, Sept. 26.—Gabriele d'Annunzio, Italian poet, was arrested the other evening as a spy. He was standing on the Pont des Arts making memoranda of his impressions when a passerby, becoming suspicious, called the police.

PRESIDENT SIGNS TRADE BILL WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—President Wilson today signed the Federal Trade Commission bill. No ceremony attended his action. The bill would have become law without his signature had he failed to sign it today.

ALMOST STRANGLED BY BONE A Baboon in his throat nearly strangled James Stockman, 42 years old, of 261 North Ninth street, until it was removed by physicians at the Samaritan Hospital.

HUGE SCOPE OF THE GRAB.

To all appearances the Municipal Court plans were to be confined to the purchase of the Magdalen Home property and the construction of buildings costing no more than \$400,000. But the Municipal Court offices at city hall gave out an architect's sketch showing the proposed buildings. This was the key to the grab secret. It showed that the Magdalen Home property was less than a fourth of the land the court proposed to use. And the buildings to be put up could not be built for less than \$500,000.

ORIGINAL MAP DEFACED.

But a close look at the map explained why the name of the northern boundary line failed to appear.

It had been blocked out by sticking a piece of paper over the name on the original sketch and photographing it before sending the picture to newspaper offices.

Instead of the missing name there was a strip of dead white three inches long, which entirely concealed the name of the street.

The Magdalen Home site is relatively so small that only a part of the "Administration Building" would fit in it. The "Courts Building" is at least 80 feet from the northeast corner of the Magdalen property, the "Hospital Group" is far off to the east, and more than 100 feet west is shown the "Detention Group."

Officers of the Municipal Court grew reticent when asked to talk about the map.

Fred C. Simon, executive clerk of the court, was said to know the name of the northern boundary. He refused point-blank to tell what it was. He refused to say who drew the map.

"The public is not interested," Simon declared. "It is not news. No one cares about that. The public knows very well what the fine work this court is doing, and when we have any information to give out the newspapers will get it."

Pressed for the name of the architect, Simon finally declared that he was the judge of news of the Municipal Court and he deemed the architect's name of no value to the public.

"The plans are not definite and I cannot tell you the name of the street," he said.

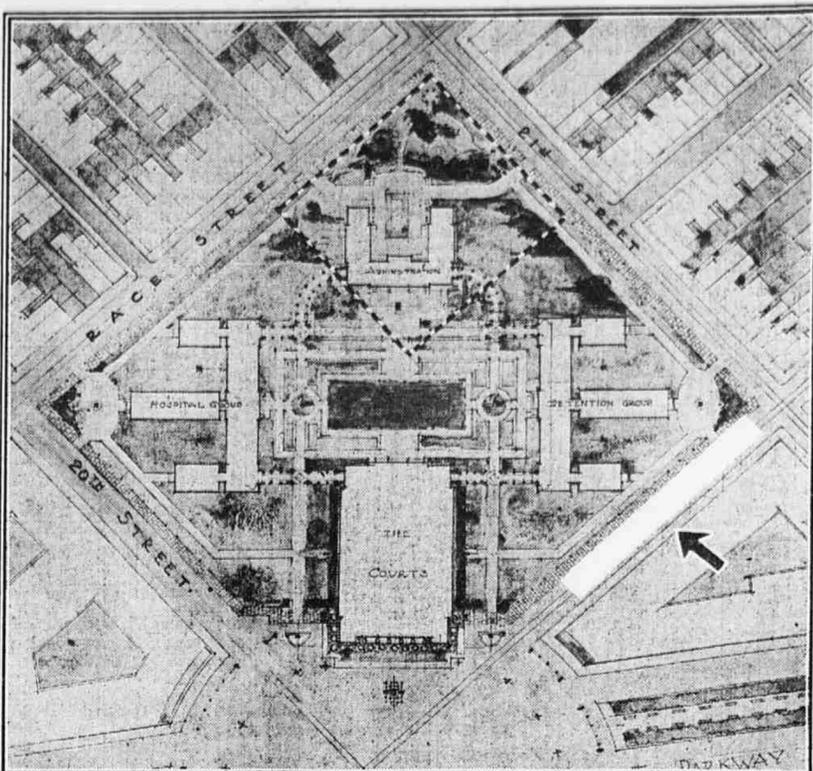
JUDGE BROWN UNINFORMED. Later Judge Brown was asked about the northern boundary.

"It is Winter street," he said, "and the architect who drew the sketch is John T. Windrim. That is what you wanted to know, isn't it?"

"Do you know why the name of the street was omitted?" he was asked. "I don't know anything about it," was the answer.

"Didn't you notice the white mark in the sketch?"

KEY TO MUNICIPAL COURT LAND GRAB SECRET



Architect's sketch made public by Municipal Court which shows that a whole city block is wanted instead of small plot asked for in Councils. The sketch was sent to newspapers with the name of the fourth side boundary blocked out as shown, supposedly to conceal the huge extent of the contemplated grab.

WHITE STAR LINER CRETEC IMPERILED BY FIRE IN HOLD

Cotton Ignites and Threatens Destruction of Vessel About to Leave for Mediterranean Ports.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—Fire started early today in the forward hold of the White Star liner Cretec as she lay at her pier at the foot of West Eleventh street, and for a time threatened to destroy the vessel.

The Cretec was scheduled to sail at noon for Genoa and Mediterranean ports with a cargo of cotton.

A sailor discovered the blaze in forward hatch No. 3 and sounded the fire alarm. Captain Howarth, master of the liner, led the first fighting force of sailors while city firemen under deputy Chief

Martin fought to save the big ship from destruction. The city firemen had not been summoned immediately, as Captain Howarth believed his firemen could put out the blaze. As the cotton became ignited, however, the blaze spread to such an extent that outside aid was hurriedly summoned. The fireboats Duane and Willett rushed to the scene and hurled tons of water over the forward deck of the liner.

In the meantime, the smoke pouring skyward caused intense excitement along West street and in the vicinity of Eighteenth street, as persons believed that the White Star pier was ablaze.

Lying next to the Cretec was the great liner Olympic, which was scheduled to sail for Liverpool. The pier was crowded with this liner's passengers and their friends. In their excitement men and women ran aimlessly about on the pier in the way of the firemen and hampering the fire-fighters.

Two sailors who had been sleeping in the hold had a narrow escape from death. They were unconscious when found by the firemen, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they were taken on deck.

The Cretec, which is one of the best known ships in the American-Mediterranean trade, has had an exciting career since she was built at New Castle, Eng., in 1907. In 1907 there was an explosion on board, and two years after she went aground on George's Island, off Boston.

In 1911 the Cretec arrived here after a thrilling race for safety against a giant water spout.

CARRANZA FORGES DEFEATED BY YAQUI ALLIES OF VILLA

Indians Drive Troops Commanded by Governor of Sonora Into Santa Barbara After Severe Fight.

NOGALES, Sonora, Sept. 25.—Carranza forces under General Benjamin Hill were defeated with severe losses in a battle with Yaqui Indians at Santa Barbara, a small town between Nogales and Cananea. He is still in Santa Barbara, having been driven into the town by the Yaquis, who are said to be commanded by Governor Maytorena. Reinforcements for Hill were sent from Cananea last night, and Maytorena's forces have been reinforced with 500 troops from Nogales. Both sides in yesterday's battle had about 600 men.

Fear of intervention alone will hold

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THE LINE-UP IN TODAY'S FOOTBALL GAME AT FRANKLIN FIELD

Table showing football line-ups for Pennsylvania and Gettysburg teams. Pennsylvania players include Moffett, Hughes, Jones, Irwin, Koons, Harris, Journeay, Borie, Russell, Norwald, Seelbach, Turnbull, Scheffer, Webner, Titzell, Mercer, Marks, Buehler, R. E., Swope, Stratton. Gettysburg players include Tucker, Wharton, Brown, Fisher, Taylor, Chandler, Jones, B. H., Linsday, Hansford, Cloughier, Madhira, Menster, Avbery.

In the accompanying diagram are shown the numbers by which the players of each eleven will be known. Pennsylvania's varsity squad is numbered as follows:

No. Player Position No. Player Position No. Player Position No. Player Position No. Player Position

GETTYSBURG—Regulars—1, Turnbull, left end; 2, Scheffer, left tackle; 3, Webner, left guard; 4, Titzell, center; 5, Mercer, right guard; 6, Buehler, right tackle; 7, Swope, right end; 8, Swope, quarterback; 9, Hoar, left halfback; 10, Stratton, right halfback; 11, Marks, fullback; Substitutes—12, Zellinger; 13, Wetmer; 14, Hall; 15, Stry; 16, Marks; 17, Weiskotte; 18, Gold.

VIOLENT ASSAULT MARKS NEW MOVE ON GERMAN RIGHT

French and British Saved From Disaster by Heavy Reinforcements—Again Charge Important Positions Near St. Quentin, Defended by Von Kluk.

Berlin States Enemy Retreated 12 Miles Along Oise—Bombardment of Verdun-Toul Forts Continues With Invaders Unable to Cross Meuse.

PARIS, Sept. 26.

The War Today

One of the most violent engagements of the battle of the Aisne is in progress today, the fourteenth of the struggle, along the German right. The Allies, heavily reinforced, have taken the offensive near St. Quentin, a town of strategic importance. Arrival of fresh troops saved the Allies from disaster yesterday. They were forced to retreat before superior numbers. Fighting continues on the eastern end of the line, where the Germans have not been able to cross the Meuse River.

Aviators report the Germans are constructing lines of entrenchment in southern Belgium near the plains of Waterloo. This is interpreted as a plan to provide a haven, in case of necessity, for the right wing, which has been badly damaged by the Allies in the battle along the Aisne.

Belgian authorities expect an attack on Antwerp, as German troops are moving in that direction. Firing heard a few miles from Ghent indicate the presence of a nearby force and the inhabitants are fleeing from the city, which was believed safe a day or so ago, when several trainloads of wounded were carried there.

Russians have occupied Chyrow and Dynow, important railway centres near Przemysl. The bombardment of Przemysl continues and two outer forts have been taken. Its fall is declared imminent. Near Dynow the Russian advance guard was repulsed by a superior force of Austrians. The Austrian army is concentrated on the River Wisloka, west of the San, where they will oppose the Russians before falling back on Cracow.

Petrograd War Office reports capture of small towns, giving control of entire railroad system in East Galicia and opening way for westward progress to Cracow. It is said German officers have taken command of the defense of that city.

In East Prussia the Russians have assumed the offensive after Rennenkampf's strategic retirement south. Germans who attempted an invasion of Poland near Suwalki were repulsed, according to Petrograd, and forced back to Gumbinnen. Severe losses on the German side, both of men and guns, are reported.

Berlin official statement says the Allies have fallen back 12 miles along the Oise, although the enemies' lines had been reinforced. Further advances along the Meuse are reported, while the German artillery continues to bombard the French forts.

London is intensely excited over operations of the Zeppelin fleet in the North Sea, and extreme precautions have been adopted against a possible night attack. Lights are out early and great searchlights comb the skies.

Chinese Foreign Office has formally protested to the Japanese Legation at Peking against the occupation of Wei-Hai in Shun Tung province. The town, which was seized without resistance, is 80 miles from Tsing-Tao, in the German leasehold of Kiaochow, where the Japanese are operating, and its occupation is regarded as an infringement of Chinese sovereignty.

BISHOP SPALDING KILLED Head of Utah Episcopal Church Dead in Auto Wreck.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Sept. 25.—Bishop F. S. Spalding, head of the Episcopal Church in Utah, was instantly killed here last night when the automobile in which he was riding struck a curbstone and was overturned.

The fighting at St. Quentin has been severe. The French were in control of the city, but a superior force of Germans engaged them and secured a firm foothold. There was furious hand-to-hand fighting in the streets, the Germans using Maxim guns against the French, who were forced to retire before the steady fire. The French had artillery and possibly they could have expelled the Germans by bombarding St. Quentin, but it was feared that the city would be destroyed.

The Germans are reported merely holding their entrenched positions in the center. This is believed due to the fact that they have been compelled to withdraw large forces of men and artillery and send them to the west end

FAIR

WEATHER FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair and continued cool tonight and Sunday, with possibly frost on lowlands tonight; moderate northwest winds. For details, see last page.