

PURCHASE OF SITE IS COMPLICATED BY SUBSURFACE WORK

Government Studies Question of Whether It Should Pay for Cables.

FURTHER DATA ASKED BY M'CARL IN STUDY

Acquisition of Potomac Electric Co. Property Would Require Location of New Stations.

The Government's efforts to purchase the square of ground at Fourteenth and B streets, occupied by the Potomac Electric Power Co., for use as a new home for the Department of Labor, have been highly complicated by the question of whether the Government should pay for underground construction of cables and conduits, it was disclosed today.

The Treasury Department, explaining to Controller General McCarl that negotiations were under way, asked if the same principles should be considered in a purchase as in a condemnation proceeding, especially regarding the value of the conduit and cables.

McCarl Asks Further Data. The question was left undecided by Mr. McCarl, who asked for further data which will be submitted by the Treasury Department in another letter shortly.

McCarl's conclusion in the matter, thus far, which Treasury Department officials said would require another submission by him, said: "No reason is apparent why in negotiating purchases of property pursuant to the applicable law, the same element may not be given consideration that would be proper for consideration in connection with condemnation proceedings, but in your submission there has not been sufficient facts to permit a determination of what element in the particular matter may be proper for consideration."

The Treasury Department explained to McCarl that Congress had authorized \$25,000,000 and that the amount \$12,000,000 to buy land in the triangle bounded by Pennsylvania avenue, B street, Third and Fifteenth streets.

The square on which the Potomac Power Co. is located is bounded by Thirteenth and a-half, Fourteenth, B and C streets in the Federal triangle. "Some preliminary negotiations have been had with the power company," said the Treasury Department Secretary Mellon, "for the acquisition of the square and property located thereon, and there enters into the negotiations a factor which must be considered in the purchase price to be for the property, but as to which doubt exists as to whether the present authorization is sufficient permit of consideration."

"When the Government causes the vacation by the power company of square 259 the Potomac Electric Power Co. will be required to establish in other parts of the city at least two substations to take care of the power distribution now handled from the power station located on square 259. One of these substations is located in the Federal triangle, and the other somewhere in the northwest section, probably as far out as Florida avenue. The distributing system of the power company and the abandonment of conduits carrying main feeders and distributing systems and the removal of the triangle from such point connect with the new conduits and cables which must be laid through the city streets."

Compensation Is Factor. "Should the Government condemn this property it would seem that there would necessarily enter into the case a fair recompense for the conduits and the cables in the streets and outside the lot lines of the property to be acquired since such conduits and cables are inherently necessary and valuable of the power distributing system which radiates from the power plants."

"Your consideration and decision are respectfully requested as to whether in the acquisition of the property of the Potomac Electric Co. by private purchase there may be taken into consideration the same elements which would be considered in condemnation proceedings, namely the value of the conduits and the cables which must be abandoned incident to the removal of the power company from the triangle."

As a further factor in the situation it was indicated that before the whole matter may be settled the Department of Justice may be asked to consider whether the matter should be considered formally in condemnation proceedings.

According to present indications, it was some time before a complete accounting questions involved may be cleared and the Government acquire the site for the Government building.

EXPECT EARLY SALE.

Report Says Property Owners Willing to Take Assessed Valuation.

Acquisition of the site for the new municipal center is expected to be expedited as a result of reports reaching the District Building today that some of the property owners in the four-square area plan to sell at the assessed value.

While no direct offers have been made to the committee designated by the commissioners to acquire the land, Maj. Layton E. Atkins, assistant engineer commissioner, and its chairman, said he had heard the rumors and expected to open negotiations with the property owners who are willing to sell at assessed value.

STATUARY HALL AS JUNK SHOP FORESEEN BY NOTED SCULPTOR

F. W. Ruckstull Says Work "Might as Well Be Placed in Cellar."

Statue of Gen. Hampton, South Carolinian, Unveiled in "Chamber of Horrors."

Its dim confines cluttered with improperly displayed works of art, America's famous Statuary Hall in the Capitol seems doomed to descend to the level of a "junk shop," in the opinion of F. W. Ruckstull, noted sculptor, whose statue of Gen. Wade Hampton was added today to the hall's collection.

"It is like placing the work in a cellar," Mr. Ruckstull commented as the imposing statue of the distinguished South Carolinian was unveiled in what other critics have termed the Capitol's "Chamber of Horrors."

Mr. Ruckstull says the statue of Gen. Hampton had "life" and all that goes to make a good statue when he completed it in his studio in New York City. Today he sadly saw it lose most of its life when it was placed in the hall. He was lifted from it by a delegation of South Carolina notables, among them Gov. John J. Richards of South Carolina.

"It is as though," the sculptor said, "I had been requested by a fellow sculptor I might have known for 50 years to make a statue for him and upon visiting him a year later to have found he had set it up in his cellar."

Urges Showing for Works. Mr. Ruckstull has been advocating the remodeling of Statuary Hall for many years to give the good works he says are on display there something of a showing. It isn't the statues, he declared, that have brought the appellation of "Chamber of Horrors" to Statuary Hall. It is the lighting and the general condition of the hall as it stands now.

The sculptor advocates changing Statuary Hall so that there will be 48 small alcoves, about 20 feet square and properly lighted, where each State and Territory would have a representative shown under ideal conditions and where small busts and pictures might be placed.

"Most of those statues," he said, "are good ones. There are only 3 or 4 of the 58 there now I would say are really bad. The great majority of them are good and there are half a dozen masterpieces in there, but you'd never know it."

"The States are not to blame. In



F. W. RUCKSTULL.—Star Staff Photo.

NEW LIGHTS HERE FOR INSTALLATION AT BUSY CORNERS

Traffic Heads Plan Soon to Put New Signals in Place.

PROGRAM'S COMPLETION IS NEAR REALIZATION

City Counsel Approves Cruising Taxicab Ban for F Street.

The traffic light installation program which has been delayed for several months by the lack of poles on which to attach the signals will be resumed within a few days it was announced today by Traffic Director William H. McFarland.

The 125 poles needed to complete the program have arrived, and orders have been given to proceed with the installation of the traffic signals from H street to K street from Washington Circle to Fifteenth street northeast.

This is the largest project in the incomplete program. The other projects to be undertaken after the K street network are the long-planned installations on Maryland avenue northeast from Second to Fifteenth street, Eighteenth street from H street to Massachusetts avenue and around Thomas and Iowa circles.

Others Planned. In addition to these Mr. Harland has planned to install independently operated lights at the intersections of Georgia and New Hampshire avenues and Albemarle street.

An independent signal at Georgia and New Hampshire avenues, Mr. Harland said, will relieve an acute traffic situation, which exists at this intersection. The signal at Connecticut avenue and Albemarle street he said has been urgently requested since an accident near this point several weeks ago in which a child was killed.

Although the lights along K street will be connected to operate on the progressive system like other network installations, Mr. Harland intends to have the signal at Fourteenth and K streets controlled independently, so when traffic congests this busy intersection, a policeman can operate the light.

Protection Needed. Special attention will be given the installations around Iowa and Thomas Circles in order to afford greater protection for pedestrians. These signals will be operated somewhat similar to the lights around Dupont Circle, where pedestrians are given a path clear of all moving traffic at certain periods.

Announcement also was made at the Traffic Bureau that the corporation counsel's office had prepared the legal construction of a proposed amendment to the traffic code to prevent taxicabs from "cruising" on F street between Ninth and Fifteenth streets from 8 a. m. to 12 midnight. The amendment was drawn by Inspector E. W. Brown, in charge of the Traffic Bureau, and will be forwarded to the Council this week with a recommendation for its adoption.

The proposal would make it a violation of the traffic regulations for a taxicab to enter F street without a "fare" unless called. Inspector Brown believes the adoption of this measure will greatly alleviate congestion.

WELFARE OFFICIAL DENIES "WASTE" Kirby Answers Efficiency Bureau.

Says Move Taken to Save Freight Cost.

Paul L. Kirby, as assistant director of public welfare, said today that he did not think the board had shown "poor business judgment" as charged by the Bureau of Efficiency in ordering a shipment of surgical supplies, destined for seven District institutions, sent to one point for redistribution.

The action was taken, he said, according to Mr. Kirby, to save freight charges. By having the shipment sent in one lot it was sent as a carload, and by that means a cheaper rate was obtained than could have been for seven separate shipments. Besides freight charges, a saving was made by not having the goods crated separately, Mr. Kirby said.

The bureau charged that the District was put to labor expense in having the supplies sorted out after they arrived, but Mr. Kirby said the work was being done by prisoners under supervision of the physicians at Lorton, and that no expense is incurred.

Even assuming that the charges of the bureau are correct, he said, the difference in money involved would have been a negligible sum.

Speaking of the bureau's recommendation that a business manager be appointed for the board, Mr. Kirby pointed out that this is a business manager for the penal institutions, which is the only place where such a position is needed, and that the business manager had approved the shipment to a central point.

Mr. Kirby said that the board had not expected the shipment to be so difficult to redistribute as it had proved, but that an additional business manager probably would not have foreseen that difficulty either.

The work of redistribution will be supervised by Mr. Kirby, he said, and substantial progress has been made in getting them where they are needed.

SMALL SIZE CURRENCY MAKES ITS APPEARANCE HERE



Upper: Runners from the Second National Bank leaving the Treasury this morning with their first consignment of the "little money." Lower: Robert V. Fleming, president of Riggs Bank, with his secretary, Mrs. B. B. Shropshire, inspects the new legal tender.—Star Staff Photo.

NEW BILLS NESTLE IN CAPITAL POCKETS

"Little Money" Appears, With "Curiosity Demand" Below Expectations.

New, small size currency made its appearance in Washington today in common with the rest of the country, but the "curiosity demand" here was far short of expectations, although bank messengers crowded the cashroom of the Treasury at 8:30 o'clock in order that depositors throughout the city might have a glance at the new money.

About \$2,000,000 of the currency was available here today. The cashier of one downtown bank arrived at his office 15 minutes earlier than usual today in anticipation of an immediate rush to the public, and was surprised to find that the new currency apparently was being taken for granted.

As a matter of fact, his bank's depositors were taking it any way they could get it.

HAMILTON-BURR DUEL BROUGHT TO MEMORY BY NEW \$10 BILLS

Those new smaller \$10 bills, out today with other denominations, are starting in circulation on the anniversary of a tragedy. They bear the picture of Alexander Hamilton, "One of the Fathers of the Republic," and twenty-five years ago today Hamilton wrote a farewell note to his wife. The next day he was wounded fatally in a duel with Aaron Burr.

ANACOSTIA BUS LINE PROBE IS ORDERED

Formal Move of Commission Clears Way for Trial of Altman Case.

The Public Utilities Commission today formally ordered an investigation into conditions on bus lines east of the Anacostia River. As a matter of fact the investigation has been under way for some days, members of the commission having made a personal investigation of the routes last week.

The order was entered, however, to enable trial of an existing case relating to the bus line to Broadway Heights, D. C., operated by L. L. Altman.

Mr. Altman recently was granted an extension of his present rates when the District until September 30, and when his case comes up after that date for final adjudication, a public hearing will be held on the entire situation east of the Anacostia.

Meanwhile, members of the commission's staff will check the length of the various routes, the rates charged, transfer rules, the service given and schedules maintained, and other matters. No cost will be assessed against the companies for this work, but should it develop that outside assistance must be employed for the investigation, the cost of this will be assessed among the companies affected.

MRS. BRANDSTATTER DIES

Funeral Services to Be Held at St. Matthew's Tomorrow.

Mrs. Engelbert Brandstatter of 1309 P street, for 10 years a resident of Washington, died at Providence Hospital yesterday. She had been in poor health for some months past.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1833, Mrs. Brandstatter came to this country 20 years ago. She was a trained nurse for many years.

Mrs. Brandstatter is survived by her husband and a daughter, Helen M. Brandstatter.

TWO KILLED, FOUR INJURED IN D. C. TRAFFIC MISHAPS

Inmate of Maryland House of Correction Steps to Death in Front of Truck.

OFFICER HURT WHEN MOTOR CYCLE SKIDS

Colored Woman Succumbs to Injuries Sustained on Bladensburg Road, Md., July 4.

Traffic mishaps in the District and nearby Maryland late yesterday and early today took a toll of two lives and resulted in the injury of four other persons. Among these was Motor Cycle Policeman Anthony Riccitt, who was killed in the fourth precinct, who fell from his machine.

The dead are Andrew Page, colored, 30-year-old inmate of the Maryland House of Correction, and Ella Davis, also colored, 50 years old, of 1302 C street southeast.

Page was killed instantly early today when he stepped into the path of a five-ton truck on the Baltimore boulevard near Waterloo, Md. According to State Policeman McCarthy, he was walking along the shoulder of the road with three other prisoners on their way to work when he suddenly stepped in front of the truck, which police say was traveling at a rate of about 15 miles an hour.

Driver of Truck Held. Emory Watson of Glenburnie, Md., driver of the truck, was detained pending an inquiry.

Ella Davis died at her home yesterday afternoon following injuries sustained in an accident on Bladensburg road, Maryland, July 4. Maryland authorities have been notified of her death.

Riccitt was hurt about 9 o'clock last night as he was riding west on N street southeast at 24th and Twenty-first streets, when he skidded and fell. He was taken to Casualty Hospital where he was treated by Dr. H. J. Conzelmann for injuries to his head, face, elbow and left leg.

Truck Driver Injured. When two trucks collided yesterday afternoon at West Virginia avenue and K street northeast, Bernard V. Moran, driver of the truck, was injured. The driver of one of them, who was slightly injured. First aid was administered at the scene. Alfonso J. Elges, colored, 26, of 1313 Emerson street northeast, took him to Casualty Hospital where he was treated by Dr. H. J. Conzelmann for injuries to his head, face, elbow and left leg.

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RUM CAR UPSSETS, POLICE GET CARGO

Machine Plunges Down Embankment When Chased—Occupants Escaped.

A speeding rum car plunged down a 10-foot embankment at Livingston and Giesboro roads near Anacostia early today, when the driver failed to make the sharp turn while trying to escape a policeman, and the automobile, with its cargo of 125 quarts of rum, was sent tumbling into the hands of Policeman C. O. Rouse of No. 11 precinct, although the two occupants of the machine escaped.

Rouse was cruising in a new police car near Good Hope road and Nichols avenue when he sighted his quarry and gave chase.

The fugitive automobile led through Anacostia, moving slowly. At Livingston and Giesboro the driver attempted to turn into the Port Washington road, apparently with the idea of getting back into Maryland, where he is thought to have picked up his cargo.

The hard-pressed rum car, however, skidded on the curve and swung over the embankment. Two men in the front seat of the car were out and fled into the undergrowth. Policeman Rouse stood guard over the car until assistance came from his precinct.

WALES ACTS FOR KING.

LONDON, July 10 (AP).—The Prince of Wales held a private investiture in behalf of King George at St. James' Palace today.

Wearing morning dress, the prince walked from York House to St. James, where he presented insignias to 860 persons on the list of birthday honorees.

Traffic Fatalities In D. C. Outnumber Those From Disease

The deadly nature of modern traffic was shown by mortality figures released by the District Health Department today, which show that during the calendar year 1928 there were 120 deaths from traffic accidents in Washington, compared with 111 from the following diseases combined:

Diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles, smallpox, typhoid fever, and infantile paralysis.

The figures given include deaths which occurred in Washington from traffic accidents outside and, therefore, are greater than the figures published by the District Health Department today, which figures for deaths from the diseases also include all deaths in Washington from the respective diseases, whether the diseases were contracted here or not, and are, therefore, comparable.