

WILL ADVISE RUARK TO EXPEDITE HEARING

Question of Raising Street Car Fares Again Before the City Council

QUICK DECISION URGED

The question of permitting the Tidewater Power company to increase rates on its street car lines, now before the corporation commission, was again projected onto the floors of the city council this morning when Hugh MacRae, head of the company, appeared before the regular meeting of the board and urged that an effort be made to prevent delay of decision on the matter, with the result that a telegram will be sent to City Attorney Robert Ruark, now in Raleigh, during the afternoon, advising that he see a letter written to the corporation commission by Mr. MacRae, learn what data the commission thinks it should have in handing down a decision and to do everything in his power to expedite the hearing. Action of this nature was taken upon motion of Councilman McCaig, following an hour's address by the executive head of the traction company in which he ran over the earnings of the company for the past several years and offered argument to the effect that any unnecessary delay in getting a decision on the company's request for increased fares would seriously embarrass development which are underway at the present.

Mr. MacRae stated plainly that if it was the council's intention to embarrass and throw stumbling blocks in the way of the company that the course Mr. Ruark was following was well and good but if the council was inclined to progress with the city that the delay was not in keeping with this development. He made it plain that his company was willing to furnish the commission with any data that it cared to have—even to the extent of turning the company's books over, but objected to digging up and preparing a lot of data extending back over the past 18 years and which had no bearing whatever on the question at issue.

In addressing the board Mr. MacRae showed how the earnings of the company steadily increased from 1910 until the war and how they had continually gone down the hill since that time, adding that this year's earnings would be entirely swept away by the increased operating expenses unless there was an increase in the rates. He attributed the shrinkage of earnings to the increased cost of materials and labor, saying that a nickel was worth no more to the Tidewater company than to any other corporation or individual—two and a half cents. That was his opinion of the depreciation of money. During his address Mr. MacRae stated that his company was largely responsible for the two shipyards, now in the course of construction, coming here; that his company's assurance to the government that definite service would be given, was in reality the deciding factor in favor of locating the yards here. He pointed out that the board did not impose unnecessary burdens, through Mr. Ruark, on his company that would tend to delay decisions of the commission and he contended that many of the 38 questions asked by the city attorney in his letter to him had no bearing on the case. Everything, he said, depends on prompt action and the question to be considered is the debt the company is carrying and the earnings of the corporation. The natural question resulting, he said, is "can we stand up under it?"

The company is asking for the privilege of increasing city car fares from 5 to 6 cents, although he stated that it would probably be obliged to go back in the early future and ask the commission for the privilege of adding another penny to this fare. Mr. MacRae stated frankly that had he waited longer to have filed his petition he would have asked for seven rather than six cents fares. If granted, in his opinion, the increased revenue will not amount to more than ten per cent as many people will discontinue use of the cars.

Replying to Mr. MacRae Councilman McCaig stated that the city attorney was not in Raleigh for the purpose of delaying the hearing and that the board was being placed in an embarrassing position. He did not think it wise for the council to interfere in the matter, but after Mr. MacRae had replied he moved that the telegram be sent and that Mr. Ruark do everything possible to expedite the hearing and get a decision handed down on the question at issue.

DRAFT REGULATIONS PUT COMPANY IN RECEIVER'S HANDS

Receivership proceedings have been started in superior court by W. L. Baxter, a stockholder of the Shepard Chemical company, and Isaac C. Wright and J. Haughton, who have been named as temporary receivers by Judge C. C. Lyon. The papers are returnable in Wilmington, June 15. The drafting of F. H. McCullough, secretary and treasurer of the plant, for military service, is the bone of contention, the allegation being that the company cannot continue unless a capable man can be found.

THE EASY PLAN.

In the tremendous effort to secure subscriptions to the Red Cross fund from every individual in the city and county in one week, it must follow that some individual and perhaps neighborhoods have been denied the privilege of contributing to this cause. Such persons can make their contributions at any time by calling upon Walter P. Sprunt, cashier of the campaign fund, at his office, corner of Front and Walnut streets, and leaving their pledges or cash.

CEREMONIAL WILL BE HELD ON BEACH

Members of Oasis Temple Will Journey Here on Fourth of July

BRINGING BRASS BAND

The summer ceremonial of Oasis Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine, of Charlotte, will be held on the fourth day of the seventh month, anno domini, in the sixth year of the reign of Woodrow the First, and the twenty-fourth of Oasis temple, or in simple English July 4 of this year. The visitors will bring to Wilmington one of the largest and most completely equipped brass bands in the state, which is positively second to none when it comes to playing "classy" music, under the tender care and guiding hand of that master musician, "Uncle Bob" Keesler.

Keesler has a great big band—Lord, how those boys can blow—And everywhere that Keesler went That band was sure to go.

They'll be at Wilmington this year, To make "some" joyful noise, For every noble wants to hear "Bob Keesler" and his boys.

All shriners in the city, about 50 in number, will participate in this biggest of all events, which is to be held at Wrightsville Beach, and will see to it that none go away dissatisfied, for everyone, including the neophytes, will "work" on that day.

No one will get mad on that day and the advice is given all married women to prepare to receive back a "changed" husband. The individual will still be your husband, it is said, but wonderful changes will be made by Thomas Griffith, the recorder.

The large patrol of the temple will be brought, heavily equipped, and costumed, and drilled to the queen's taste, and sunshine is to be put into the "soot."

The coming of the Charlotte temple is an event that all shriners are looking forward to with a deal of pleasure. Wilmington has often attempted to bring this body here, but this is the first year that success has attended efforts of this nature and all shriners are delighted. Oasis temple is the oldest in the Carolinas and other temples have been formed from it because of its giant size.

The Kaiser, according to the latest Berlin reports, has been having a fine time recently picking violets. It may work all right in Germany, but if he tried it here in America even a self-respecting violet would reach up and bite him.—Springfield Republican.

HUNTINGTON PLACED ON TRIAL YESTERDAY

Progress Slow, Practically Every Question Asked Being Objected To

TILT BETWEEN LAWYERS

An overplus of objections and legal wrangling, culminating in the suggestion by Iredell Meares, state's counsel, that former Solicitor George Peschau, of counsel for the defendant, discontinue his schoolboy practices featured yesterday afternoon's session of Justice John J. Furlong's court, when J. B. Huntington was arraigned for preliminary hearing on a charge of slander, the outgrowth of the recent arrest of Miss Jacoba Weyers, 17-year-old girl, on a charge of vagrancy and immoral living. Little progress was made in the taking of evidence, and if there was a question asked during the afternoon that was not objected to, ruled on, reasked and again objected to it got by without notice.

George Peschau and Herbert McClammy, representing the defendant, were kept busy objecting as Iredell Meares proceeded with examination of witnesses. The word "privilege" was used often in connection with the defendant's answers, which have been made by Mr. Huntington concerning Miss Weyers and which are alleged to have resulted in her arrest late in April. All evidence was not taken during the afternoon and the case will be allowed to lay over until Thursday, when it will be reopened and trial resumed.

George Harris, judge of recorder's court, before whom Miss Weyers was arraigned following her arrest and who later dismissed action after the case had been not pressed and court leave granted the defendant upon the suggestion of the solicitor, who stated in open court that his investigations had shown the charge preferred to be groundless, was the first witness called, and from the moment the first defendant was shot at him counsel for the plaintiff was continually rising or seating themselves, with the word "objection" almost permeating the atmosphere of the courtroom.

The recorder told of conversation he had with Mr. Huntington prior to the arrest of the young woman, although saying that two-thirds of their conversation had to do with other matters, as Mr. Huntington was serving in the capacity of probation officer at that time.

Continuing Judge Harris stated that Mr. Huntington advised him that Miss Weyers had been to the Y. M. C. A. and that soldiers had gone off with her on two occasions. The witness.

(Continued on Page Seven).

TEARFUL GOODBYE IS WAVED SELECTMEN

But It Was of a Cheering and Heartfelt Nature, Nevertheless

MANY AT THE STATION

Waving a somewhat tearful though none the less cheering and heartfelt good-bye, hundreds of fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, sweethearts and friends stood at the union station yesterday afternoon and watched the city's last and by far biggest contingent of drafted men pass out, en route to Camp Jackson, where this morning they went into training to harden their muscles and become proficient in the art of killing—killing Germans. The crowd at the station was unusually large, because the quota leaving was of healthy proportions and because the hour was opportune. The men were cheered and re-cheered as they made their way to the station and were cheered as they climbed aboard the train that carried them out—out of the life of the community for a period—that they may be hardened and more able to oppose the forces that would batter down civilization and religion.

Long before the hour of departure arrived the selectmen—78 in number—began assembling in the city. A quiet handshake here and there spoke more plainly than brass bands and blaring trumpets. Many of the boys packed their grips and handbags in the Princess street office of "Judge" G. W. Borenman and the grief of the "little judge" was piteous. The things he said concerning the Kaiser were anything but complimentary, and would not look good in print, but they expressed the feeling in his heart for the boys whom he has known almost from babyhood. "The grips of my boys" was the way the judge expressed it, and big tears welled up in his eyes as he spoke affectionately of those going away and condemningly of the ruler of the country that gave him birth.

There were those in the crowd of drafted ones that laughed and smiled and those who looked grave and serious. The first realized as well as the latter the graveness of the mission on which they are embarking, but who is there who can control moods, and because the boy laughed was not a sign that he was not the course of his path, the other side of his nature was merely shaded for the time being.

The Wilmington drum and bugle corps turned out and furnished music although few in the crowd were in the mood to enjoy the efforts of the organization that has never yet refused when asked to appear in public. The drum music was particularly appropriate, even though the selectmen wore civilian clothes. Those going yesterday afternoon included:

- Cecil D. Robbins, A. J. Krahne, Linwood Brinson, R. A. Burnett, O. P. McIver, Albert Thomas Johnston, R. R. Taylor, Robert Lee Marrow, J. L. Day, L. L. Jones, W. W. Turner, G. B. Applewhite, Nathan Shain, L. E. King, D. H. Benson, H. G. Walker, Bud Williams, G. H. Chadwick, J. G. Oldenbottle, Leon Marshburn, F. L. Galloway, J. N. Justice, M. M. Fipps, George E. Haskett, J. H. Westermann, J. B. Nathan, Carsol D. Soles, R. L. Benson, W. B. Boykin, J. R. Lynch, H. B. Simms, E. H. King, O. D. Hodges, H. G. Rogers, H. Johnson, C. N. Dixon, T. O. Green, J. R. Lockamy, S. E. Eure, Jr., E. M. Kennickell, W. M. Turner, T. P. Breen, T. C. Munn, L. Silverman, O. McClellan, J. F. Orr, F. H. McCullough, R. W. Dill, W. H. Melton, C. L. King, R. D. Waddell, C. A. Fowers, J. O. Havell, H. W. Edwards, J. F. Green, L. Cockran, H. L. Faulk, H. A. Richter, J. Watson, B. W. Jacobs, W. A. Wylie, A. F. Long, G. L. Hashagen, L. C. Gore, E. L. Bell, N. F. Walton, H. Kershaw, H. F. Merritt, J. J. Quinlaven, C. W. Johnson, D. A. Herring, G. C. Gilbert, C. H. McIntosh, J. V. Fergus, W. H. D. Banck, O. Register, P. Vann, O. N. Benson, W. L. Fox.

Extraneous for other boards—R. L. Crisp, D. H. Lasley, D. J. Robinson. He men sent by the county were: Stanley Janicki, Albert S. Flowers, Harry Webb, William Henry Williams, Ernest L. Eakins, John William Harris, Jere M. Hewlett, Jr., B. Leslie Winner and Willie L. Rogers.

STEAMER TO BE LAUNCHED EARLY IN MONTH OF JUNE

The schooner Isabelle C. Harris, of 1,800 tons, built by the Wilmington Wooden Shipbuilding company for Mills & Harris, New York, will be launched from the foot of Queen street June 10, unless present plans miscarry, and will leave a few days later for Jacksonville, Fla. to take on lumber for New York. The keel of the vessel was laid eight months ago and will be practically complete for entrance into the coastwise trade the day she leaves the ways. The vessel is double decked, four-masted and 200 feet overall, with a 40-foot beam and a depth of 19-1/2 feet. She is constructed of North Carolina pine, more than 600,000 feet of timber going into her construction. Her crew will number 10 men with Captain C. E. Willetts, of New York, in charge on her maiden trip. Details of the launching are not complete and will be announced later. She is named for Mrs. Harris, wife of one of her owners.

BLAZE PATHWAY FROM BOSTON TO WILMINGTON

A blazed trail from Boston to Wilmington is the plan of D. H. Winslow, chief of maintenance for North Carolina highway commission, who accompanied by District W. W. Baker, of Fayetteville, reached the city last night and who today is inspecting New Hanover's roads. Photographs will be taken in this and adjoining counties, with the object of showing the need of maintenance. The plan will afford motorists with every convenience.

Our Regular Interest Quarter Begins June 1st. All deposits made with us on or before June 2nd will be credited with three months' interest on September 1st. It will be to your advantage to begin a savings account with us at this time. The Wilmington Savings & Trust Company 110 PRINCESS STREET. THREE AND A HALF MILLION STRONG

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UNION PASSENGER STATION. Arrival and Departure of Trains February 1st, 1918.

SEABOARD AIR LINE. DEPART DAILY ARRIVE 3:45 P.M. Charlotte 1:10 P.M. Parlor Car. 5:15 A.M. Charlotte 12:30 A.M. Sleeper opened 10:00 P.M. For Information Phone 178.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE. DEPART DAILY ARRIVE 5:45 A.M. South and West 12:45 A.M. Sleeper to Columbia (Open 10:00 P.M. 7:45 A.M. North 6:05 P.M. Parlor Car to Norfolk 8:45 A.M. Fayetteville 8:00 P.M. 3:05 P.M. New Bern 12:20 P.M. 3:30 P.M. South and West 1:00 P.M. Sleepers to Augusta, Atlanta 6:45 P.M. North 10:15 A.M. Sleepers to Washington, Norfolk For Information Phone 160.