

Utility Companies Reject City's Offer

Price Too Low Says Mr. Crook

Says \$479,000, First Figure Named, A Fair Price Arrived At After Careful Study

Close Sewer Co July 1

Says That Interests Of Stockholders Demand That Plant No Longer Operate At Loss After Close Of Negotiations

Howard E. Crook, president of the city's affiliated public utility corporations, has definitely and flatly rejected the City Council's offer of \$325,000 for the plants of the Elizabeth City Light & Power Company, the Elizabeth City Water & Power Company and the Elizabeth City Sewerage Company.

The formal refusal of the offer was made in a letter to Mayor Gaither handed to the Mayor by Mr. Crook himself late Monday afternoon.

This ends, so far as the present administration is concerned, all negotiation looking toward the purchase of the city's public utilities; as the City Council definitely stated, in making its last offer, that if it were rejected the Council would make no further offer and would consider all negotiations as definitely closed.

However, Mr. Crook stated to a reporter for The Advance Monday night that he and the companies he represents are still willing to come to terms with the city for a sale of their properties here and that he and his companies will be glad at any time in the future to consider any offer that any City Council of Elizabeth City may elect to make for the purchase of these utilities in whole or in part. He reiterated what he had already said in the letter to Mayor Gaither—that he considered the price named by his companies at the opening of negotiations a fair one.

"As to the matter of sewerage," Mr. Crook went on to say, "it has been definitely decided to suspend operations of the Sewerage Company on July 1st. We do not wish to work any hardship upon Elizabeth City or to interfere with its development in any way; but in justice to our stockholders we cannot continue to operate this property at a loss, and it has been operated at a loss ever since the sewers were laid. Decision to discontinue operation was reached some time ago and we have continued its operation since April 1st pending the outcome of negotiations between the Council and the companies I represent."

Mr. Crook's letter to Mayor Gaither follows:

May 23, 1921.
Hon. W. G. Gaither, Mayor,
Elizabeth City, N. C.

Dear Mr. Gaither:
Referring to your favor of the 14th instant in which you on behalf of the city submitted to us an offer to purchase the Electric Light, Water and Sewer Companies for the sum of three hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$325,000), consisting of five per cent bonds, we have to advise that after careful considera-

MISS MATTIE DEFORD BLAND

The funeral of Miss Mattie DeFord Bland, who died at the home of her niece, Mrs. H. S. Overman, on West Main street, Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, was held Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock at the First Baptist church, Rev. H. K. Williams officiating. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. The pallbearers were C. W. Morris, Matthew Baker, T. P. Nash, R. T. Whitehurst, Dr. Zenas Fearing, Ench Speight, J. W. Pool and Dr. H. S. Willey. Burial in Hollywood cemetery followed.

Miss Bland is survived by a sister, Mrs. Gertie L. Grandy, of Baltimore; by a niece, Mrs. H. S. Overman, of this city; by four nephews, M. B. Simpson, of Elizabeth City; Constant Bland, of California; Lee Bland, of Blacksburg, Va., and Lee Grandy, of Baltimore; and one cousin, Oscar DeFord, of Camden. She had been ill for the last five months, and had been a lifetime resident of Elizabeth City.

URGE BUDGET TEN MILLIONS

St. Louis, May 24.—The financial program of the Southern Presbyterian church was considered today by the General Assembly. Among the proposals submitted on expenses for the next five years by the committee on systematic beneficence and stewardship was one urging a budget of ten millions.

DIES AFTER FAST OF SIXTY DAYS

Seima, Ohio, May 24.—Walter Oliver, son of a wealthy farmer, died yesterday on the sixtieth day of his self-imposed fast.

He was a conscientious objector and was sent to the penitentiary when he refused to don the uniform.

Upon his return home he became a recluse and later entered upon a fast declaring that he would not take food until the Lord blessed him.

WILL GIVE EVENING TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

F. L. Traenkle has kindly agreed to stay over next Monday night and give that evening to Blackwell Memorial Sunday School. He had been very cordially urged to do this and there was no evening this week free for both church and Mr. Traenkle. He will teach the grown-ups at this meeting so that they may pass on the teaching to the children, and the superintendent and officers of the Sunday School are anxious that there be a large attendance.

New Steamer Will Arrive Wednesday

"Virginia Dare" of Elizabeth City Boat Line Ready For Potato Run

The "Virginia Dare," a 250-ton steamer recently completely overhauled and with new boilers installed, will arrive here Wednesday morning to go on the Elizabeth City-Norfolk run of the Elizabeth City Boat Line. This steamer, with the steamer "Greensboro," already in service, will provide a daily boat between the two points during the potato run, and the service will continue indefinitely if the expense is found justified by the traffic.

The two steamers are equipped for both freight and passengers, though the main purpose of the line will be the handling of freight. The "Virginia Dare" will come through the Dismal Swamp Canal from Norfolk and return via the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal. The "Greensboro" will be operated exclusively through the latter canal.

A. R. Nicholson, general agent of the Elizabeth City Boat Line, states that his company will be glad to have the public come down and look over the two steamers, and especially the newly-acquired "Virginia Dare." He states that the Elizabeth City Boat Line is better equipped than ever before to handle heavy shipments of potatoes and other freight.

Chamber Commerce Luncheon Thursday

On Thursday the second bi-monthly luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce rooms will be held. The topic of the luncheon will be wholesale merchandising, particularly as related to Elizabeth City and the trade section that it serves. A leading local wholesaler will speak at the luncheon, and there will be other enjoyable features as well, not omitting the excellent lunch served by Mrs. J. P. Thompson. Tickets to the luncheon are 65 cents each, obtainable at the Chamber of Commerce offices in the Hinton Building.

MEETS TONIGHT AT COMMUNITY BUILDING

The citizens class for play meets tonight at eight in the Community Building with F. L. Traenkle. Mr. Traenkle will have to go elsewhere at the end of this week and it is hoped that all who can do so will avail themselves of the opportunity of this instruction while he is here. The recreational work under Mr. Traenkle's direction has already been of great help and much pleasure to those attending.

Protests Against Harvey's Suech

San Francisco, May 23.—Mrs. Ray Wilbur, president of the Woman's League for the Peace Treaty, telegraphed President Harding today protesting against Ambassador Harvey's speech in London in which he said that he regarded American participation in world affairs as violation of the President's election promises.

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ATLANTA PAYS TRIBUTE TO GRADY

Prominent Newspaper Men and Visitors Take Part In Celebration of Anniversary at Atlanta

Atlanta, May 24.—The seventy-first birthday anniversary of Henry W. Grady, orator and journalist, who devoted his tongue and pen to healing the wounds of the Civil War, was made an especial occasion here today.

Exercises at the public schools and exercises in the late afternoon before his monument were held here.

Prominent newspaper men and representatives of many cities were present and participated.

Rioters Flogged At Police Quarters

Cairo, Egypt, May 24.—Quiet has been restored at Alexandria after serious rioting Sunday and Sunday night.

A number of persons have been arrested and several who engaged in riots have been flogged at police headquarters.

Alexandria, May 24.—Quiet prevailed here last night after serious rioting Sunday night and Monday morning. The curfew order was well observed.

Casualties officially reported today are 12 Europeans, 36 natives killed, and 191 persons wounded.

Business houses are closed. Street cars are not running.

Officials consider the native movement anti-Greek rather than against Europeans generally.

Recurrence of Trouble

London, May 24.—A dispatch from Cairo says that there has been a slight recurrence of trouble in Alexandria and a demonstration has now begun in the provinces.

The message said the casualty list shows 11 more Egyptians dead.

Bobby Jones, of Atlanta, beat Robert Harris, of the British team, six up and five to play, in the third round.

Tolley Wins Over Jesse Guilford

Holyoke, Eng., May 24.—Tolley, British amateur champion, defeated Jesse Guilford, of Boston, in the second round of the British amateur golf championship tournament, two up and one to play.

Bobby Jones, of Atlanta, defeated the Britisher, Hamlet, one up.

The Americans, Evans, Hunt, Wright and Fownes, defeated their British opponents. Oulmet and Guilford, Americans, lost.

Lightning Wrecks St. Luke's Church

Norfolk, May 24.—The most violent electric storm here within the memory of the present generation last night wrecked St. Luke's Episcopal church, seriously damaged the storage plant of the Norfolk Warehouse Corporation, and damaged in greater or less degree at least a dozen other buildings, including garages and dwellings.

The lightning struck the cupola of St. Luke's at 7:15 and a little later the flames were beyond control. The firemen were kept on the alert running from fire to fire while the storm raged.

IN POLICE COURT

Three affrays, one of them a three cornered affair, featured Tuesday morning's session of police court, and brought into the city's coffers fines aggregating fifty dollars. Charlie Crank and Otis Bland were principals in the first affray case, drawing fines of ten dollars each; John Crank, Jr., Charlie Crank and George Midgett figured in the three cornered bout, John and George to the tune of ten and costs each and Charlie paying five and costs. Sherman Hollowell and Howard White were principals in the third fight and each drew a fine of ten dollars and costs.

Evans Forbes was fined five dollars and costs for drunkenness.

Mrs. H. G. Switzer returned to her home in Norfolk Tuesday after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Raper, at this city.

Want J. B. Ferebee For City Manager

At an informal caucus held in the directors' quarters of the Savings Bank and Trust Company Monday night, six members of the newly-elected Board of Aldermen unofficially decided in favor of the appointment of James B. Ferebee, of this city, as City Manager for the two-year term beginning July first. The two members not present at the caucus were P. C. Cohoon and L. Roscoe Foreman. Mr. Cohoon was tentatively named for the chairmanship of the Board.

Final action on the election of both City Manager and chairman will not take place until the first meeting of the new Board on June 6.

Scott Makes Shipment Of Pasquotank Primes

S. W. Scott, of Salem, shipped 225 barrels of prime potatoes grown on his farm near Weeksville. These potatoes were large and well matured, weighing on an average over half a pound each. Twenty-four of them picked up in the field without special effort to choose the largest ones, weighed 16 pounds and two ounces.

Though the potatoes are primes, the yield, Mr. Scott says, was not so satisfactory. Pasquotank potatoes not dug until they are well matured will be of good grade, in his opinion, but he thinks the yield generally will fall below expectations.

SIX IRISH COUNTIES ENGAGE IN ELECTION

Belfast, Ireland, May 24.—Six counties in Northern Ireland engaged today in the election of 52 members to parliament of Northern Ireland created by the Irish act. Precautions were taken against disorder.

CONSTITUTION IS ADOPTED FOR CLUB

Elizabeth City's Newest Organization of Young Women Enthusiastically Plans For Summer Program

A very enthusiastic meeting was held by the newly-organized Young Woman's Club in the Community Building Monday night. This was the second meeting of the new club, which is going ahead with a comprehensive program of recreational work in this city for the approaching summer months. The first and most important business of Monday night's meeting was the adoption of a constitution and by-laws for the club. This was followed by the election of Miss Jessie Hedrick as treasurer of the organization.

Under the constitution adopted, officers of the Young Woman's Club will be elected semi-annually, and the election of permanent officers for the half-year beginning July first will be held at the last June meeting. The club meets on the second and fourth Monday nights of each month.

Plans for a membership drive were discussed at the Monday night meeting, and it is announced that young women wishing to join the club should apply to the club membership committee for application blanks at once, since it is likely that limitations will be placed upon the number of club members in the near future. Club dues were fixed at 25 cents per month, with an entrance fee of \$1. Regular initiation ceremonies will be adopted at an early date.

The carrying out of the summer recreation program of the Young Woman's Club is already under way, and will include the building of a bath house on Riverside, the establishment of tennis and volley ball courts, and perhaps tennis tournaments during the summer, as well as other recreational activities.

URGES INVESTIGATE MINGO DISTURBANCES

Washington, May 23.—Investigation of disturbances in Mingo County, West Virginia, is proposed in a resolution introduced in the Senate today by Senator Johnson, of California.

FOUND ON MAIN STREET MONDAY

Alemite Grease Cup for automobile. Apply at Advance office.

POTATOES NOT READY TO DIG

Better Grading By Pasquotank Growers Expected to Bring Better Prices and a Steadier Market

"Pasquotank County potatoes are now too green to dig. If growers will wait a week or ten days longer, they will get a better yield and a higher price. So says S. G. Scott of the firm of Brock & Scott of this city, among the leading shippers of early Irish potatoes from Northeastern North Carolina. Mr. Scott states further that the potato crops of Texas, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, and Louisiana will be practically cleaned up after the week's shipment, and thus the potatoes of this section will go on a virtually clean market.

Potato blight has appeared in a good many fields since the recent heavy rains, but, according to Mr. Scott, the damage from this source will be but little if any in excess of five per cent of the normal yield. He estimates the total damage at perhaps twenty per cent from such other causes as insect attacks and rot. Many growers here incline to the opinion that the rotting of many plantings two months ago was caused by the potatoes coming into contact with the fertilizer under them at a time when the soil was unusually warm and dry. It often happens that fall potatoes rot from this cause in extremely hot, dry weather, they point out.

Heavy Shipments June First

Heavy shipments from this section, Mr. Scott states, may be expected by June first, continuing some two weeks. He declares that the Pasquotank crop will be far better graded than ever before, for the reason that the growers have had impressed upon them the extreme importance of carefully grading their stock. In previous years, poor grading has adversely affected the market to an extent which the growers are just beginning to realize; and the improved grading this year is expected to result in a steadier market.

With 600 acres planted this year, representing an investment of \$80,000 by the time the crop is marketed, Brock & Scott rank among the leading planters of early Irish potatoes, as well as being buyers of many carloads. Last season they handled close to 50,000 barrels, and this year they will place on the market 15,000 barrels of selected stock under their own trademark. They expect to sell 25,000 barrels of their own planting, five-sixths of which will be produced in Pasquotank County, and the remainder in Camden and Currituck Counties.

Big Shipments This Year

Last year's early potato yield in Pasquotank County alone ran close to 125,000 barrels, bringing the farmers of the County a gross return of more than a million dollars; and the yield this year is expected not to fall far behind. Present market indications are considered favorable by local commission men, especially in view of the fact that Tidewater Virginia and the Eastern Shore will not, it is believed here, make heavy shipments before June 15. These sections do not hurt the market except by exceptionally heavy consignments because growers there grade their stock with exceptional care. In general, it is poor grading of potatoes and inferior stock that bring slumps in the market and loss to the growers.

AGREE ON BASIS THE NEW WAGE DECISION

Chicago, May 24.—Rates of pay and classifications established by the award last July will be used as a basis by the Railway Labor Board in the new wage decision June first. The tentative percentages reached will cut present rates ten to fifteen per cent.

REV. MR. MUDGE IS ELECTED BY PRESBYTERIANS

Winona Lake, Ind., May 24.—Rev. Louis Seymour Mudge, of Harrisburg, Pa., was elected state clerk of the Presbyterian church in the U. S. at the general assembly here today. He takes office next April.

SILK DRESS SPECIAL

We are offering some very unusual values in Silk Dresses these days. Prices \$11.98 and \$18.75. Materials, Taffetas, Silk Jersey, Georgette, etc. Come in and look them over. M. Leigh Sheep Co.