

The Evening Times Star

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SURE OF GERMAN RECEPTION BUT DOUBTFUL AS TO ALLIES

Wilson's Note Probably Now in Hands of All Belligerents

Washington Believes He Had Some Reason to Think There Would Not be Flat Rejection—Some New York Papers Score Him for Action Taken

Washington, Dec. 21.—Informal notes to all the belligerents sent by President Wilson, without proposing peace or offering mediation, but appealing to them to discuss terms which may end the war, had been practically forty-eight hours on their way today and officials believed they should have reached all the foreign capitals.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Distinct surprise was apparent among diplomatic officials in Washington today, over President Wilson's plea to European belligerents to discuss peace terms. Publication of the note, finished on Monday and despatched on Tuesday to American diplomatic representatives abroad, gave most officials the first notice that such a step was even contemplated at this time.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The following editorial comments regarding President Wilson's note are printed here this morning: "The Tribune says: 'The Tribune profoundly regrets that President Wilson should at this time have moved to make any gesture which, however honestly intended to promote peace, will inevitably tend to complicate and not clarify the situation.'

"The worst that can happen is that the war will continue without conclusive results. But in the meantime the United States and all other nations of the world have obtained a clearer notion of the measures which they must take, if the war is to continue, to protect their rights and safeguard their welfare."

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Collision In Air

French and German Aeroplanes Crash to Earth—Nungesser Brings Down His 21st Enemy Machine

Paris, Dec. 21.—The French official statement on the progress of hostilities, given out this afternoon, says there has been relative calm on the front in France, with the exception of aerial activity. Four enemy aeroplanes have been brought down by French pilots. Sub-lieutenant Nungesser brought down his twenty-first airplane. Another French pilot, pursuing a German machine, collided with his adversary. Both machines crashed to earth.

DISCUSS NEW LIGHT CONTRACT

Hope to Reach Agreement For Street Lighting in January

1917 ESTIMATES MAY BE HIGHER

Mayor Suggests Need for Economy—New Garage for Water Department—City Contributes for Recent Survey

A large part of the morning was devoted by the city commissioners, meeting in committee today, to a discussion of the street lighting situation and the new contract which is to be made with the company. Commissioner McLellan gave a great deal of information about the details of street lighting and told something of his ideas for the new contract.

Commissioner Wigmore was given authority to build a garage at a cost of \$800 and to employ two water works engineers for another two months. The sum of \$800 was set towards the expenses of the expert engineer, who recently made a survey of the city's fire, water and other departments.

Mayor Hayes presided and Commissioners Wigmore, Fisher and McLellan were present.

The estimates for the coming year, the mayor said, that the estimates should be in between January 1 and 15 and urged that efforts be made to have them complete as early as possible. In the last two years there were delays owing to the necessity of reducing the city's budget.

Commissioner McLellan gave warning that the cost of the new contract would be higher and Commissioner Wigmore suggested that he ought to be allowed to include the cost of new hydrants in his estimates for 1917.

Commissioner Fisher asked about the experiments with the six nitrogen-tungsten street lamps, remarking that the expense had not been authorized. Commissioner McLellan said that the experiments were being made in the hope of saving money on the new contract. He explained that, under the new contract, he expects to make with the company, the city would have the privilege of securing any new improved type of lamp they may wish at any time. The lamps and fixtures would be the property of the city, but would be supplied by the company, the city paying for them in annual instalments to be added to the annual bill. A more economic type might warrant the discarding of even new lamps. The new contract had not been entered into because they could not get the lamps. He hoped to be able to sign a contract in January. The lamps might not be made in the United States, but might be foreign lamps. They would be guaranteed for 1,000 hours and would mean that four lamps would be required in a year for each fixture. The fixtures would average \$20 and the lamps from \$4 to \$8.50.

Commissioner Fisher remarked that the cost of the current was more important than the cost of the lamps and asked if anything could be done about it.

Commissioner McLellan said that engineers had estimated that the Mispick falls could supply current to light from 600 to 600 lamps but this would involve an investment of \$850,000 to \$400,000 in plant and even then the plant would not be large enough. The city now used 460 lamps but could use 650 to advantage. The situation in the North End, the old town of Portland, where the city owned all the poles, might be a help in arranging the new contracts.

Waterworks Garage. Commissioner Wigmore presented plans for accommodation of the three cars, including the new heavy truck owned by his department. This could be done by enlarging the present garage in Carmarthen street, adjoining the water office. The work is to be done by the employees of the department at a total cost of \$800. His plans were approved by the committee.

Authority was given for employing Frank A. McInnes, the water works engineer during January and February, \$500 for survey of the city.

Commissioner Wigmore reported that the Board of Fire Underwriters had asked for a contribution of \$300 towards the cost of \$1,100 for bringing the engineering experts here for the city survey. He moved that the city pay \$300.

Commissioner Fisher said he approved the principle, but he did not want to vote for it until he received an explanation of the recommendation that the water main should be diverted around the dry lake. The mayor suggested that it might not be well to vote away too much money at the end of the year, as the officials had warned him that funds were running low.

Predicts A Provisional Settlement Of The Irish Question; More Soldiers

Sir Horace Plunkett Arrives in New York—Says Irish Question Has Been Mishandled

New York, Dec. 21.—Arriving aboard the Adriatic from Liverpool, Sir Horace Plunkett, Irish leader, predicted a provisional settlement which will bring Ireland and England into closer harmony and expressed belief that Ireland will give between 180,000 and 150,000 more men for the defence of the United Kingdom.

ROSS THOMPSON AGAIN ON STAND THIS MORNING

Continues His Evidence Relative to Gould Claims in Valley Railway Matter

At this morning's session of the arbitration matter of A. R. Gould and associates vs. the Town of New Brunswick Ross Thompson continued his evidence. He gave a comparison of the cost of building the Transcontinental Railway in New Brunswick and the Valley Railway. The Valley Railway, he said, cost \$87,770 a mile and the Transcontinental \$71,770 a mile and the Transcontinental \$1,100,000 of this amount \$110,000 including interest was still unpaid.

When the company heard that the government was going to pass a bill taking the work out of their hands, the company wrote a letter protesting. They also wrote the government to the effect that they had secured the services of reliable contractors to complete the unfinished work. Kennedy & McDonald were the contractors they had in mind. This firm was willing to accept 75 per cent for the work done instead of the usual 30 per cent, allowing the government to back the work 45 per cent until the work had been completed. The terms under which Kennedy & McDonald offered to do the work were communicated to the government, but the government made no reply.

The witness said that the company had not received thirty days' notice of cancellation of the contract as required in an agreement made between the company and the government. The original shareholding, he said, had not received any profits to date; on the contrary, they were out of pocket. Mr. Gould has an expense account outstanding, upwards of \$4,000. The witness said he had been active as a railway engineer since 1870. He said 10 per cent was the usual profit allowed to contractors. He considered the Valley Railway to be economically built.

Mr. Thompson was still on the stand when the hearing adjourned at noon.

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