If You Want the NEWS
When It Is NEWS
Read The RECORD

PLAINFIELD RECORD

Editorial Comment Is the
Life of a Newspaper
Read The RECORD

Volume 2—No. 11. PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 1918. Subscription—Single Copies, 5 Cents; $2.00 a Year

Newcorn Springs Surprise In Judgeship Controversy

Declaring that he did not believe in drawing the judiciary into politics, William Newcorn sprang a surprise on the members of the Union County Republican Committee last night when he informed them that he did not seek their endorsement as a body for the appointment of Judge of the Court of Common Pleas to succeed James C. Connolly. Mr. Newcorn's statement was made after Peter J. Olde, of Elizabeth, had introduced a resolution placing the Plainfielder's name before Governor Edge as the favorite candidate for the office.

A general discussion followed in which Mr. Newcorn's friends at first refused to see the matter in the same light as he did but later they realized that his stand was a commendable one. In order to make it a matter of record, the resolution was voted down unanimously but the committeemen who favor Mr. Newcorn will work as individuals for his appointment. Petitions have already been circulated throughout the county in which the former head of the local District Court is set forth as the best qualified man for the county judgeship. This has been signed by practically every lawyer in Plainfield, and Westfield together with a flattering number from Elizabeth.

Former Senator Carlton M. Pierce, of Cranford, is the opposing candidate for the appointment. In the discussion last night it was emphasized that he was a New York lawyer and had practically no experience as a practitioner in New Jersey courts. Richard A. Boardman, a member of the committee from the Second ward of Plainfield, was one of the men who pointed out this deficiency. He informed the gathering that New York would not think of appointing a lawyer who practiced in Jersey City to the bench in Manhattan and neither did a Camden attorney have any chance in Philadelphia. He further stated that New York and Philadelphia lawyers had gotten altogether too much football in New Jersey and it was time that something was done to prevent further inroads on State rights.

State Banking Commissioner Frank H. Smith, of Plainfield, was also a speaker at the meeting. He said he had had a talk with Governor Edge on Kedneday and the latter informed him that there had been no pre-election pledge made to Senator Pierce. As far as he was concerned, the Governor said he was still open to conviction in the selection of Judge Connolly's successor. At the close of the meeting the question was asked informally as to where the story had originated that Mr. Pierce had been promised the judgeship if he would remain out of the Senatorial race at the September primaries of last year. The answer was not forthcoming but one statement was made plain by men in a position to know. This was that Senator William N. Runyon, of Plainfield, had at no time taken any part in an agreement to sanction Mr. Pierce's candidacy for the Union county judiciary if he were given a clear field in the Senatorial contest. Mr. Runyon, it was stated in terms that allowed of no misconception, had told the political powers that Mr. Pierce could enter the race if he had a mind to but whether he did or not he (Mr. Runyon) would go before the people on his merits.

In the aftermath following last night's meeting it was generally agreed that Mr. Newcorn's chances for securing the judgeship were of the best and that the stand he took in refusing to allow the county committee to endorse him was one that would meet with the approval of the people. From now on the committeemen and lawyers who are supporting his candidacy will do all in their power to convince Governor Edge that he has all the qualifications for the office and his appointment would meet with the approbation of the Union County Bar.

The attendance at the meeting was quite large and included ten of the eighteen members from Plainfield.

K. of C. Plan Drive In City To Raise $30,000

To carry on the splendid war relief work that was inaugurated last summer, the Grand Council of the Knights of Columbus has undertaken the task of raising a fund of $5,000,000. It will be gathered by personal subscription throughout the United States and the major portion of the big sum is to be expended in erecting and maintaining soldiers' club-houses such as are now located at Camp Dix, Camp McClellan and other cantonments. These were built and furnished out of a $2,000,000 fund contributed by the Columbian Knights on the assessment plan. Many Plainfielders have had an opportunity of seeing what great work is accomplished in this way as the Knights maintain their buildings on exactly the same plan as that of the Y. M. C. A. stations. All denominations are welcomed and the structures are not only used as recreation places by the boys in Uncle Sam's army but also given over to religious services, lectures, entertainments and other gathering purposes.

Of the $5,000,000 fund, Watchung Council, of this city, has been alloted a pro-rata share of $30,000. In receiving their notice to this effect, the members realize that it meant further solicitation from a public that has already been contributing to war relief but believe that its worthiness of the cause and the splendid results already obtained by the K. of C. will result in a liberal response to the forthcoming appeal. A meeting was held at the club-house last night, at which the campaign committee announced by Grand Knight Charles Kline, urged for immediate service. The method of subscription will be much the same as that adopted by the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. The committee has issued the following formal statement:

"The people of this community have in the recent past displayed a degree of generosity which would seem to entitle them to a rest from appeals for funds for some time to come, but the urgent demands which the war has imposed upon the people of this country, make it necessary to call upon them for a further display of liberality.

"It should be understood that the funds collected by the Columbians will not be used for Catholic soldiers alone, but for the benefit of all men in the service. We have a well organized body of men in charge of war welfare activities and it is solely for the purpose of aiding this line of endeavor that the people, irrespective of race, creed or color, are asked to contribute their mite.

"A strict accounting will be made to the Government of all funds disposed. The members of the order have themselves already contributed $2,000,000. But at least $5,000,000 will be required to carry out the projects we have in contemplation, and a portion of this must be raised locally."

Watchung Council, in addition to contributing its share to the previous fund of $2,000,000 and entering into the spirit of the new drive, has also offered the use of the Columbus Club building to the Government in behalf of soldiers assigned to ordnance posts in this vicinity who are not in a position to receive immediate quarters. The offer came as a result of the mistake which sent a large number of men from Fort Slocum to Raritan in the belief that they were going to the new quartermasters' receiving station of the Raritan River below Bonhamton. The soldiers were in a quandary as to what to do when they could find no Government accommodations and had to be cared for by the people of Raritan and Somerville. If such an emergency arise should arise again, the Columbus Club would be able to house comfortably fully 300 men.

Three Damage Cases In Wake of Auto Accident Year Ago

Three suits as the result of an automobile accident on Springfield avenue, Scotch Plains, more than a year ago in which Hilda Hodgson, nineteen years old, was killed, will be started before Judge Silzer during the present term of the Supreme and Circuit cases at Elizabeth beginning January 28.

Rowland Depew, a young man whose home is in Orange, who was driving the car, is the defendant in each case, in which Thomas V. Hodgson is trying to obtain damages for the death of his daughter. James Hodgson, a sister, and Hattie Perrine are both suing because of injuries. The amount in each case has not been made public. The accident occurred on a foggy Sunday night when the two Hodgson girls and the Perrine girl were walking home from a theatre in Plainfield. Witnesses by Depew approached from the rear and ran directly into them, killing the one and seriously injuring the other two. Depew stood trial before Judge Connolly and escaped with a heavy fine. C. Raymond Lyons, of Newark, will defend Depew, and William A. Collington, of this city, is counsel for the complainants.

The following Plainfield cases are scheduled for the term: Plainfield Board of Education against Paul J. Eyner; Daniel McNamara against Albert J. Lane; William E. Tuttle, receiver, against Charles Hyde; Plainfield Trust Company, administrator, against George W. Bird, and Alice E. Mather against Laing Machine Auto Repair Company.

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

WATER FAMINE MENACE

To the People of Plainfield:

A serious danger threatens the community, greater than that which we have had to face in many years. Owing to the long continuance of zero weather and the freezing of pipes, householders are trying to protect themselves by letting water run from the faucets in their homes.

The City Water Supply has officially reported to me this morning that the aggregate waste is enormous, and that unless the practice immediately be discontinued the City may shortly be entirely out of water. Half the available daily supply for the City is being wasted. Not only is there a lack of water, and of pressure, with which to fight fire, but we shall be without water for ordinary household uses unless the people awake to the danger. In high portion of the City there is already a complete water famine. The freezing of pipes can be avoided if people will take the trouble to meet the present situation by wrapping them up, and closing cracks and apertures through which the cold air enters the houses.

I do therefore call upon the citizens to show their regard for the common welfare by disinterested individual action. And I do further warn the people that unless this requested is heeded I shall direct the Police Department assisted by the Home Defense League, by inspection of factories, public buildings and homes, to report all parties ignoring this notice; and shall request the Water Company to shut all water immediately off their houses and buildings. In this great emergency prompt action is necessary or the whole community will pay the penalty of individual selfishness.

LEIGHTON OALKINS.

Plainfield, N. J., Jan. 4, 1918.

Coal Famine Serious Here, Kenney Says

John J. Kenney, local member of the advisory committee to the Union County Fuel Administrator, called a meeting of all retail coal merchants Wednesday afternoon to discuss the local fuel situation.

The reports of the coal merchants showed that while there is a serious shortage of coal in the city, the situation can probably be satisfactorily met if the public does not try to accumulate more than one week's supply.

The reports further showed that the dealers were only able to deliver about fifty per cent. of their normal output owing to the extreme weather, lack of labor, and the bad hauling conditions. All dealers are far behind in their deliveries.

It was reported that some people were trying to board coal. This has been done by placing orders with several merchants and it was stated that a wagon from two or more yards have arrived at a house at the same time or shortly after each other.

Mr. Kenney wants no one to be without coal and orders were given to the merchants to deliver not more than one week's supply to anyone until the present shortage is overcome. Should any one order coal for immediate delivery be found to have more than one week's supply on hand the coal is to be returned to the yard or delivered to some one else and the names of such persons reported to the Fuel Administrator.

These people will then be reported to each coal merchant with instructions not to accept further orders from them without specific instructions from the Fuel Administrator.

Every effort is being made by the Fuel Administrator to get coal shipped to Plainfield and Mr. Kenney expects to have enough for all within a couple of weeks if the public will conserve the present stock as much as possible.

Thawing Out Pipes Causes Accidental Scalding of Child

The working thawing out frozen water pipes at the home of Daniel Kelderling on East Second Street, Saturday night, brought about the severe scalding of Mr. Kelderling's six-year-old daughter, Ruth. Members of the household undertook to restore the pipes to their normal condition and Miss Dorothy Kelderling, another daughter, started to carry hot water from the kitchen for the purpose. As she was passing through the dining room, Ruth ran against her accidentally and the vessel containing the scalding water was knocked against her.

The child was badly burned on the right shoulder and the right arm as far as the wrist and on also suffered scalds about the chest. Dr. C. B. Lufburrow responded within ten minutes after a telephone call was sent to him but by the time he reached the house the child was in great agony. The application of home remedies helped to keep the burns from penetrating the flesh in such a manner as to prevent fatal results. While the little girl is in no danger, she still suffers greatly from the scalds and will bear a series of frightful scars for the rest of her life. There was one little piece of good fortune in the accident and that was that none of the boiling water splashed on Ruth's face, thus preventing the marring of her features. Miss Dorothy Kelderling escaped the water entirely.

Important! STOP Wasting Water

The reserve supply reservoir at Fanwood is empty. Water cannot be pumped at Netherwood as fast as it is being wasted.

Do not depend upon your neighbors to stop wasting water. Stop it on your own premises at once. There is grave danger in case of fire.

January 3, 1917.

Respectfully yours,
A. D. JENNINGS,
Chief P. F. D.

—Adv. ***

Muhlenberg Nurse Begins War Duty

Miss Clara Charlton, of East Fifth street, left this week for Camp Sheby, Hattiesburg, Miss., on assignment from the Red Cross Society to begin work as nurse in the soldiers' hospital at that cantonment. Miss Charlton, who is a native of Meadowvale, Ont., enlisted in the service last fall and has since been on call. She is a graduate of Muhlenberg's training school, having been a member of the class of 1910. In the practice of her profession, which has been in Plainfield, she has been unusually successful and her relinquishment of private work for service to the country came as a great sacrifice to herself.

Miss Charlton is one of half a dozen Muhlenberg graduates who have placed stars on the local institution's service flag. Miss Harriet Connolly, a member of the class of 1915, enlisted two months ago and was almost immediately sent to Camp Gordon at Atlanta, Ga. Miss Helen Wilbee, of the class of 1910, was accepted for service in September and is on call to go abroad with the medical unit now being organized in Philadelphia. Several other Muhlenberg nurses have either been engaged in active duty since last summer or are awaiting orders to report to cantonments.

New Curate Enters Upon Duties Here

Rev. Father Hubert Holsters, the new curate of St. Mary's church, appointed to succeed Rev. Father Henry Mahoney, entered upon his new duties last Sunday when he officiated at various services through the day. While this section has previously been unknown to him, he has entered upon the work with ready adaptability and is counted upon as being a strong addition to the parish.

Father Holsters is a native of Belgium and prepared for the priesthood at Louvaine. He was ordained twelve years ago. He served in a parish at Blackborn, England, until nearly four years ago, at which time he came to America as curate for the Church of the Sacred Heart at Jersey City. He was transferred from that parish to Plainfield and the vacancy caused by his removal has been filled by Father Mahoney. The latter was curate in St. Patrick's parish, Jersey City, before he was assigned to Plainfield in February, 1917. He is a graduate of Seton Hall College.

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wilton, of West Third street left Tuesday for Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where they will spend two weeks at the home of Mrs. Wilton's parents.

Crowder Urges Listing of Men Becoming of Age

Immediate registration for military service of all men who have become 21 years of age since the first draft registration was urged today by Provost Marshal General Crowder in his annual report to the Secretary of War.

If this is done and similar registration held each year, 700,000 physically fit men of Class 1, the Provost Marshal General stated, will be available for service every twelve months, and this would not necessitate taking men from the deferred exemption classes.

"The policy and belief of this office is that in all probability it will be possible to fill all our military needs from Class One," the reporter stated.

Skilled labor and farmers will be drafted from the deferred classes, Crowder intimated, "should the situation demand."

"The situation in these respects is serious now, particularly in the shipbuilding industry and the factories working on war munitions," he added. "It is probable there will be a shortage of farm labor in the spring, although the new draft regulations have relieved that situation."

The report was placed before Congress today with the request for amendments to the selective service act, which would change the plan of allotting quotas.

In the first draft the quotas were based only on the population, but Crowder asks that the new basis be made the number of men found in each district under the draft. Dissatisfaction was caused in many districts under the last draft because the large number of aliens, all of whom were exempt, caused the quotas to be much higher than the average.

The per capita cost of drafting has been $4.32, which is about one-fourth the amount it cost the Government to get each volunteer into the army. The lowest per capita cost was in Oklahoma, where the average was $1.57, while Delaware led the list with $16 for each man. This includes all expenses necessary to get the man to the camps.

Crowder's report was submitted to Congress at noon.

Twenty-nine per cent. of the men called for physical examination were found physically deficient, it shows.

The Middle West is producing the most stalwart figures, the percentages of rejections on account of physical disability being lower there than in the East or Pacific coast. South Dakota leads the list, while Pennsylvania was the most deficient in this respect. The New England States in general and New York made a poor showing.

The fighters of today are superior to those of the Civil War, the report states, for the percentage of physical examinations in the cities was about 32 or three per cent. more than today.

The, love of the foreigner for the land of his adoption is shown by the fact that there are more than 76,000 aliens in the National Army. They are volunteers, for it was necessary for them to waive the exemption granted all aliens before being accepted. A remarkable patriotic fervor existed in Oregon, where the report shows that for every 100 men taken in the draft 158 volunteered. The other States range down to sixty-five volunteers for every 100 drafted.

The married men loom up in the new army in greater force than was expected, more than 163,000 being in this service.

Government Proposes to Take Over Vitaphone Plant

While no official confirmation could be secured here, information from reliable sources conveys the news that the Federal authorities contemplate taking over the Vitaphone Company's factory on upper North avenue for munition purposes. Agents for the Government have made a thorough inspection of the plant which shows that it is fully equipped for small machine work required in the preparation of timing devices used on explosive shells. When the change will come about has not been stated as yet but to all appearances it will be some time within the coming week. The Vitaphone factory is it stands today has a capacity of 200 workmen. The information secured so far shows that when the Government commandeers the place one of the first steps taken will be to add a new building. This means that the operating force will be greatly enlarged and make the factory one of the most important in the city.

In the construction of talking machines such as the Vitaphone concern manufactures all the work is on small parts calling for an almost perfect degree of exactness. This same rule applies to the production of timing devices used on the shells fired by the Allied guns. They are so fixed that an explosion takes place at an absolute definite time and the slightest deviation in the mechanical parts might result in a premature explosion disastrous to the firing forces. Only one-ten thousandth part of an inch is allowed as an offset in any of the timers. The Government decided that phonograph factories were the best equipped with the proper machinery for this class of work and early in the war took over a part of the Victor and Edison factories. At the present time one third of the Victor company's 10,000 employes in the Camden factory are doing Government work.

It is understood that the preliminary arrangements called for the Vitaphone concern giving the Government seventy-five per cent. of the production, leaving the other twenty-five per cent. for a continuance of Vitaphone manufacture. Clinton D. Repp, of Park avenue, is the head of the concern, but when questioned about the matter declared he was not in a position to discuss the rumor. The Vitaphone shop has recently been in the hands of a trustee appointed by the courts, but a new incorporation formed some time ago took over the company's property, making a partial payment on the estimated valuation. The final payment on this figure is to be made January 10, the procedure that will place the concern free and clear of all court incumbrances. During the past six months the Vitaphone plant has been rushed with orders and business gave promise of continuing for a long time to come. The twenty-five per cent. clause in manufacture would permit the company to take care of all orders in hand now and arrange for any other deliveries that might arise.

The taking over of the Vitaphone shop will mean the second Plainfield plant the Government has commandeered. The first was the Stott Press Works, which now has a capacity force of men working day and night on gun mounts.

Former Pond Man Gets Fine Position

Charles Foster, who recently sold his residence on West Sixth street and has since been living on Front street, has secured an excellent position as erector for the Manning, Maxwell & Moore selling concern, one of the largest distributors of factory equipment in this country. Mr. Foster left Plainfield Monday for Newport News, Va., where he began his work by directing the installation of new equipment in a government shipbuilding plant. From Newport News he will be transferred to New England and later to duties in the West.

Mr. Foster was connected with the Ond Machine Tool Company for thirty-six years previous to his resignation last summer. He was associated with the concern when it was located at Worcester, Mass., and was one of the two men who picked the present site of the big plant on South Second street. The other man who Thomas Lee, for many years superintendent for the Pond people. The pair made a special trip to Plainfield early in 1887 and the results were that they gave of Plainfield and its advantages for shipping facilities caused the board of directors to remove the factoy from Worcester to this city.

In the last few years of his connection with the Pond Company, Mr. Foster acted as erecting foreman and emergency repair man. In this capacity he journeyed to all parts of the United States and Canada, forming friendships of a lasting nature with the heads of many big industrial plants. He is a member of Plainfield Lodge of Elks and his associates of the organization gave him a farewell gathering at the club-house Monday.

MISS MEHL ENGAGED TO J. ATWOOD GIDDINGS.

Announcement was made yesterday of the engagement of Miss Ethel Carolyn Mehl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mehl, of Madison avenue, to J. Atwood Giddings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Giddings, of Leland avenue, the borough. The wedding date has not been set.

Mr. Giddings recently completed all examinations at the Princeton aviation field and has received a commission in the U. S. aerial corps. He will leave for a Texas training field within the next few days. Miss Mehl is a graduate of the Plainfield High School and also of the Montclair Normal School. She is at present a member of the teaching corps in the kindergarten department of the Irving School.

WILLIAM A. WOODRUFF SLIGHTLY IMPROVED TODAY.

William A. Woodruff, of East Second street, who has been critically ill during the past week, was reported this morning as being slightly improved. His condition is still regarded as serious, however, and the outcome is yet in doubt. The illness has been caused by hemorrhages of the stomach.

Mrs. Harry S. Potter, Mr. Woodruff's only daughter, was summoned from El Paso, Tex., because of the seriousness of her father's illness and reached Plainfield Monday night.

Raritan's Mayor Thanked by Gilkyson For Aiding Recruits

Acting Adjutant General Gilkyson has called attention to the spirit of patriotism shown by Mayor Thomas P. Gallagher, of Raritan, and others, in the situation which arose there last week by reason of the arrival of men seeking enlistment in the Ordnance Department. The War Department announced that drafted men might enlist in this branch of the service at Raritan, and men began to arrive from as far away as Kansas and Texas. On reaching their destination the men discovered that there was no station of a military character at Raritan, and the Mayor, learning of the situation, approached the State authorities and arranged for the accommodation of the prospective soldiers, pending action by the military authorities.

First Lieutenant Harold L. Leonard, of Somerville, was detailed by the Adjutant General's Department to take the situation in hand and the War Department advised that an ordnance officer was on his way to Raritan for the purpose of shifting the recruits to Camp Upton, New York State. At the same time all draft boards were instructed to discontinue receiving men for induction at Raritan. In one telegram received from Washintong there was this sentence: "Ordnance Department insists that there is a depot at Raritan."

An interesting feature of the situation is the fact that Raritan is in Somerset county, near the home of United States Senator Frelinghuysen, who, as a member of the Military Committee of the Senate, has been investigating the work of the Ordnance Department of the Army.

To provide for possible influx of a large number of men at this point, Acting Adjutant General Gilkyson dispatched fifty cots and 100 blankets to the Somerville Armory, and arranged to send 200 more cots and 500 more blankets to the Elizabeth Armory. It is stated that about 100 men have been at Raritan since the last month looking for employment in view of the proposed location of the ordnance depot there.

MRS. ELIABETH MAC CONNELL DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS.

Mrs. Elizabeth MacConnell, widow of Thomas MacConnell, died last night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Roy C. Smalley, of 913 West Third street. She had been ill a long time.

Mrs. MacConnell was a native of Scotland but had lived in Plainfield for more than thirty years. She was a member of Hope Memorial chapel and had a wide acquaintance. Beside Mrs. Smalley, she leaves one other daughter and three sons. The latter are Andrew MacConnell, of West Third street, this city; William MacConnell, of Newark, and James MacConnell, living in the West.

The funeral will be held at the late home Sunday afternoon and will be in charge of Rev. D. W. Skelliner. The service will be private. Interment will be in Hillside cemetery.

William Ahern, of North avenue, has returned to Penn State College.

LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

"Happenings of the Past Week Tersely Told For Busy Readers.

The Board of Education this week ordered the closing of the night school sessions for industrial workers. *So many young men have been* called away by the war that attendances have materially decreased and the suspension of this educational feature will help in the saving of coal through not having to heat the rooms at night. The change went into effect Wednesday night.

Ice cutting commenced on local ponds during the past week. The crop is of excellent quality and runs as big as fourteen inches in thickness. *The work at Watchung has not progressed as satisfactorily as might be* expected owing to the shortage of help.

Those who contemplate becoming members in the new class in surgical dressings to be started next Monday by the local chapter of the Red Cross are requested to enter, their names not later than tonight. The headquarters building is located at 1107 Watchung avenue and the telephone number is 615. *The class will begin* its work next Monday night.

In order to demonstrate the spirit of co-operation that should exist between Plainfield and North Plainfield in the coming year, Mayor Leighton Calkins spent a good part of New Year's day in the borough. He sat beside Mayor William L. Smalley at the *reorganization meeting of the* North Plainfield Council, reviewed the North Plainfield Home Defense League and made a general tour of the borough offices. This is the first time on record that a Plainfield chief executive showed his willingness to get in real touch with borough affairs.

Jerusalem Lodge, No. 26, F. and A. M., installed these officers at their regular communication Tuesday night: *Worshipful master*, William Reynolds; senior warden, Robert H. Barnard; junior warden, Alfred H. Beck; treasurer, William McDowell Cargill; secretary, Robert Kenny; senior deacon, Alfred M. Korff; junior master of ceremonies, W. H. Seldin; senior steward, Francis N. Anderson; tiler, Kasper Bolsterle. During the evening a past master's jewel and apron were presented to LeRoy DCamp the retiring worshipful master, and a handsome gavel was given *to the incoming worshipful master*, William Reynolds.

At the regular meeting at Perseverance Lodge, No. 74, K. of P., tonight, a full report will be received on the membership campaign and the following officers will be installed for the ensuing six months: Master of work, Arthur Joy; chancellor commander, *David C. Allen*; vice chancellor commander, Harry C. Lodge; prelate, Harry Fraleigh; master at arms, Harry Keen; inner guard, Henry Winter; outer guard, Peter Stram; exchequer, John G. Bicknell; master of finance, J. B. Higgins; keeper of records and seal, Fred Douglass; Grand Lodge representative, Clarence Rittenhouse; alternate, *John G. Bicknell*; trustee, Thomas Caleen.

Because of the first Tuesday of the month falling on New Year's day, the January meeting of the Belgium Relief Committee of the Red Cross will be held next Tuesday. All members are urged to be present.

The *time-honored custom* of closing the local banks at 1 o'clock on Saturdays has been changed by mutual consent of the five local institutions to 12 o'clock. The change will go into effect for the first time tomorrow and all patrons of the Plainfield banking houses are hereby notified to keep the innovation in mind or dire results may follow.

Captain David Fallon a member of the British army for thirteen years *and wearer of the military cross*, addressed a gathering of nearly 400 people at the Plainfield High School, Friday night. This attendance is considered large in view of the fact that the weather was bitter cold. Captain Fallon's lecture is entitled "Fighting Through Hell" and he says a most graphic picture of his part in the allied campaigns at the Dardanelles *and on the Somme front*. He has been badly crippled and at the present time is on leave of absence from the army until four months after the war. The captain is an able literary man and beside being war editor for the New York Herald has his book, "Fighting Through Hell," now in press.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association is making elaborate preparations for a ball to be held at the West Front street headquarters on Washington's birthday, February 21. The details of the affair are being worked out by the following committees: Chairman G. Kraushaar; secretary, B. Seltzer; cashier, M. Tanner; detail committee, M. Schwartz; publicity committee, M. Zimmerman; entertainment committee, A. Richards, H. Fox, I. Lang and H. Rosenbaum.

Franklin Council, Jr. O. U. A. M. at its meeting the past week elected these officers: Junior past counselor, Gabriel Garson; counselor, Hyman Lovere; vice counselor, A. Hoffman; conductor, William Franklin; warden, William Paul; inside guard, John Kriesky; outside guard, Frank Hartenson; assistant secretary, H. Hartpence; financial secretary, Ephraim Compton; trustee, G. M. Smith; chairman house committee, W. Hartpence.

Mrs. Peter McIvers, of Codington avenue, is regaining the use of her arm after an accident at her home a few days ago. A sudden trip over an unseen obstruction caused her to fall toward a window and her hand was pushed through a pane of glass. She received several bad cuts that required the services of the doctor.

The old year was watched out and the new one in by a large gathering *of borough firemen and citizens* at the Somerset street headquarters, Monday night. Chief William T. McCullough had issued a general invitation for all hands to "drop in" and the response was very gratifying. The last hours of 1917 were while away with card playing and the usual fine feast that always follows a "get together" of the boys.

Editorial Briefs

COMMENT EXPRESSED BY NEWSPAPER MEN IN THIS AND OTHER STATES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

Cheaper Sea Food.
(From the Jersey Journal.)

The State Commission on the High Cost of Living, from which some people expected much, has, after ten months of investigation, brought forth the suggestion that the Legislature, at its coming session *in January, remove many of the restrictions* placed on fishing in New Jersey, particularly with reference to seines off the coast, and that the Legislature help to bring the fish into easier possession of the people.

This will open up a profitable discussion in Trenton if those behind the wise suggestion mean business and really intend to afford some relief in the way of making the cost of foodstuffs come down, at least as far as it concerns sea food.

One of the first snags that the Legislature will strike will be the Fishing Trust, but if the lawmakers get down to brass tacks and go ahead regardless of special interests, the middlemen, who now help to jack up the prices of sea food, will get the jolt that they have deserved for a long time.

Water Transportation.
(From the Trenton Times.)

According to a statement made by the *United States Department of* Commerce, thousands of tons of freight are now being carried by river bradges, relieving to that extent the war-time burden of the railroads. In this neighborhood and in the Northeast and in the Northwest it will be impossible to utilize the boats at present, but there are fully nine months in the year when the rivers and canals are free of ice.

Too little attention has been given to the subject of water transportation, especially during the past three years of the war. Even now plans should be under way to relieve the railroads of some of their traffic as soon as spring opens, and other plans should be under consideration for the building of the New Jersey ship canal and the development of the system of inland waterways between New England and the South.

Iron Fields and War.
(From the Minneapolis Tribune.)

In this, the age of Iron, Germany has resolved to be mistress of Iron, possessed of the ore and if the iron nature, too. An Alsatian iron expert says that Germany went to war to secure the iron deposits of French Lorraine, which amount to one-fifth of all there is in the world. The Westphalian iron interests now demand of the Kaiser that the Briey *and Longwy districts* of French Lorraine be annexed. The perceptive Italian historian, Ferrero, said in the first year of the war that if Germany secured the Briey district, she would ultimately dominate the world. It is not too much to say that the Briey district is the key of this conflict. Germany holds it today, and when she smashed at Verdun she endeavored to enlarge the margin around Briey.

The distance between the French *fortress at Verdun* and the German fortress at Metz is about forty miles, and the Briey basin lies about ten miles northwest of Metz and twenty-five miles east of Verdun. That small area, a salient of France to the Luxemburg line, is the decisive field. If Germany retains it, the future is hers. If France regain it, Germany has lost the game. * * * This contention would be clearer, if we consider what America would suffer, were she deprived of the Minnesota and Upper Michigan iron deposits.

It is not an exaggeration to say that without the Lake Superior ores, the United States would be powerless to wage a great offensive war. Perhaps she would be unable to defend herself against a powerful assault. For the sine qua non of twentieth century warfare is iron, plenty of iron. Without iron, no Krupp, no Bethlehem Steel Works, no cannon, battleship, shells, nor anything that is effective in today's.

Fairly Remunerative.
(From the Trenton Times.)

"Only $250,000 profit for Camp Dix builders," we are told in an announcement that the cantonment has been practically completed. Well, that ought to be fairly remunerative to the contractors, inasmuch as the operation was financed by the Government, and all the builders had to do was to boss the job and take a rake-off of ten per cent. on all the labor and materials furnished.

Operations began about the middle of May. A quarter of a million dollars net profit for seven months' work is the showing, *and it was* lucky that the Government fixed a maximum. Not many contracting firms have the luck of getting anything so good; nor do mechanics often have the opportunity to make from $10 to $20 per day for little actual service rendered.

Jellicoe Tactics.
(From the New York Evening Post.)

The Jellicoe tactics of silent naval pressure are not of the kind to stir *the imagination of the plain man*, though even the least imaginative of Englishmen must have recognized what they were doing for England in keeping her virtually immune from the war horrors that have fallen on all the belligerents, not excluding Germany. So, too, the defeat of the submarine, while easy enough to visualize in its importance, has not the dramatic value which a naval attack on German harbors would carry.

The slow but steady progress to the mastery of the U-boat is revealed in the last weekly submarine report, with eleven British vessels over 1,600 tons sunk. The first quarter of a year of the U-boat war showed an average of twenty-one large British ships sunk; the second quarter showed eighteen ships; the third quarter less than twelve ships; the four weeks since then a slight rise to something less than fourteen ships. It is not to Jellicoe alone the credit should go. The American Navy can claim its share. If German hopes based on the U-boat were truly *all that they professed to be*, then America has been in the war in a very appreciable sense.

Use for Holy Days.
(From the New York World)

Cardinal Gibbons has given his sanction to Roman Catholic miners working on the holy days falling within the holiday season. Is there any better use to which a holy day can be put than to make it a day of good works?

Women "Drummers."
(From the New York World)

The possible feminization of another traditionally masculine vocation due to the war is indicated by the policy of New York dress manufacturers of employing women as traveling salesmen in the place of men employes called to the colors. The experiment appears to have proved successful, the women sent out on the road having "in many cases got more *business out of the* territories alloted to them than the men whose places they took."

Women have shown a peculiar antness as buyers, both in foreign and domestic markets, for dress goods and other concerns. Nor is their employment as comercial travelers exactly the "innovation" that is claimed for it; the last census listed 2,593 women in this occupation, as compared with 161,027 men. The important thing is that the impetus *now given to their employment* as traveling salesmen and the decline of male competition on account of the draft will in all probability largely increase their numbers.

Granting their capabilities for the work, can women drummers ever fully take over the activities of their male predecessors? Can they carry to remote villages the last word in haberdashdery, the latest "good story," the newest wrinkle from Broadway? It is to be proved.

Keep on Working.
(From the New York World)

Concerning that reported blaze in the Krupp works, it will be well to hope for the worst, but to keep on making guns and ammunition.

Tunnel and Bridge.
(From the Sunday Call)

If the Legislature follows the lead of Governor Edge, the State will bear the cost of constructing a tunnel under the Hudson between Jersey City and New York, and a bridge over the Delaware between Camden and Philadelphia. The Governor's plan is to pay for these improvements by a State tax, just as the State's roads are to be paid for under the new road act, but no tax is to be imposed for the purpose until the roads have been completed and paid for.

There is every reason why the State should bear the expense of these admitted necessities for the greater freedom of transportation and traffic. To have imposed the expense on the territory immediately adjoining the terminal in this State would have been unjust, because the benefits from bridge and tunnel will accrue to every part of the commonwealth. To permit them to be constructed by private enterprise charging toll would be to erect a barrier *at each end of the State against in*terstate communication and commerce. They are indispensable links in any comprehensive National road system, and at the present time would be of inestimable value in expediting war preparations. Their importance in facilitating peaceful commerce and in promoting the freer interchange of commodities needs no exposition.

At the present time the people have sufficient burdens to carry without being further taxed for these improvements, but there is every reason to expect a return to peace before the *five years of road-building are up*. They can the undertake the tunnel and bridge projects with the certain knowledge that they are making a wise and profitable investment.

Is Germany Starving?
(From the Philadelphia Ledger)

One of the unknown factors in the war is the internal condition of Germany. The collapse of Russia, the renewed Teutonic offensive on the western front and in Italy, may be discouraging to the Allies. Yet it is easy, in our ignorance of what is going on behind the lines, to take too gloomy a view of the situation. Thus Vorwaerts asserts that, though the proffiteers and the upper classes still have enough to eat, no less than forty million Germans are literally starving. *How long can they endure the* pressure of want? Vorwaerts goes so far as to say that "we might have within a month an absolute catastrophe," resulting in defeat. This may be an exaggeration, intended to delude the Allies with false hopes. There would be no occasion for surprise, however, if the huge military Colossus should be broken to pieces by inward weakness. That has happened before in the world's history. Indeed, the very desperation of the *German attempt to win a victory* at no matter what loss of life is an ominous sign.

Economy In Sugar.
(From the New York Sun)

The truth is that Americans have used a great deal more sugar than they needed, probably considerably more than was good for them. They have come to regard the luxuries made from it as necessaries. Sugar *is an invaluable, an essential food*; so is beef, but it harms nobody to desist from consuming too much of either of them. It may be that the economies adopted under compulsion will in a measure survive the circumstances that imposed them. If they do, there will be a National gain from the inconveniences we have lately experienced.

How trivial were the effects of the sugar shortage as it aqected the ordinary man the coal famine has fully *disclosed*. That imposed actual suffering; it brought to the town and its population an acute realization of the difference between a necessary of existence and a luxury of life. While coal was lacking nothing was heard about sugar. The community had an actual cause for alarm. It quickly suppressed its howls about the empty sugar barrel.

Thus we have *learned to distinguish* a danger from an annoyance, and the knowledge we have acquired *may serve us well in the future*.

American Camp Enlivens Staid Old English Town

In one of the most ancient cities of England is the principal camp in Great Britain of the United States *army*. A *considerable* change has come over the quiet town; it is full of unaccustomed bustle and animation, and the English that is spoken is not uttered with the local intonation.

The camp is what is known as a "passing" one. Men come there after landing on British soil and undergo a sort of quarantine for a week or so. Then their whole unit having been assembled, they depart to be trained in France. The camp is *policed* by men of the United States Marines. Some of them have already seen service in France.

The *colonel commanding* the camp is an old West Pointer. His adjutant, a captain of marines, is from Annapolis. There are a number of British officers and soldiers assigned to assist the Americans. The British officers are known technically as "liaison officers," but Tommy Atkins long ago shortened this to "Bliss," a useful nickname which has been adopted also by the American soldiers.

The camp, which was turned over *by the British military authorities*, is complete and well equipped. There is an excellent hospital, good "dry" canteens, *clubs, chapels, banks, an* express office and a good drug store. Members of the British Womens Army Auxiliary Corps, in regulation khaki uniform, are employed in an auxiliary capacity there, and the American officers and men alike express admiration of the way they carry out the duties assigned them.

ELECTS NEW OFFICERS.

At a special meeting of Watchung Council, Knights of Columbus, Sunday afternoon, an election was held to fill vacancies caused by the resignations of two officers who have entered Government service. They are Leo Kenny, who has been acting as *trustee, and Frank McCarthy, who* was outer guard. Arthur A. Cannon succeeded Mr. Kenny and Frank Frazier was named to take the place of Mr. McCarthy.

What Good Is a Lid?

Several otherwise excellent burial vaults have tops that are simply laid over the casket and left to their own devices. This, of course, is handier and much cheaper. But what of its safety? The Norwalk Vault leaves nothing to chance; its top is securely cemented on by hand, and top and bottom become one solidpiece of masonry. Naturally, therefore, the Norwalk is sold everywhere the best is wanted; *and naturally the best* undertakers always recommend the Norwalk—it gives them a chance to guarantee the burial. Your undertaker can give you the necessary information.

THE NORWALK VAULT CO.,
Plainfield, New Jersey

Mayor Asks For Economy

In Annual Message to Council Executive Points Out Need of Curtailing Expenditures During Present Year.

With economy as the keynote and forceful reminders of the cooperation needed to meet the abnormal conditions produced by the world war, Mayor Leighton Calkins' annual message to the Common Council, Tuesday night proved to be a document worthy of mature consideration. Its numerous paragraphs are replete with suggestions for the ensuing year, which, if followed out, will prove of great benefit to the community. The message is given in full as follows:

To the Honorable the Members of the Common Council of the City of Plainfield:

The year now closed has brought our country into a great conflict which will determine whether the world can be made a safe place for law-abiding nations. With us it was not so much a question of war or peace as some well-meaning people thought, as a question which kind of peace we would have and whether we care enough for a lasting peace to fight for it. Our choice was made unhesitatingly when once we came to see the peril which threatens not only our present security, but that of our children after us and the future security of the whole world and many interests with which we were occupied so short a while ago are now forgotten in the intensity of our purpose to achieve through victory the power to impose a peace which will make another such war as this forever impossible. In consequence it is inevitable that the whole manner of our living, public as well as private, is in process of readjustment and that the things which yesterday we thought so vital to our well-being we now deem trivial, or else they do not so much as enter into our thought.

Municipal Affairs in Relation to the War.

If these were usual times I would have hoped on this occasion to report progress in the Park avenue widening and municipal park projects and others included in the city planning program outlined in previous messages. But costly betterments of that character have of necessity been postponed and should be for the period of the war. Certain projects which we already started have been carried forward, such as the municipal building, the storm and sanitary sewer systems, and the extension of permanent pavements. But I seriously question whether the latter should be continued further at this time. As you know the report contemplates the rebuilding of from fifteen to twenty miles of our through highways and business streets in a period of five or six years, from three to four miles of construction to be undertaken yearly. Since we must now practise strict economy in all things and did our part to release labor and resources for the nation's vital needs, it would seem that improvements of that kind have no proper place in our plans for the year; especially as we have deferred action under the new ordinance requiring the reconstruction of sidewalks, and have even postponed items in our efficiency program such as a modern accounting system in the treasurer's office and the fixed post system in the police department, solely on account of the immediate expense involved.

Indeed I am unable to avoid the conclusion that if we are to perform our full duty we must not only abstain from new undertakings but also seek ways to stem the mounting cost of maintenance, one increase here is inevitable and must be met. But I am convinced that a saving can be made if we will but dig in and hold fast, instead of proceeding hitherto on the principle that we must move forward to prevent slipping backward. New theories are taking the place of old in these days.

To illustrate the thought and not by way of criticism, for I recognize the ambition of each department to improve service conditions and make a good showing, is it right in these times to increase appropriations for street repair work in order that our macadam roads may be put into better condition than that to which we have been accustomed? Of course a certain amount of revolt is necessary to prevent disintegration and greater ultimate cost. But of a different kind are maintenances charge which will merely add to the ease of people who ride and for their convenience is the matter of speed. Instead of improving conditions where this will mean an increase in maintenance appropriations, ought we not rather to get along as best we can with the quality of service we now have?

I view with apprehension the preparation of the new budget unless it is approached in this spirit. I do not think that we should curtail anything for the poor or in safeguarding the public health. But in the Home Defense League the police department has an auxiliary or reserve for emergencies, and this should make it possible to do without the larger regular force which would otherwise be necessary. In my judgment there is no other department, not excepting the department of public education, in which the economies of last year may not be repeated without serious detriment and doubtly exceeded. In each of them as concern not so much our vital interests as our comfort and the luxury of community life, the disposition to do without should be paramount and make further saving possible.

The 1917 budget was made up immediately after our entry in the war and at a time when there was reasonable exceptation that it might not be of long duration. But even then we knew that it would bring new and unusual taxes on business and on private incomes and your estimates, and those of the Board of School Estimate, were prepared with commendable regard for the conditions confronting us. The increase for schools was about $28,000, which was $16,000 more than we would expect in ordinary times and was due to the high cost of fuel supplies and stationery and a salary bonus of $50 for the teachers—an equivalent for policemen and firemen being arranged through advancement from a lower to a higher grade. Further reductions could not have been made without some impairment of school efficiency. This, even during the war, we should avoid as long as possible.

For city purposes exclusive of schools the fire department appropriation was increased $9,000 due to recruiting the force to full strength in 1916. The sewer maintenance department advanced $2,000 on account of the operation of the new and larger disposal plant, and there was a net increase of $9,000 for bond and note interest due to the municipal building, and the permanent pavement and sewer extension improvements. We also had had to provide $5,000 for the maturity of the first installment of Joint Sewer bonds. Against these and a few minor increases there were decreases in other appropriations so that the net increase for city purposes in 1917 was only about $19,000.

Thus it appears that we had to raise about $47,000 more in 1917 than in 1916 for all local purposes including schools. Of this amount about one half would have been produced automatically by the increase in ratables, leaving only about $24,000 to be raised by advancement of the tax rate. In other words the tax rate which for three years we had held at 1.91, an achievement unequaled throughout the State so far as I am aware, would not have advanced more than about eight points except for the new State road tax, which was beyond our control and was responsible for a net increase of approximately $28,000 in the amount to be raised for State and county purposes and for a further advance of about nine points in the tax rate. I suppose that theoretically a tax rate ought not to go up at all except as the measure of the ability and desire of the public to spend more for community advantages. That is, larger appropriations should be limited by the new valuations which support them. But such conditions have now made this impossible.

From the foregoing, which will serve as a summary of the financial situation by approximation, it is apparent that notwithstanding a painstaking effort to keep expenses down we must expect a tax rate advanced seventeen points. We can hardly expect our task to be easier this year, in fact it will be more difficult than ever. But it seems to me that it must be met in some way or the tax burden will soon be intolerable. In war times we must expect to cut down expenses and to go on cutting them down. If the war continues we shall have to make sacrifices such as we have not known before. We dare not go forward with no thought for the morrow. Should we not therefore adopt as a guiding principle for the new year the purpose to search out the things which for the time being we can do without?

The war has brought new responsibilities in the administration of the affairs of the city and has imposed a new outlook upon us. The field of our activities in local matters is narrower and our choice within that field is restricted almost to the vanishing point. We used to talk about efficiency and economy, meaning efficiency with economy. Now the emphasis is inverted; we are almost ready for economy with or without efficiency. In these circumstances the recommendations which, otherwise I would put forward on this occasion are for the time being withheld, until we know better than we now do what the year has in store for us.

Details regarding the city's business will be found as usual in the annual reports of the several officials, heads of departments, boards and commissions charged with the management thereof. Without exception they are all to be commended for the manner in which they have performed their duties under trying conditions. Examination of these reports will reveal a degree of accomplishment, under handicap, well deserving of public approval.

Community War Activities.

If the war has limited our activities in some directions its influence has been greatly to enlarge them in others; and it would seem fitting, in place of the customary review of municipal achievement to speak of the part which the people themselves have had in furtherance of the community and national welfare. I have had the great privilege of naming and organizing many commissions and committees composed of patriotic men and women, who have given and are giving, whole heartily of their time in voluntary services of incomparable value to the city and to the national government. With numerous auxiliaries and subcommittees so many workers have enrolled that they are to be counted by the hundreds.

In February before war was declared we had a wonderful patriotic mass meeting in the High School which I am sure will never be forgotten, with ex-President Taft as the principal speaker. A letter signed by eighteen hundred citizens of Plainfield and North Plainfield was sent to the President pledging support to him and the Congress to whatever extent it might be found necessary to employ force in safeguarding the country and its people. The Home Defense League was organized in March with M. S. Ackerman, chairman, and Henry B. Fullerton, R. F. R. Huntington and Dr. C. B. Lufburrow as a commission to act with the Mayor in the management of its affairs. Under the direction of the commission, and of its officers, it has reached a high degree of efficiency and acts as a special police reserve subject to call by the mayor or police department in any emergency. In its plan of organization the league differs from similar bodies elsewhere in that it is an integral part of the police force for emergency service, but separately equipped and drilled under commissioners who have had a special interest in its activities because of the decision at the outset to enforce strict military discipline as a means of retaining interest. The results have exceeded all expectations. It is one of the few organizations of kind in the State which has been wholly successful and in which the interest is as keen today as it was nine months ago. This is by no means entirely due to the merits of the plan itself. Busy men, practically all of them above the military age, are giving unhesitatingly of their time and strength for this end; the public has contributed generously to the support of the enterprise; and credit is due the chief of police who has managed the operating details with zeal and ability.

The Agricultural Commission was next appointed in April, with William S. Tyler as chairman and various committees associated with him in the work. Back of the army and navy are the farmers and all the agricultural resources of the country. The commission has had charge of the food supply and farm labor problem and the encouragement of home gardens. It initiated and supervised a public market during the summer months which achieved a considerable success. Good management enabled it to co-ordinate its activities with those of larger units and to operate effectively with the State and Federal authorities.

The Liberty Loan Committee was appointed in May with Judge William N. Runyon as honorary chairman and E. W. Bulkley as managing director. Mr. Bulkley also directed the second Liberty Loan Campaign in September, the same committee being reappointed. With the co-operation of the local banking institutions two very successful campaigns were conducted in a line of work requiring business skill and administrative ability of a high order. The work was in charge of the committee appointed early in the year with H. Rogers as chairman to manage the drive for our quota of the one hundred million dollar Red Cross war fund. Nearly a hundred representative men and women served on that committee and the work of campaign went over the top with $15,000 in excess of our $50,000 allotment.

Early in June, being requested by the American Red Cross to suggest a method of procedure for organizing a local chapter, I recommended that it be done by a merger of such societies as the National Special Aid, the Belgian Relief and other war relief agencies already organized and doing splendid work but under separate management. It was natural in the beginning this special objects should interest different groups of people and lead to the formation of various societies and committees. But the need of consolidating these closely related activities to prevent overlapping and duplication, and for greater general efficiency, had already become apparent when this opportunity presented itself. A committee of ladies representing the different war relief organizations attended a conference at the American Red Cross in New York, and arranged for a public meeting to be held in the High School, at which the organization of the local chapter was perfected by the appointment of an executive committee with Charles W. McCutchen as permanent chairman. Several of the existing relief agencies immediately merged with the new chapter and the Volunteers' Auxiliary of Plainfield and North Plainfield did so later. The local chapter of the Red Cross has since become the co-ordinating agency of all our war activities, engaging the services of the women of the entire community, with numerous auxiliaries and a host of patriotic workers. It is ably managed and a credit to the city and borough, both of which it represents. Under the capable leadership of Samuel Townsend it has just completed a remarkable campaign enrolling a total of over ten thousand members from a population of less than thirty-five thousand for the district canvassed.

The Women's Service Committee with Mrs. Margaret Mead as chairman was organized in July, to enlist the interest of housewives in the Hoover plan for the elimination of food waste in housekeeping. The committee made a vigorous canvass of the city and the pledge cards, several thousand in number, were collected and forwarded direct to Washington instead of relying upon house keepers to mail them individually. This was a feature of the campaign as conducted here so efficiently. It met, however, with indifferent success elsewhere throughout the State which led to a second canvass soon after under State direction with Ernest R. Ackerman in charge for the county and by his appointment George L. Babcock for our local district. We had the co-operation of the earlier organization and its committee met with well merited success in completing the canvass previously undertaken.

In July the Commercial Economy Board of the Council of National Defence recommended a plan for commercial economy through retrenchment in delivery service by retail stores, and by reducing to a minimum the acceptance of returned goods. It seemed to me that our local business organizations were the proper agencies to secure the co-operation of shopkeepers and I therefore requested Judge Newcorn, Morris C. VanArsdale and David T. Kenney, presidents respectively of the Board of Trade, Business Men's Association and Chamber of Commerce, to assume charge of the campaign. They appointed a joint committee of these organizations and worked out a plan to eliminate special deliveries and reduce regular deliveries to two a day. Many of the merchants agreed to participate and a committee was also formed to suggest limitations with respect to goods on approval and the acceptance of returned goods.

The Four Minute Men Committee was appointed in August at the request of the National Committee on Public Information, to utilize the motion picture shows for putting our information before the public. Judge J. Henry Crane as chairman of the committee and his associates organized a group of speakers and a schedule was arranged early in September. Since then the work has been systematically carried on at most of the performances held in the city; the proprietors of the local theaters co-operating willingly. The public is under obligation to these Four Minute Men for their patriotic service and for bringing Plainfield so splendidly in line with the requests of the Committee on Public Information at Washington.

The Plainfield Library War Council was organized in September, with C. B. Tyler as chairman, to obtain subscriptions for Plainfield's share of the one million dollars and to provide libraries for the men at the various camps and at the front. This committee also was entirely successful in its campaign and worked faithfully and energetically to that end.

One of the greatest events of the year was the Community Farewell on September 4th by which Plainfield honored the men who had been selected for the new national army. The mayor's committee, appointed to arrange for the great patriotic demonstration, was comprised of some of our best known citizens, with Puder Runyon as general chairman and Elliott T. Barrows as chairman of the executive committee. The program included one of the largest parades we have ever had and a dinner to the departing men in the High School gymnasium, followed by a great patriotic meeting in the auditorium. In other cities there may have been more display but nowhere was there a finer balance of simplicity and enthusiasm, or greater dignity in celebrating an event of such solemnity n the lives and aspirations of all true Americans. It was as if we realized at last in the fullness of our understanding that on what these men are setting forth to do depends not alone our safety and liberties but the liberties and happiness of all people everywhere.

There have been other patriotic undertakings not originating through official municipal action. The local Exemption Board, directed first by Corporation Counsel Reed and now by Judge William R. Codington, is performing a difficult task of importance to the Government. The work is voluntary and public spirited men have come forward to assist the Board in its arduous labors. Our religious, social and business organizations have initiated movements in their own while participating actively in these other country-wide campaigns. The camp work of the Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus is striking proof that the nation's pulse beats strong and true. The local press has given valuable aid, jealous of the honor of the community and with pride in its accomplishments. I wish that a more complete detail than this might be given of Plainfield's part in the stirring events which make up the record of this memorable period, and I gratefully acknowledge the ready co-operation of North Plainfield in all matters in which we have acted jointly.

We face sorrow and suffering in many homes but let us go forward with faith in the final triumph of right over wrong, each doing his part manfully and cheerfully. Thus the new year will bring true happiness after all, in the consciousness of duty well performed.

LEIGHTON CALKINS,
Mayor.

People Must Do Less Travelling

A good part of the American people will have to stay at home in 1918. In order to release locomotives for the hauling of coal, food and munition trains, Director General McAdoo intends to curtail passenger facilities. Hundreds of passenger trains now operating in the United States will be discontinued entirely. Mr. McAdoo expects this action to result in diminution of passenger travel.

"Travel will become so uncomfortable because of a lack of facilities that only those who must travel will do so," he said in explanation of his program.

After the outbreak of the war in Europe, the British Government raised passenger fares fifty per cent. in order to curtail traffic. Reports received by Mr. McAdoo indicate that this measure did not have the desired effect. "It prevented the poorman from traveling, even on important business, because of the prohibitive rate. The rich man traveled anyway. The result was that the business of the country was injured.

At first this curtailment of passenger facilities is expected to prevent good many people to make long distance automobiles trips. This may soon be stopped, however, as the Government hardly will permit the consumption of gasoline for the travel by automobile when it considers that travel unnecessary by rail. Increased long distance automobile travel also will increase gasoline consumption to such an extent that the price will soon become prohibitive unless some step is taken to prevent it, in the opinion of officials.

PERSONAL

Thomas J. Mullin, of North avenue and Miss Grace Coyle, of Elizabeth, were married in St. Mary's church, Elizabeth, on New Year's eve. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mgr. O'Neill and the attendants were Miss Alicia Mullin, sister of the bridegroom, and Edward Scheller, both of this city. Mr. Mullin, who gained fame locally as a baseball player in minor leagues, is employed at the Elizabeth plant of the Standard Aero Corporation and the couple will make their home at the county seat.

William Ashton, chief engineer at Muhlenberg Hospital, was discharged as a patient at the institution, yesterday, following an operation performed early in December. He left immediately for Philadelphia, where he will spend a week visiting relatives during his convalescent period.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Miss Edna Beeching, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen H. Beeching, of West Front street, to Arthur Briggs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nobel H. Briggs, of Albert street. The wedding date has not been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Norman, of Central avenue, are the parents of a baby daughter who came to their home a few days ago. Mrs. Norman was formerly Miss Cora Charlton.

Rev. and Mrs. E. Vicars Stevenson, of West Eighth street, held a reception at their home New Year's afternoon. The affair was largely attended by members of Grace P. E. parish. During the afternoon Mrs. Howard Fleming and Mrs. E. F. Felekert poured tea.

Corporal William Duffy, a member of the 115th Infantry, stationed at Spartenburg, South Carolina, was a guest at the home of Mrs. F. W. Vogel, on West Third street, over the New Year furlough. Corporal Duffy was a member of the Seventy-first New York regiment at the time the late F. W. Vogel was captain.

Mr. and Mrs. James K. Arnold, of Manning avenue, the borough, observed the forty-eighth anniversary of their wedding by holding a family reunion at their home Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Stillman, of West Seventh street, left recently for their winter home at Daytona, Florida, where they will remain until March. They have had as their guest, during the past two weeks, Miss Missouria F. Martin, of East Seventh street.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Stanley Robins, of St. Louis, have been spending the past week at the home of the former's mother, Mrs. G. H. Robins, of Norwood avenue. Mr. Robins is a former Plainfielder who is at present head of the chemical department of one of St. Louis' largest concerns.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Danowic, of Newark, and the latter's brother, Ray Blum, of Nutley, were guests the past week of Mr. Danzoin and family, of Madison avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar C. Schenck, of Westervelt avenue, have announced the engagement of their two daughters, Miss Edythe Schenck and Miss Iolf Schenck. Miss Edythe Schenck that date is to be married to Ralph E. Stevenson, of Saranac Lake, N. Y., and Miss Iola Schenck is to be married to Victor L. Houston, of this city. The date for either wedding has not been set.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Shropshire, of Watchung avenue, are the parents of a son born to them Monday morning. Mrs. Shropshire was formerly Miss Agnes Brown, of Watchung avenue.

Miss Dorothy May Lunger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lunger, of the borough, and Private William E. Van Orden, of Clinton avenue, were married last Saturday night at the rectory of Holy Cross church, Rev. H. St. George Burrill officiating. Miss Wilhelmina Endress and Fred Jacobs, both of this city, were attendants. Mr. VanOrden is a member of the National Army stationed at Camp Dix and returned to his company there Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raynold Lines, of 1336 West Third street, are rejoicing over the arrival of a baby boy, who came to their home Monday.

John L. Honan, of Newark, manual training instructor in the Madison School, of that city, spent the past week-end and New Year's at the hom eof his mother, Mrs. William Fairbank, of West Fourth street.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Dodge, who have been making their home on Park avenue, left recently for Washington, D. C., where they will reside in the future, as Mr. Dodge has secured an excellent position at the Capitol city.

Commuters Protest In Soldier's Behalf

Twenty thousand soldiers at Camp Dix are discriminated against in the matter of railroad fares, according to a complaint filed this week with Director General of Railroads McAdoo by the South Jersey Commuters' Association. It is alleged the soldiers are denied the right to purchase cheap excursion tickets such as are sold between all other stations on the Pennsylvania Railroad system in New Jersey, but are obliged to buy straight fare one-way tickets. By refusing to sell excursion tickets it is alleged the railroad has increased its Camp Dix revenue to the extent of about $2,000 a month.

R. J. DeLong, assistant general passenger agent of the Pennsylvania Railroad, this week said his company had declined to sell excursion tickets to and from Camp Dix because an appeal was pending in the New Jersey Supreme Court relative to the order of the Public Utility Commission respecting the sale of such tickets. When informed of this explanation, Secretary Jolk, of the Commuters' Association, said the Public Utility Commission did not give its decision until September 30, and that the Pennsylvania Railroad did not appeal to the Supreme Court until thirty days later, so such appeal should not be used as an excuse for the refusal to sell excursion tickets before that date.

PLAINFIELD RECORD

Published Friday by

CENTRAL PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.
193 North Avenue.
ALBERT F. LA ROCK, Pres. and Gen. Mgr.

Telephone—Business Office, 3030
Editorial Department, 3031

Subscription Rate.

One year—$2.00. Payable in Advance.

All adv. copy must be at office not later than 5 p. m. Wednesday.

Classified ads. charged at one cent a word.

Entered as second-class matter December 2, 1916, at the postoffice at Plainfield, N. J., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Plainfield, New Jersey, Friday, January 4, 1918.

ECONOMY THE WATCHWORD.

It is well that Mayor Leighton Calkins in his annual message to the Common Council emphasized the need of municipal economy during the present year. Never in the history of the city have industrial conditions been so abnormal, the cost of living so outrageously high or household needs so hard to procure. The people can much better afford to go without the widening of Park avenue or the extension of permanent pavement than to find their properties posted for non-payment of taxes. The tax bills of 1917 took a big jump of seventeen points, enough to make almost any ordinary man put his house and grounds on the market to get what he could out of them before another big bill rolled around. Should city improvements be outlined and attempted to be carried out in 1918 there is no telling where the less fortunate citizen with only ordinary means is going to wind up.

Everybody knows that the present troubles are the result of the war. If it wasn't for complications we have at home and the boys going away nobody would know that we had a war. When the nation is at peace it is time enough to look around town to see what can be done for the betterment of the community, but when no one knows what is going to happen from one day to the next the only thing to be done is to stand still and hope for the best.

The high cost of labor and material is not the only thing that makes public improvements out of the question at this time. The scarcity of labor has to be reckoned with and the supplies that might be used in Plainfield could be sent elsewhere for the promotion of the great struggle that is going to make the world safe for democracy. The Government needs the supplies far more than we do.

No one doubts but what the new permanent pavement in the business streets is a good thing. It was something that has been needed for a long time, still, it was unfortunate that the work should have been started in these days of turmoil and turbulance. The contractors who submitted their figures and were delegated to proceed with the paving thought they had calculated a matter that would bring profit to themselves but even these well-posted men reckoned not on the developments that came *later. It is doubtful if either the* Newark Paving Company or John Bentley made a dollar out of the jobs they undertook. Mr. Bentley's work is completed but the Newark concern has still a lot to do and has no idea just when it will be done. Conditi*ons that no man could guard against are responsi*ble for these deplorable results.

Going further look at the City Hall matter. The officials are doing everything possible to get the bulding completed, yet there is no telling just when it will be finished and ready *to receive its tenants.* The first figure set as a maximum for the cost of the Hall was $100,000. The architectual drawings had hardly become dry when it was seen that this amount would be insufficient. Because of the legal restrictions which prohibited a city of Plainfield's class spending more than $100,000 for this purpose an appeal had to be made to the Legislature for an extension of the maximum. Permission was given by means of a specially prepared law to make the figure $150,000 and this amount stands on the surface at the present time. From indications, however, the cost of the structure will go over even this figure as unforeseen difficulties have risen almost daily, each one piling up the sum totaled.

To finish the City Hall, complete the present street work and meet the emergency expense accruing from the badly working sewage disposal plant will give the Common Council all it can do for the present year. When the war is over and business and living gets back to a respectable level it will be time to widen Park avenue, lay out a city park and extend the brick pavement. At the present time the taxpayers and citizens in general have all they can do to keep sugar on the table and coal in the cellar. By all means, let economy be the watchword for 1918.

• • • • •

"HIGH LIVING" A BAD GUESS.

Engineer Fuller's statement that "high living" is responsible for the conditions at the joint sewage disposal plant calling for an expenditure of $35,000, should be taken with a grain of salt. Mr. Fuller knows better than anybody else where the trouble lays. The fact of the matter is the disposal plant is not a success and the chances are it never will be. Instead of living higher it might be said the people of Plainfield are living lower and the talk about orange peelings, potato skins and other refuse making all the trouble down Middlesex borough way is all tommyrot. The beds were put in operation only a little more than a year ago and why "high living" should be put forth as an excuse for failure is beyond comprehension.

The new disposal plant is built on the Emhoff system which is based upon chemical action for the proper disposal of sludge. Any single person pouring a quantity of sulphuric acid down a kitchen sink could put the whole plant out of working order. Greases, such as accumulate in any waste pipe, are sufficient to make trouble and that is what is going on at the beds where Mr. Fuller proposes $35,000 should be spent to meet the "high living" in Plainfield. If $35,000 would remedy the trouble it would not be so bad but it is feared by many an observing Plainfielder that all the money in the city could be spent on the disposal plant and it would still be working bad.

Little by little it becomes apparent that the whole joint sewage disposal affair has been a bad proposition for Plainfield. At the beginning the commission paid $36,000 for the site that was assessed at $6,675 and would have been well paid for if the owner had received $8,000. Later on W. J. Buttfield slid two or three nice ones over on Plainfield when arrangements for the upkeep was made and Mr. Fuller failed to give comfort to the taxpayers when he selected the present system instead of sending the sewage to tide water. The Emhoff system is all right if the sulpuhric acid can be kept away from the beds but neither Mr. Emhoff, if there be such a person, or Mr. Fuller, can give any guarantee to this effect.

Fred W. Bird is a representative citizen who makes it a point to study municipal expenditure. He takes no one man's word for any payment of thousands of dollars but has that Yankee perspicacity which makes him keep prying around till he gets every detail of a transaction. Mr. Bird has given the citizens a lot of particulars about the new disposal plant that no one else thought about and in a letter to the Record he uses no gloves in handling Mr. Fuller's statement about the "high living." Here is a portion of his communication on the proposed expenditure of $35,000:

"There seems to be something strange about that sewer disposal plant ever since it was first talked of. To begin with the price to be paid for the farm on which it is located was kept in the background for over two years. Before the sewer commission bought the farm it was assessed for $6,675 according to the Middlesex County Tax Board. The Register of Deeds' office at New Brunswick shows in Book of Deeds 542, page 537, dated March 11, 1914, an agreement for the sale of the sewer farm from John Darling, to Plainfield, North Plainfield and Dunellen for the sum of $36,000, $5,000 to be paid on account within one day of the date *of this agreement. Signed,* George S. Clay, chairman. The above is a matter of record.

"Now, the question people are asking is who was responsible for such quick work after the agreement was signed in such a hurry after the price *had become known? Why were the same men who* were responsible for paying $36,000 for a farm worth probably $10,000 up in arms when the Middlesex county assessors increased the assessed valuation for $6,675 to $27,000? Why didn't the sewer *commission have the sewer go to tide-water by way* of Clinton avenue, almost all the way to the Raritan Bay on the public highway, to near Bonhamtown. Thence follow the course of the bay to the ocean. If there was any real reason for not doing that, why didn't the commissioners have a competent engineer, who would have foresight enough to build a plant that would not need extras after one year's usage? Where is this sewer business going to end? Was Councilman Tingley, of North Plainfield, right when he asked if the sewer plant was a failure? Looks as if there was something to it, Mr. Tingley, after one year's service, spending $35,000 for an oversight.

Does anyone doubt but what Mr. Bird is right in his contention about "something being wrong?" for an oversight"

• • • • •

THE COMMUNITY'S DEBT TO MR. WILBUR.

In his retirement from the Board of Freeholders, Samuel P. T. Wilbur should not be allowed to go back to private life without recognition from the community which he served so long and faithfully. For thirteen years this energetic and public spirited citizen labored with the county organization and beside being the greatest factor in the building of county roads served on all important committees. These included the finance and election and the Bonnie Burn. Each one of them call for a definite amount of labor that was far beyond the compensation paid but Mr. Wilbur accepted the tasks and did them well.

A place on the Board of Freeholders has never been a sinecure although many people believe it is. The small amount of recompense received by the members is in no way equivalent to the loss occurred by neglecting private affairs. Mr. Wilbur holds an important place in the insurance world, his ability being recognized by the largest concerns in the country. There have been many times when his employers would rather that he devote himself entirely to their work, but stepped aside when it was shown them that he was doing his duty, as a citizen. Thirteen years is a long time to labor long and hard for very little pay but Samuel P. T. Wilbur did it and asks no other return at this time than the appreciation of the public he represented. We can say in all truth that he has it and should he at any time in the future decide to seek return to the county organization he will have the unanimous backing of the Plainfield voters.

• • • • •

THE SOLDIER BOYS AND THE POLL TAX.

Collector William R. Townsend is among the New Jersey men of his position who is in accord with the proposed legislation to relieve men at the front from the responsibility of paying poll tax. At the coming session of the Legislature, it is probable *that a measure will be introduced to take care of* this matter and from present indications it will pass unanimously. The support of the tax collector has been sought by the proposers of the plan and Plainfield citizens are in accord with the view as express*ed by Mr. Townsend.*

The latest authority to favor such action is Frank B. Jess, a member of the State Board of Taxes and Assessments. Mr. Jess pointed out that in some localities the taxes are overlooked and thought that *a very simple way of solving the problem would be* to have an amendment to the act passed.

Just at the present time many recruits are particularly sensitive as to what appreciation they are getting for their sacrifices. Matters of this kind will send them to the firing line with a better spirit and a better understanding of how those at home feel toward them.

• • • • •

PERTINENT PARAGRAPHS.

We know darned well it was mighty cold last Monday morning but that's no reason why the big thermometer in front of A. M. Griffen's store should have given so many people heart disease by registering 55 below.

Yes, indeed, it's quite true that things are abnormal these days. The city pay-roll shows that the official stenographer who takes care of the Council minutes and typewriting gets $600 a year, while the page, who carries a resolution now and then from one desk to another, gets $540.

We have it on good authority that if the Government succeeds in restoring order out of chaos on the Jersey Central, the next thing it will take over is the Somerset street trolley line.

"Tommy" Timbo says he has discovered a good *way to get a full appreciation of trench life.* All you have to do is to read "Over the Top" and then visit the corner of Fourth street and Watchung avenue.

Now all we want is some guy to come along *and talk about the high price of ice next sum*mer.

No wonder the Russian soldiers don't want to fight. Their pay is only four cents a day.

• • • • •

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS—

When the saloons gave out "half pints" in *fancy bottles on New Year's day?*

When a fellow could get a full course dinner at "Charlie" Smith's on a five-cent glass of beer?

When "shin plasters" were the Government's guarantee for the payment of ten cents or twenty-*five cents and the owners frequently* burned up the guarantee by mistake in lighting a pipe?

When "Jim" Frisbie showed real versatility by being official dog-catcher for the city and leader of colored voters for the politicians both at the same time?

When the Crescent Wheelmen's club house was on Sycamore street and Asa Collier ran the Olympia next door?

When a fellow could get all the coal he wanted without first talking it over with "Baron" Kenny?

Freeholder Who Planned County's Splendid Roads Retires to Private Life

Union county's open boast that it possesses the best system of well-built, well-kept roads to be found in New Jersey has gone without challenge since the first day it was made. Skeptics who S. P. T. Wilbur journeyed this way from other parts of the State to verify reports invariably returned to their native heaths with the news that it was only too true and it would be folly, indeed, to make a counter-claim when the proof was not forthcoming.

So, stands Union county in the catalouging of highways and this week the man entitled to the lion's share of credit for the honor stepped out of the office that paved the way for his genius. This man is Samuel P. T. Wilbur who, on Monday last, retired from the Board of Freeholders after representing Plainfield in that important directorate for thirteen consecutive years. Road making became a study with him from the first day he began the discharge of his official duties. Two years after he was made a freeholder he was appointed chairman of the road committee and from then on is when the eyes of highway supervisors were turned in this direction.

ETAOINSHRDLU

The increasing volume of motor vehicle traffic, both pleasure and commercial, convinced the county body that some durable form of pavement should be adopted to replace "antiquated" macadam, once considered sufficient for all ordinary purposes. Mr. Wilbur willingly shouldered the responsibility of getting the proper construction and set about his task with a spirit of "do or die." He inspected new roads all over the country, sought the advice of experienced men, attended conventions of highway builders and in other ways acquainted himself with the needs of Union's vehicular sentry. He rightly decided upon concrete foundations with bituminous tops as *the form that would come as near to* perfection as is possible in these days of constant travel.

It was a little over ten years ago that Chairman Wilbur secured his first bi appropriation for a permanent pavement. "Amasite" was the patent name of the bituminous form used and Terrill road, on the boundary line between Plainfield and Fanwood, received the construction.

Although somewhat in the form of an experiment, the new pavement proved a great success. Thousands of automobiles glided over the smooth surface and the period of time decided upon as a proper test for durability found it holding up splendidly. A little later, however, a slight fault in "crowning" caused an upheaval of the roadway that is referred to as "explosions." For the time being, Terrill road was in rather poor condition, but repairing showed where the trouble had arisen and it served as a lesson for future work. After that there were no more "explosions," although many miles of bituminous road have been built in Union county at an expense running into the millions. Mr. Wilbur has had charge of it all and not a single instance is on record where there was any fault to work after the first indication on Terrill road.

The finest piece of roadway in Union county is a mile stretch on Morris street, Summit. This is made of concrete as a base and a bituilthic on top, shouldered by what are known as "headers." These "headers" are really a raised curb which prevents the creeping of the roadway. It also forms proper drainage, the most essential factor in the construction of permanent pavement. Water can do more harm than a thousand heavy trucks, provided it gets on a road and does not get off. Mr. Wilbur found this out through his years of study and every new thoroughfare built by Union county includes the protecting "headers." *The old roads usually* ran about eighteen feet wide and had no gutters to boast of. Naturally the drainage was bad and there was more or less trouble until Chairman Wilbur discovered what was the cause of it all. Some years ago he obtained an appropriation of $3,000 with which *he cleaned out and made over the* gutters of eighty-five miles of highways. The act saved the county at least $25,000 in repairs.

A few of the permanent bituminous roads that were planned and built under Mr. Wilbur's supervision are South avenue, between Richmond street and Terrill road in this city; South avenue, from Fanwood to Elizabeth; Mountain avenue, from Scotch Plains to Mountainside, and the Lincoln Highway. All have to *stand tremendous traffic* but are bearing up under the strain to a surprising degree despite the fact that commercial trucks frequently carry thirty tons over them. One day last summer Mr. Wilbur wanted to see just how much travelling was done over Mountain avenue between Scotch Plains and Mountainside. He stationed himself in a convenient point just east of the Plains and in five minutes 121 automobiles and seven horse-drawn vehicles came and went. That was only an ordinary Sunday, consequently it can be easily see what a road has to stand.

In the course of his road studying, Mr. Wilbur attended conventions at Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Cleveland, Boston and other places. When he first started, attendances would perhaps number three or four hundred. At the one at Boston the past summer there were more than 4,000 persons present, showing how the people have come to understand the advantage of meeting good experts and talking over highway problems.

Although the work of freeholder is not the pleasantest thing in the world and frequently prevents a man from giving private affairs their full consideration, Mr. Wilbur would have continued to be a member of the board had it not been that he entered the Union shrievalty race last fall. This prevented him from becoming a candidate to succeed himself in his old position. Nevertheless he cannot be deprived of the experience he has gained and in that generous way of his it will be placed at the disposal of the taxpayers. As in the past, he can be counted upon to uphold Union county's claim for the best system of highways in New Jersey. In his retirement he carries the best wishes of all his constituents and the network of permanent thoroughfares traversing the area between Plainfield and Elizabeth, Rahway and Summit will stand as a monument to his faithful work in behalf of the people.

Coal Is Given Right of Way

Coal had the right of way over the eastern branches of the National railway system yesterday.

Assisted by a slight moderation in the frigid temperature of the last few days, Director General McAdoo was clearing away idle coal indan cars in many years and terminals to relieve shortage in the East and New England. Where necessary, passenger trains were sidetracked to allow the prompt through passage of coal.

President Wilson has completed the draft of his message to Congress today, when he will ask legislation to make the Federal railroad operation effective.

Yesterday McAdoo conferred with railroad brotherhood leaders regarding wage increases for 1,500,000 employes.

Basis of negotiations with the brotherhood chiefs has been completed and were submitted to Director McAdoo by the Federal Board of Mediation and Conciliation before he entered the conference. Just what portion of the 40 per cent. increase asked by the rail employes will be offered was not divulged.

Eisenman Tells Inside Facts of Army Contracts

Determined to get the truth about scandals in army contracts, the Senate Military Affairs Committee Wednesday placed Charles Eisenman, vice chairman of the Supply Committee of National Defense Council, on the stand to tell about the purchase of clothing the equipment for the War Department.

Mr. Eisenman stated that he had charge of purchases aggregating $100,000,000. He insisted that everything humanly possible had been done to secure supplies. The Committee went after him vigorously to learn who was responsible for the clothing and equipment shortages, which it is alleged, caused hundreds of deaths among recruits in the training camps.

"Why is it that in a country of such vast resources and production we have been unable to equip 1,200,000 men with clothing, overcoats and shoes?" demanded Senator Hitchcock.

"There is no shoe shortage," said Mr. Eisenman.

"Perhaps not, but they don't fit the soldiers' feet," said Senator Hitchcock.

"Well, when more men are called out than you have been asked to provide for something is bound to happen and something did happen," said Mr. Eisenman.

"If we had known last May that we would have been compelled to send a certain number of men we would have done it."

"When did you learn how many men you would have to equip?" asked Senator Hitchcock.

Mr. Eisenman said he had never been informed as to the number of men he would have to supply.

Senator Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, questioned the witness sharply about the reduction of wool contents in uniforms and overcoats.

"Are you an expert in woolen manufacturing?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"I wouldn't say I was an expert in anything," said Mr. Eisenman.

"Did you feel that our troops should be as warmly and comfortably clothed as others?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"I felt that we should give them the best we could get regardless of expense," answered the witness.

He insisted that the uniform was "fit for a king," and charged that criticism was coming from disappointed manufacturers who had tried to dip into the public funds and "get money for themselves." Insistence upon the very highest quality new would have absorbed so much wool that it would have meant very poor uniforms later on, he declared.

"Don't you believe it was your job to see that the army was warmly clad?" asked Senator Frelinghuysen.

"That was the job of the Quartermaster's Department," said the witness. "They established the specifications."

"But we are dealing with what would be easy for the army on the other side," broke in Senator Frelinghuysen.

"What have I got to do with that?" asked Eisenman.

The witness said he had conferred with the chief of staff as to the advisability of making the American uniform conform in quality to the British uniform. He said that General Pershing seemed satisfied with the uniform "because he had made no complaint."

Eisenman declared that "if the quartermaster's department had routed clothing to the points of greatest need there would have been no shortage."

"I don't like to criticise the quartermaster's department, but that is a responsibility I cannot assume," he said. "In some camps there were as many as nine blankets per man while in others there were none."

"You mean there were mistakes in shipment and delivery?" asked Senator Chamberlain.

"Absolutely," replied Eisenman.

Teachers Firm Against Merger

Though action on the proposed changes to the pension system of teachers of the State was postponed until next year, at the closing session of the New Jersey Teachers' Association at Atlantic City, Saturday, it is certain that any attempt to merge the retirement fund and service pension will be stoutly opposed by the membership of the organization, which includes 14,000 of the 16,000 teachers in the State.

The long drawn-out issues of contention were brought to a head at this session of the State Teachers Association because of pending legislation at Trenton which may be affected by the report of the Pierson commission appointed last winter, representing both Houses, to investigate the pension laws, decision on new acts being suspended for a year by the Legislature. The report will doubtless have material effect on the disposition of proposed changes under consideration, and action here would also be very important in a campaign. Governor Edge and the Legislature will be petitioned to withhold disposition of these recommendations until another session. A committee of not less than five members or more than nine will be appointed by the association to seek other conferences with Assemblyman Pierson's committee for a further study of the teachers' pension provision.

The appointment of a certain committee, composed of three men, brought an echo from the suffrage attitude of the association. Miss Lydia K. Ennis, of Jersey City, resented the ignoring of women in the appointment "now that we are working for woman suffrage." The committee in question was that to represent the association at the meeting of the department of superintendence of the National Educational Association at Atlantic City, February 22 to March 2. The appointment was left in the hands of the president, with the qualification that at least one woman be included.

The teachers adopted patriotic resolutions. Pedagogues of Wilson's home State pledged support to the administration, and further upheld the entrance of this country into the war to make the world safe for democracy. The teachers also went on record in opposition to the movement to lengthen the probationary period of the tenure of office law from three to five years.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Henry M. Cressman, superintendent of schools of Atlantic county, who was opposed to Edward A. Murphy, the "organization nominee;" first vice president, Alexander J. Glennie, of Newark; second vice president, Miss Helen Angland, of Paterson; treasurer, Miss S. Ida MacMahon, of Trenton; recording secretary, Miss Elizabeth M. Stringer, of Newark; members of the executive committee, F. H. Lloyd, of Paterson. Atlantic City will probably get the next convention.

Hoover Admits 'Fibbery' About Sugar Shortage

"Imaginative alarm," is a big factor in the winning of the war, Herbert Hoover, food administrator, declared Wednesday in testifying before the Senate sub-committee investigating the sugar shortage.

Hoover told the committee that he had made "sensational statements" last May with the purpose of awakening American people to the need for conserving foodstuffs. He declared that he would continue to do so, for he felt this is one of the ways of winning the war. These statements did not increase prices, Hoover declared.

Senator Lodge conducted the examination of Hoover, with Senator Reed, arch enemy of the food administrator, remaining silent. Anticipating warm colloquy between Hoover and Senator Reed, a large audience gathered and sat in serious anticipation.

Hoover underwent close examination at the hands of Senator Lodge, who attempted to show that Hoover had made extravagant statements early last spring and had thereby sent food prices up. Hoover denied the effect, but admitted that some of his statements have been upset.

Hoover was anxious for an executive session. He wanted to explain his part in reorganizing Cuban industries after last spring's revolution. The committee remained in open session, however.

Hoover declared that "the entire revolution event" has left the United States a sugar shortage of 300,000 tons.

"It has been stated that a great amount of sugar has gone into canning," said Senator Lodge.

"I believe that is the case," said Hoover. "It had a large conservation value."

"Do you expect an increase in the saving of sugar next year?" asked Senator Lodge.

"On our program with the Allies we could get through on a reduced consumption of 300,000 tons," said Hoover. "We could surely get through if we had some legislation to control the use of sugar."

Freeholders Organize For Coming Year

The 1918 Board of Freeholders held an organization meeting at the Courthouse, Elizabeth, Tuesday noon and the members were sworn in by Judge James C. Connolly, of the Court of Common Pleas, who spoke of the fairness and ability of the previous board in handling the business of the county and wished the new board success in the administration of the county's business for the ensuing year. John N. Cady, of Summit, was the only member absent.

The board organized by giving indorsement to George C. Teller, of Cranford, and re-elected him as director of the board for the ensuing year. Jacob L. Bauer was re-elected county engineer; Dr. F. W. Westcott, of Fanwood, was again chosen county physician, and James Fink, of Westfield, was re-named as supervisor of roads.

A large floral pieces graced the desk of Frederick Doll, of Union, who took his seat Tuesday as the first freeholder to represent Union Township alone, as previously that township and Roselle Park were represented jointly by one member on the board.

Freeholder Charles A. Smith nominated Mr. Teller for director, calling attention to the fact that this was the fourteenth time he had been present at an organization meeting. Secretary King named Freeholders Krouse and McManus as a committee to escort Mr. Teller to the chair. The director asked the members to be in harmony and to work for efficiency during the coming year. He was greeted with applause when he ascended the chair.

Director Teller named two committees at this meeting—a finance committee, consisting of Freeholders Smith, Thompson, Gehring, Haviland and Trembly; and an auditing committee, consisting of Freeholders Gehring, Bird and Miller.

The 1918 budget passed upon by the 1917 board at its final session on Monday was adopted by the board. It calls for $710,000 to be raised by taxation, an increase of $40,000 over last year.

War's Demands Responsible For Coal Shortage

A coal shortage of 50,000,000 tons for 1917 in the face of the greatest production of any year in the country's history has been caused by war demands, Fuel Administrator H. A. Garfield told the Senate investigating committee yesterday. Asked in the course of his testimony if the situation was now in hand, he replied: "I cannot guarantee that there will be no more suffering."

"Bituminous coal production shows an increase of 10 per cent. over 1916, while anthracite shows an increase of 16 per cent.," said Garfield. "The increased production of soft coal is 50,000,000 tons, but this is only half enough. Munitions factories in southern New England are being greatly hampered by a shortage of bituminous coal."

The anthracite coal situation is fairly good now, Garfield said.

"How have you tried to increase production?" asked Senator Kenyon.

"By placing the emphasis on production, not on price," replied Garfield.

"Do you believe the operators have made big profits by this campaign?" asked Kenyon, who, in Chairman Reed's absence, questioned Garfield.

"I hardly see how to stimulate production without allowing these profits," the fuel administrator replied.

Increases above the President's fixed coal price have been granted forty-one operators by the Fuel Administration to stimulate production, Garfield said.

"These are mostly small mines which would not be able to operate without the increased price," he explained.

"I suppose you have placed the Government's interests first," said Kenyon.

"In this severe weather I have considered the consumer first, for with a dissatisfied people the Government can accomplish nothing," was Garfield's reply.

Prices are much higher this year than last, Garfield admitted, but said they are more stabilized.

"Do you think you have the situation well in hand now?" asked Kenyon.

"I can't guarantee that there will be no more suffering," answered Garfield.

He placed much of the blame for the coal famine on the railroads and said his recent blizzards have accentuated the rail tie-up. The greatest coal congestions were at the Bottle Neck points of Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Toledo and Albany.

"Coal constitutes one half the freight," Garfield said, "and when we increase production we increase the railroads' difficulties.

"The transportation system is what it is now because of our policy of preserving competition so our railroads cannot easily be put together.

"It is now as necessary to operate the railroads as one system as it is to centralize the people in armies and navies."

The committee summoned Attorney-General McGhee, of Ohio, and James B. Duran, of the Ohio Public Utility Commission, as witnesses.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Announcement has been made by Mr. and Mrs. David Angerbauer, of Webster place, of the engagement of their niece, Miss Margaret M. Coombs, to William J. Russ, of West Fifth street. No date has been set for the wedding.

Leo Moore, of West Fourth street, who recently enlisted in the avalation corps, is now located at the Kelly field, San Antonio, Tex., having been transferred last week from Fort Slocum.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barrett, of Codlington avenue, spent the past week-end and New Year's day at the home of Mrs. Barrett's parents in Mamboronack, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. George E. Firstbrook and children, of Greenwich, Conn., returned home Wednesday after a few day's stay with Mrs. Firstbrook's parents, Captain and Mrs. Benjamin Cole, of Madison avenue.

OBITUARY

Personal Mention of Plainfielders and Others Who Have Heeded the Summons of Death During the Past Week.

ISAAC M. TAYNOR.

Isaac M. Taynor, a life long resident of Plainfield and widely known throughout this vicinity through many years' service with the local branch of the Standard Oil Company, died in Muhlenberg Hospital Wednesday. He had been at the institution since October 31 undergoing medical treatment. The funeral will be held at the undertaking parlors of Cole & High at 200 West Second street, tomorrow afternoon at 2.00 o'clock. Rev. Dr. C. M. Anderson will be in charge and burial will be in the family plot in the North Plainfield cemetery.

Mr. Taynor was sixty-two years old. He was born in North Plainfield and always resided in this vicinity. When the Standard Oil Company first located here he secured employment with the concern and was eventually raised to the position of the sales department. He covered all the territory between Westfield and Bound Brook and also to the north and south of town in the immediate suburbs. A short time ago the company placed him on the retired list as a reward for faithful service.

Mr. Taynor was a member of Perseverance Lodge, No. 74, Knights of Pythias, in which he was active for many years. His only near relative residing here is his daughter, Mrs. Edward Edel, of 112 Madison avenue, with whom he had been making his home, and a son, James A. Taynor, a resident of Plainfield.

THOMAS O. SENDALL.

The funeral of Thomas O. Sendall, whose death occurred Monday at his home in South Plainfield, was held Wednesday at the Seven-Mergitt chapel on Eighth avenue, New York. The service was private and was attended only by a few intimate friends. Burial was in Evergreen cemetery, Brooklyn.

Mr. Sendall was seventy-three years old and had been ill a long time. He leaves his widow and one son.

MISS MARGARET VAIL.

Miss Margaret Vail, daughter of Mrs. Gertrude Kitchen Vail and the late James Vail, died Sunday after a long illness. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon in charge of Rev. D. W. Shellenger and burial was in Evergreen cemetery.

MRS. FREDERICK HOFFMEISTER.

The effect of frightful burns which she received at her home on November 20 last caused the death at Muhlenberg Hospital Tuesday morning of Mrs. Frederick Hoffmeister, of 245 Jackson avenue, Scotch Plains. The injuries came about through Mrs. Hoffmeister's light house clothing catching fire from a open gas stove placed in a room for heating purposes. As the flames flashed upward the unfortunate woman became frenzied and ran out doors, thus fanning the flames to greater fury. A man passing by gave the aid that was necessary to save her life for the time being but her flesh had been seared from head to foot.

After being received at Muhlenberg, everything possible was done to save Mrs. Hoffmeister life but she did not respond to treatment. She remained in a comatose condition most of the time and for the last week it was realized that she could not get better. Death came New Year's day as a relief from her sufferings.

Mrs. Hoffmeister was only nineteen years old. She leaves beside her husband, an eight weeks' old infant son; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nelle R. Risbert, of Oak Tree, and three sisters, Mrs. Emma Pierson, of this city, and Mrs. William R. Lewis and Mrs. William Dade, both of Asbury Park.

The funeral was held in St. Mary's church this morning, at which the deceased was a communicant and the requiem mass was said by Rev. Father Hubert Holstege. A large number of relatives and friends were present and many floral tributes were in evidence. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery.

FRANK W. WEED.

Frank W. Weed, a widely known resident of this city, died suddenly Tuesday morning at his home in the Wamelink building on Park avenue. He had been ailing for about two months with diabetes and complications but had been about town up to Monday. While his friends knew that he was a great sufferer it was not considered serious. The United Sates Weed was of a serious nature and his unexpected demise was a great surprise.

Mr. Weed was a native of Oswego, N. Y., where he was born forty-five years ago. In early life he became an expert in the lumber business and most of his business career was devoted to the wholesale trade. At the time his illness began he was salesman for the Newton Lumber Company one of the largest concerns of the kind in the country, before which he had been for many years in the important cities. Through his long road experience Mr. Weed had built up an acquaintance that extended throughout many States in the Union, principally in the eastern part.

The deceased was possessed of an agreeable business disposition and the characteristic frequently took his activities to other enterprises. One of these was the promotion of the company which built the Regent Theatre in Somerville a few years ago and of which he was one of the managers. He was also one of the organizers of Plainfield Council, United Commercial Travelers, now numbering a membership of forty-three.

The deceased is survived by his father, Edward Weed, of New York, his widow, who was Miss Salkeld, and three children.

The funeral will be held at the late home on Park avenue this afternoon at 2 o'clock and will be private. Burial will be in Hillside cemetery.

MISS ELIZABETH BARRAS.

Miss Elizabeth Barras, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Barras, of 323 Cottage place, died Wednesday morning. She had been ill a long time. The young woman was twenty-one years old and had a wide circle of friends. She was a member of Trinity Reformed church and Sunday-school. Beside her parents, she is survived by one brother, Earl, and four sisters, the Misses Ethel, Hazel, June and Virginia Barras.

The funeral will be held at the family home tomorrow morning and will be private. The service will be conducted by Rev. John Y. Brook, assisted by J. F. Parker. Burial will be in Evergreen cemetery.

HARRY PETERSON.

Harry Peterson, the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Peterson, of 645 Essex street, died in the contagion ward at Muhlenberg Hospital, yesterday morning. The little fellow contracted diphtheria and although he was carried into the institution as soon as possible, the disease could not be checked. The funeral will be strictly private.

Celebrated Their Golden Wedding

In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Randolph, who are numbered among Plainfield's most prominent residents, held an informal reception at their home on Randolph road Wednesday afternoon. The dinner was held at noon, at which only relatives were present and later in the day friends from this city and vicinity called to pay their respects. The couple received numerous appropriate gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph were married at Schenectady, N. Y., the home of the bride, who was Miss Eliza Burt, and they came to Plainfield, which was the residence of Mr. Randolph, soon afterward. They started housekeeping in a new house which Mr. Randolph built on Randolph road, on a part of the farm owned by his father, Asa Randolph, and they have always lived in the same dwelling. Mr. Randolph was a farmer and was successful in that pursuit, retiring a few years ago. Both he and his wife are active members of the Seventh-Day Baptist church, being regular attendants at all the services and interested in the various activities of the church.

The couple have two sons, Asa P. Randolph, a practicing attorney of this city, who is a member of the board of assessors, and Robert Randolph, who is manager of a large farm at Grants Pass, Oregon. They also have one daughter, Mrs. Reese Avers, wife of Hobart Avers, of Pittsburgh, Pa. Robert Randolph was unable to be present at the celebration, but Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Avers and their two children were among those who joined in congratulations.

Commission Approves P. S. R. Bond Issue

The State Public Utility Commission has approved the application of the Public Service Railway Company for an issuance of its capital stock at par to the amount of $1,230,000 for the plant extensions desired to be made by the company.

The board also approved the application of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, lessee of the United New Jersey Railroad and Canal Company, for the sale of a parcel of land embracing .366 of an acre southwest of Stiles street in Linden township, Union county. The board in approving the application says that it appears that the land in question is neither presently nor prospectively needed for the uses of the corporation.

Refusal of permission to allow the Tuckerton Water Company to increase the minimum charge of the concern by adding the sum of $1 heretofore charged as meter rental has been made by the board it being stated that under the board's rules meter rentals are not permitted.

The board has also denied the application of the Jamesburg Water Company for permission to increase the minimum charge by adding $2 heretofore charged as meter rental.

Quaint Old English Town Described by Plainfielder

In Series of Letters, Albert Bryniarski, Member of Medical Corps, Tells of King Arthur's "Round Table" and Other Historic Relics in Winchester.

Most of the Plainfield boys destined for the American army being mobilized in France are in camp that concerned Troy. The government has established a "Rest Camp" near the ancient city of Winchester, one of England's most historic spots. Here the boys are given from one to three weeks' stay for recuperation purposes before they are sent on toward their destination.

Among the men arriving at Winchester during the past month were Charles Wendell and Albert Bryniarski, both of this city, who are members of the Ambulance Corps of the "Rainbow Division". In last week's issue of the Record a letter from Mr. Wendell was reproduced, which gave an idea of general conditions in the town near the camp. Since then three letters have been received from Mr. Bryniarski. They were written nearly a week apart to his sister, Miss Helen Bryniarski, and his mother, Mrs. Anna Bryniarski, of Duer street, but all three came to Plainfield at once. As a student of English history in the Plainfield High School, Mr. Bryniarski became acquainted with the chronological record of Winchester and it was consequently a great treat for him to visit a place that he became acquainted with through books but never dreamed of seeing them. He writes most interestingly of his trip about the ancient town and all three letters are given in full as follows:

December 13, 1917.

Dear Sister:

I am taking in some of the sights and visiting many points of interest. Today I paid a visit to Winchester Castle and the Great Hall. The castle was built by William, The Conqueror, in 1087. It has had quite a history attached to it. From here King William Rufus started for the new forest, where he met his death in 1100. Queen Matilda escaped from it enclosed in a coffin in 1141. Henry II in 1155 proceeded and subsequently carried out the invasion of Ireland. Richard Coeur de Leon, after his imprisonment abroad, resided here for his reconsecration at the Cathedral in 1194.

King John took refuge here after deceiving the Barons, after the signing of the Magna Charta at Runnymede. King Edward I and Queen Eleanor came here after his return from the crusades in 1276. The last time a Royal Party came here, who honored the castle upon Sir Benjamin Tichborne and his descendants. During the great rebellion, King Charles garrisoned it and in 1645, Oliver Cromwell besieged and captured it. The walls of the castle were ordered demolished by Parliament in 1651, the Great Hall alone being permitted to remain intact. Parliament had granted the ownership of the castle to Sir William Walter. The county for $5,000 now gets the use of the castle.

In 1603, Sir Walter Raleigh was tried for treason here. Sentence of death was passed and later carried out. Here the infamous Judge Jeffreys tried many of his cases. My account of the Castle Great Hall would be incomplete without the mention of the "Round Table" with which it has been inseparably associated many centuries ago.

The first record of this interesting relic is that of Judge Hardring, who was born in 1278:

"The Rounde Table of Wynchester
Begunne
And there it ended and there it
hangeth yet."

I had no idea that I would ever be invited to lay a piece of this famous table. It is suspended on the wall just above the ancient Gate against which rested the seat of the king when presiding over Parliaments or upon other notable occasions. In the year 1522, Henry VIII brought the Emperor of France to Winchester to show him the relic. Just previous to this visit, the king issued orders for the repainting of the table and its decorations. It bears the Tudor colors green and white, and Arthur is shown with robes of the Tudor period. The names of the Knights are inscribed round the margin of the table. Red and white roses, colors of the houses of York and Lancaster, adorn the center, round which is this inscription:

"This is the Rounde Table of King
Arthur at XXIIII of his manyd
Knyghts."

It is the most interesting and ancient piece of connection in the kingdom. It is composed of oblong pieces of oak, fastened together, and measures 18 feet in diameter. A circular piece of oak, fifty feet in length and twenty-five inches in depth, recently has been placed a beautiful bronze statue of Queen Victoria, a gift to the county in commemoration of her Majesty's life.

The large windows of the hall have been filled with stained glass, displaying the "Coat of Arms" of those who have been prominently associated with the history of Hampshire. On the walls are shown the shields still remaining the shield of the Knights of the Garter from their first institution have been recently repaired and accompanying them are flags formerly composed of steel mail, suspended on poles on each side of the spacious hall.

In the city square is an immense statue of Alfred the Great, in bronze. In another letter I'll describe some of the other places that I intend to visit.

Your loving brother,
ALBERT.

The second letter, addressed to Mrs. Bryniarski, is as follows:

December 14, 1917.

Dear Mother:

Yesterday I wrote Helen a letter describing an interesting visit to Winchester Castle and the Great Hall. Today we did even better than yesterday. Our trip today took us through the hearts of Winchester to the ancient gateway of Hyde Abbey and burial place. This beautiful relic was built in 1110 A. D. and here the famous early English king, Alfred the Great, is buried at the side of his queen. His son, Edward, the elder, is also buried near his father. St. Bartholomew's church now stands about fifty feet away from this famous archway.

Next we saw what was left of the original city of Winchester, or rather the castle that had the four gateways. We visited the north gate which fell in 1756. We also made the rounds of the other gates, namely, Westgate, Southgate and Eastgate. Near the Southgate is a bell, being in an old tower, that has rung curfew at 8 p. m. since the fall of the castle.

We saw the old castle which was built by William the Conqueror, and where he lived for quite a while. Christ's College without a doubt is one of the most interesting places we visited yet. All the old time architecture, moss-covered and gray, spoke out the age of the building. It was built in 1382. Our whole company was shown through the chapel, now in use, and the memorial and corridor." One of the graves, dating back to 1395, is located within the interior court yard. We also visited their art school.

One of the most interesting sights we saw was a roadway cut through an old church, services still being held upstairs. They say that King Charles always had to make a detour around this small church on his way to the cathedral. One day he ordered a roadway cut directly through its center that he might save himself time.

Winchester cathedral, built in 1202, was a magnificent sight and topped our day of ancient wonders. Services were being held within, so we did not have the privilege of a body to visit the interior, which I am told is very beautiful. The large front windows were broken and damaged by Oliver Cromwell during the reformation. It was within this ancient cathedral that many of the English sovereigns were consecrated.

On our way back to our quarters we passed the home of Jane Austin. It was a quaint building and interesting. Tomorrow we probably will be going out again. If we do, I'll write and let you know just what places of interest we may journey to.

Both Charlie and I are in perfect health, aside from a slight cold, and we're taking in all the hikes so as not to miss a thing.

Your loving son,
ALBERT.

This is the third letter, also addressed to Mrs. Bryniarski:

December 19, 1917.

Dear Mother:

We are here still "somewhere in England" at the same rest camp doing nothing but resting, and wandering around whenever the weather permits. We've had quite a spell of rainy, cold days. New Jersey weather is at its worst doesn't compare with the climate here. I can readily see why they say beware of an English fog.

I suppose you received my previous letter in which I described my visit to the old city of Winchester. It was a wonderful trip. Today (Sunday) we got our first passes reading from 2 to 6 p. m. Charlie Elliot, Lauber and I went together to the city and wandered around taking in whatever sights we missed before. We also had a swell feast while there. Ham and eggs, bread, butter and tea for 1-6 D. about thirty-six cents in our money. We certainly enjoyed this meal.

Later, Buckle, Lauber and I visited Winchester cathedral and entered while services were being held. It was a grand sight, the big gray stone pillars and high arches reaching over. Early this morning a number of our company went to church at the "R. C. church built on the hill. It was the first time since we left Camp Merritt. Aishort English captain-chaplain in his majesty service conducted the mass. He has a fine speaker and gave quite a sermon.

When you get this letter we will no doubt be "somewhere in France," much nearer the battle front. We will probably be detailed for service at one of the American base hospitals for at least three months so you needn't worry about my safety.

Love and best wishes from

Your loving son,
ALBERT

War's Fortunes Unite Soldiers In Comradeship

Soldiers of the Allied armies have a strong inclination to fraternize. British Tommy, Yankee, Indian cavalryman and French Poilu, alike, according to David Clarin, a member of the firm of Dunham & Clarin, of this city, and now a member of the Eleventh Railway Engineers, in the American Expeditionary Force in France, who tells of his experiences in a letter to a Plainfield friend. Even the German prisoner is not wholly unapproachable, says the American engineer, and they have much respect for the Sammies.

The engineers are enjoying good health, despite the rigorous demands of construction work and the privations they are forced to undergo, says Mr. Clarin. His letter follows:

"Somewhere in France,
"November 5, 1917.

"Dear Frank:

"Trusting that a few words from the land of the fleur del is will not go amiss—here goes.

"A stiff gale is blowing outside so we cannot hear the cannons today, so, except for the uniform there is nothing to remind that we are in a great war. Indeed, even the sound of cannon has long since ceased to be noticed by us and we oftentimes wonder what good we are here.

"I suppose it might be said we are in a way fighting a harder battle, it is one thing to fight when there is stimulation for the nervous system and constant action to divert the attention from the thought of your own peril; then on the other hand when you are back from the firing line and life itself is a dull monotony, it takes a good deal of mental persuasion to convince yourself that you are a benefit. However, if we follow the subject far enough we come to the conclusion that the unknown of the arteries of transportation is fully necessary and that when men we sink under the road is just as important in a way as each bullet that leaves the soldier's rifle. Also there are brains higher up who know this situation better than we do.

"The war is a great education, too, because of it all nations have been brought together and, one can judge for himself. I have mingled with the French poilu, the British Tommy, the Boche prisoner, the cavalryman from India, and from each I have learned something. One of the biggest things, though, that impressed me is the almost Japanese nature of man to fraternize with his fellow-men. Show them that your heart is all right and they are your friends; prove to the usually conservative Tommy that you are not a swaggering, swanking York, and know enough to sometimes listen and learn, and he is your chum. Show by your actions that you as an individual hold for ideals those same things that your country stands for and he realizes you with that open-hearted candidness that bespeaks brotherhood. Tommy deems, too, you are fortunate enough to compare with him although it is hard for him to set aside his life-long philosophy in an instant. Watches you closely and if your heart and actions speak confidence and sincerity he leaves you in a peculiar mood and says that after all one need not be German to be right.

"I have come to realize myself that humanity naturally does seek to fraternize and I wish I could drop every one of the boys to respect the peculiarities of other nations, to be fair in their judgments, and to avoid the spirit of hate, demand, too, that you are fortunate enough to compare with him although it is hard for him to set aside his life-long philosophy in an instant. Watches you closely and if your heart and actions speak confidence and sincerity he leaves you in a peculiar mood and says that after all one need not be German to be right.

"I have come to realize myself that humanity naturally does seek to fraternize and I wish I could drop every one of the boys to respect the peculiarities of other nations, to be fair in their judgments, and to avoid the spirit of hate, demand, too, that you are fortunate enough to compare with him although it is hard for him to set aside his life-long philosophy in an instant. Watches you closely and if your heart and actions speak confidence and sincerity he leaves you in a peculiar mood and says that after all one need not be German to be right.

"America can learn much from Europe yet, and I sincerely trust that every American will keep in mind the purpose of the United States in this war, so that by his actions he cannot only defeat the greatest single factor against civilized development, but will also strive to wine away as far as he is able the prejudices between nations which has so long retarded world progress toward a common understanding, of the fact that all humanity is but a brotherhood of man. In '61 States fought side by side for this ideal; today nations are fighting for the same ideal.

"It is remarkable how well we keep. Recently I had wet socks on for eleven days. Only at night were my feet dry. All the socks I owned were wet, yet I never caught a cold. We have seemed to be bothered by the elements. In the morning we have to turn out in the rain and sleet, but once out we take it as a matter of course. If we had been dropped here six months earlier we would have found the climate very severe but these winters in Plainfield are much to fit us for these days out here.

"We are all well and happy and our regular habits are supplying us with energies which we can use when we return. So outside of being content, happy, wiser and comfortably healthy, I guess I could not desire much more. Regards to all.

"Your friend,
"DAVE."

Classified Advertisements

MISCELLANEOUS.

175 ROLLS ASPHALT or Rubber Roofing; excellent quality; two ply, contains 108 square feet, with nails and cement, price $2.00 C. O. D. (usual price $3.00). Sample upon application. Marshall, 31 Compton avenue. 'Phone 1596-R.

HIGH GRADE cleaning and pressing; tailoring to order. Special spring prices. Orders called for and delivered. A. Brandt, 14 Somerset street; 'Phone 1999.

WANTED—To buy for cash, scrap iron scrap metals, old automobiles, rubber, rags, paper stock, and old brass. If you have anything in this line to sell, 'Phone 420 and our truck will call. John S. Haskard, 308 Madison avenue.

CONRAD JACOBSON, tinsmith, roofer, sheet iron and metal worker; furnaces set and repaired; stoves and ranges repaired. 'Phone 1066. 441 West Third street.

GEORGE W. CLARK, brick and portable furnaces, ranges, stoves, etc.; jobbing in copper, tin and sheet iron work. Shop, 110 Church street; 'Phone 614-J.

RELIABLE Registry — Murray's Reliable Registry Office for help, 326 West Front street, near Grove, where we endeavor to furnish only responsible male and female help. Our fees are very reasonable. 'Phone 666.

NOTICE—Any persons holding mortgages against lots 1458-1463, block 41, Edgerton Park, apply to Joseph Watson, 100 West 79th street, New York city.

NOTICE—Any persons holding mortgages against lots 908-919, block 28, Edgerton Park, apply to Joseph Watson, 100 West 79th street, New York City.

MEN'S TAILORING

HAVE you ordered that new suit for Christmas? If not, why not? We make all of our own clothes in our store right here in Plainfield. Suits made to order from $20 up. All work and fit guaranteed. M. J. Frank.

SHOE REPAIRING.

20 MINUTE SERVICE—Shoes repaired while you wait. We make your old shoes look like new. Only the best leather used. Shoes called for and delivered the same day. A trial will convince you of our superior work. National Shoe Repairing Co., 106 Park avenue. 'Phone 2565.

HAVE our old shoes made to look like new. Our system of repairing is first class. Our prices are reasonable. All work guaranteed and done promptly. Give us a trial. Work called for and delivered. Union Shoe Repair Co., 832 South Second street. 7-13-17-tf

PLUMBING.

WALTER C. CHANDLER, plumbing, steam and gas fitting, tinning and jobbing promptly attended to. Let me estimate on your next job. Office, 66 Manning avenue; 'Phone 2450.

PLUMBING and heating; jobbing promptly attended to. Estimates freely given. Chas. Krauss, 427 West Fourth street; 'Phone 1194.

WANTED—500 families to your next move by 'Phone 641-J. Furniture and pianos moved and moved with care. We move anything anywhere, any time. Henry Wierengo, the moving man, 521 East Fifth street.

WANTED—Old false teeth. Don't matter if broken. I pay $2.00 to $15 per set. Send by parcel post and receive check by return mail. L. Mazer, 2007 S. Fifth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

HELP WANTED—FEMALE.

CASHIER wanted, age about 25 to 40, for our Plainfield branch store. State age, experience, references and salary desired. Apply by letter to the Mutual Grocery Co., 510 No. Fourth street, Harrison, N. J.

WANTED—The public to know we do high grade job printing at reasonable prices. When in need of printing call the Central Publishing Co., 'phone 1933, 193-195 North avenue.

CAMP DIX, WRIGHTSTOWN.

Touring car for private parties can be procured for transportation to Camp Dix by telephoning 3030 or 1176-J. Rates reasonables.—Adv. tf

CAMP DIX, WRIGHTSTOWN.

Touring car for private parties can be procured for transportation to Camp Dix by telephoning 3030 or 1176-J. Rates reasonables.—Adv. tf

TYPEWRITERS sold, rented and repaired. Engraver and stationer. Howard W. Boice, 138 North avenue, near Park avenue, Plainfield, N. J. 'Phone 2398-Plainfield.

WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED—To buy, old army saddles; must be cheap. Call up Sergeant Richard J. Harrigan, 40 Somerset street, 'Phone 193, after Saturday.

WANTED—To buy, for cash, second hand furniture and stoves, old iron, old automobiles, scrap iron and metals. If you have anything in this line to sell drop me a postal. S. Kline, 545 West Third street.

AUTO TO HIRE.

AN UP-TO-DATE seven passenger Chalmers car to hire by day, hour or trip. Competent driver. Rates are very low. Service the best. 'Phone Fanwood 1428-R. Day and night service.

FOR RENT.

HOUSES for sale and to let; money more than an first mortgage. Mulford, North avenue opp. depot.

HAVE CLIENTS for houses in all parts of the city. Let me know what you want rented to W. F. Wilson, Real Estate, 1215 West Front street; 'Phone 2509-J.

AUTO REP. AND SUPPLIES.

WHY go to New York to buy automobile tires? 30x3, $5.00; 30x3½, $6.75. All larger sizes at very low prices. 1,000 tubes to select from, all sizes, $1.50 each. Come in and see them. You don't have to buy. Philip Mechanik, 325 West Front street; 'Phone 852.

Now open for business and ready to do all kinds of auto repairing. Work promptly done. Expert automobile repairing at moderate prices; also oils and greases. George Romond, 158 East Second street, Plainfield, N. J., formerly with John R. Cline.

AUTO Tops, one-man tops, curtains and covers; seat covers for open and closed cars, cushions, limousine upholstery. H. De Ley, 34 Somerset street, French's building, 'Phone 869.

WE REPAIR automobiles and make bodies to order; motor vans repaired. Expert mechanics in this line. J. P. Honan, rear 29 Somerset street; 'Phone 2677.

AUTOMOBILE WRECKERS.

WE BUY
Old Automobiles and other Junk.
WE SELL
Second-hand Automobile Tires, Parts of all kinds of Automobiles, Radiators, etc.

PRLOVITZ & BERNSTEIN,
Automobile Wreckers,
525 North Ave., Opp. Freight House.

WANTED

FOR EXPORT order; wanted to buy second hand bicycles or frames. Write or call Chas. Greenwald, 47 Somerset street.

WANTED—Old false teeth. Don't matter if broken. I pay $2.00 to $15.00 per set. Send by parcel post and receive check by return mail. L. Mazer, 2007 S. Fifth street, Philadelphia, Pa.

HELP WANTED—MALE

WANTED—Inspectors on bench, floor, lay-out and checking. First-class tool makers, machine repairmen and machinists. Give experience in detail and rate expected, first letter. R. O. Yost, employment manager, Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Corp., Hammondsport, N. Y.

EXPERIENCED young man to collect and deliver on retail milk route; salary $26.00 weekly. Cash security required. Alderney Dairy Company, 288 Morris avenue, Elizabeth, N. J.

WANTED—Steamfitters and helpers; good wages paid. For information apply to or write J. A. H., care of the Standard Paint Company, Round Brook, N. J.

WANTED — Experienced young man to deliver and collect on a retail milk route; salary $26 weekly. Cash security required. Address, Alderney Dairy Co., 288 Morris avenue, Elizabeth, N. J.

PIANO TUNING

Done by an expert. Good reference. Quick service. Pianolas a specialty. A Postal will bring Anton Gash, 163 Duer street, North Plainfield.

CLOTHIERS.

WANTED—Men to buy clothes. Why not buy a Sample Suit and save from $5 to $10 on your purchase? Sample Clothing Store, 210 Watchung avenue, opposite new Postoffice.

SAVE money by buying your suit or overcoat at our store. We carry a full line of new clothes, also pawnbrokers' clothing, equal to new suits, $6.50 up trousers, $1.00 up; suits made to order, $16.50 up. Cleaning, pressing and remodeling. Central Tailoring Company, 116 Watchung avenue.

"The Heart of Plainfield"

BY J. WATSON

The heart of our little city is a great warm heart, and in it the stranger from afar finds genial warmth and cordial welcome. Where Home is, there also the richest treasures of life are found; and our city is a "City of Homes" in every sense that the sweetest word in our language implies.

Front street, its main, wide artery of travel, of commerce and of pleasure, resembles on Saturday night a gaily "Moving Picture" of infinite charm and kaleidoscope variety. To-and-fro along its wide pavements, and its broad central channel, ebbs and flows an effervescent tide of life, drawn to it by the lure of its commercial prosperity, from many a distant state and city and many a far-off foreign shore. Amongst the laughing, chattering throngs that ripple and sway beneath the brilliant arc-lamps' silvery light one can see the suave, smiling face of one of "Old Nippons,'" clever sons, and Front street is a long, long way from the tea-gardens of Tokio. The Englishman's cold, emotionless face is seen beyond the shoulders of one of Italy's voluble children. A blanket-faced pirate from the Yellow Sea pauses a moment for friendly jabber with an almond-eyed brother-buccaneer from Malay; a grave-faced, thoughtful, Laddie from the Banks d' Loch Lomond nods a friendly greeting as he passes, just ahead of a slow-moving, dull-visaged Russian from the white wastes of Siberia.

Passes one whose flat head, wide jaws, short chin and bovine eyes bespeaks his Teuton origin as clearly as does the ebon hue on the face of the person who follows behind, denote the brotherhood of the Congo. By these signs we also know that the tall, thin man, with the melancholy eyes, the copper-tinted skin and jet-black hair, hails from the land of the jewelled princes of Delhi.

The pavements of Front street resound to the tread of steps that are familiar with the paths and roads of the sunny Grecian Isles. Some there are that have waded the shallow narrows of the Jordan and the Nile. And some there are that have crushed the grass-blades on the Mount of Olives, or that have disturbed the sands of the Red Desert of Arabia.

Comes a daughter of Erin—fair as the daughters of Erin ever are—her wide-open, honest eyes agleam with the sparkling light of Killarney's mirrored skies, the liquid sweetness of the honey-flowers that cluster in the gardens beneath the "Blarney Stone," still fresh upon her tongue, flavoring with their richness the mellow music of her laughing lips. She passes, and her passing leaves upon the air a hint of hawthorn bushes all abloom, of golden-yellow primroses, and blue forget-me-nots. And, if you happen to be an "Exile of Erin" maybe, too, you can whiff upon the air a little of the fragrant incense that rises above the glowing turf-fire on the open hearth of some dear old Irish home in the glen of Ardenmore. And if, just then, you should chance to hear someone begin to sing:

"Oh! For the days of the Kerry dances,
Oh! For the ring of the piper's tune."

I guess you would blame the moisture in your eyes, and the chokey feeling in your throat to a "slight touch of the grippe, bedad!" Too true friend Pat, but it was maybe the "grip" of memory that brought to your eyes the mists of the green hills of distant Kerry.

Oh, yes! She lives here in Plainfield. But I do not dare to tell just where. You see! the Chief might chide me for causing traffic congestion on that street where blooms the transplanted rose from emerald dells of Killarney.

"Good evening, Father Bogan." The ingratiating note of politeness in the voice of the speaker caused me to turn around and I saw a little brown-eyed coquette—of six summers, all ruffles and tucks, a winsome little pirate,—holding in her thrall the genial rector of St. Mary's. Twirling her fingers, one over the other, with side-tipped head and upward slanting glance, she said: "You know, Father," you promised me a whole nickle if I was a good little girl today, and I have been just as good as goodey can be all day."

Into the kindly rector's eyes came the crinkling little smile that has endeared him to all the kiddies in town, as he answered, "Well, Virginia, I do hope that your conduct 'all the day' has been better than your memory this evening, for it is not more than fifteen minutes ago since I redeemed my promise to you at the candy shop."

"Oh! But Father Bogan, them was gumdrops, not nickles."

"You sweet little robber! Have you no mercy? Well, well, honey, a good promise can be kept many, many times. Here is your nickle, dear. Now we are all square again Good night, Virginia."

"Come 'Sparkle,'" and the two great friends of the children of men, the priest with the great white soul, and the humble little dog with the loving eyes and faithful heart, passed on their way, and the air grew sweeter with their presence.

A vigorous man, in the full prime of life, comes swinging down the street. Health glows in his ruddy cheek cleanliness homes in his heart, and honesty shines in his eyes. Two women pass him on the way and one whispers to the other, "There he goes. That's the Mayor of North Plainfield."

"Now, God bless him," said the other, "and may his good right arm never grow weary of well-doing."

"Amen! to that," said her friend.

"Is Bill able to sit down yet?"

Her companion gave a little gurgling laugh as she replied, "O yes! but he puts a cushion on his chair. He's a changed man, Mollie. I never thought there was so much virtue in a snake."

"There's a lot of good in the reptile, Kate, when he's made up into a whip," said Mollie, the sententious.

Crossing the street, her head erect, her shoulders square, her eyes clear and cool, her face serene and calm in its classic beauty, straight as an osier and supple as a willow reed, her perfect form a flawless harmony of grace, her movements the rippling poetry of motion, comes the pride of our hearts, our own dear "Yankee Girl."

There was something about the free, easy swing of her walk that awoke the slumbering memories of other days and other lands; in my mind, and, for a brief space of time, I was back in the beautiful Isles of Summer, dangling my feet over the edge of the little rustic bridge that spans the stream, that was once the happy play-place of the child who later became the bride of Napoleon and Empress of the French. A few hundred yards below the bridge was the ruins of the original home of Josephine de la Pagerie, and near it, too, was all that remained of her father's sugar mill. It was there, on that road to Fort de France, that I saw passing girls with the same grace of movement and physical perfection of form that is characteristic of the American girl. With the exception of our own women there are none in all the world who walk with the same free grace that the girls of the French West India Island of Martinique possess.

This old world of ours would be a dreary, sorrowful world were it not for its comediennes and its clowns. Front street has its allotted quota of both. Here she comes with mincing steps, a perfect counterpart (in her own light airy mind) of the latest "Movie" queen. Her saucy little nose looks as though it had been boring holes in the contents of a barrel of "Willsbury's" best flour. It glares at you with the startling radiance of a piece of doughnut just before its bath in the frying-kettle. Her lips have a raw, red look that is repulsive. Their natural beauty and sweetness are hidden beneath a poisonous mask of oxide. Over the really pretty skin of her young cheeks she has spread a slabbery daub of chemical color that is slowly, but surely, eating away the smooth fabric of Nature's covering.

As for her skirt! Oh, well! It is generally shorter than any description I could give of it. But her eyes are clean and so is her foolish little heart, as I believe the heart of every little girl is and wants to be. Your sisters of mercy and sisters of charity, if you see her slipping, gather her into your own warm heart; give her a chance.

With a "butt" hanging gracefully down from his under-lip and a jaunty little pink fedora hat, with a green and yellow ribbon around it, perched on his head, with his coat-tail eight inches below his shoulder blades, and the reversable collar of his pants seven inches above his natty low-cut tan shoes and dressy yellow-and-blue socks, comes the "town terror"—and if he but knew it, the "town joke." He and the little girl with the painted face are actors on the stage of life just like you and I, and their part is to be just what they are.

In the passing crowds that flowed up and down Front street's brightly lighted way I did not once see amongst them a man with the vacant eyes, babbling lips and staggering steps of a drunkard, or a sot. Nor did I there behold a woman or a girl with the leering eyes and purple soul of a moral leper.

Though these are days of war's travail and sorrow lurks near every door, no visible evidence of it is seen amidst the busy crowds on Front street. Here it seems remote, but deep in the hearts of the people it is very real and beneath the seeming frivolity lies a grimly tenacious force that, like some powerful acid, will eat its way through all opposition to the goal of a definite purpose. Love of freedom, love of country and faith in the eternal justice of God are three things that will live on forever "In the Heart Of Plainfield."

News of the Theatre

Frank Finney Tells From Whence Came A Great Inspiration

Frank Finney, the comedian star of Charles H. Waldron's "Bostonian Burlesquers," at the Plainfield Theatre Tuesday, matinee and night, January 8, is an author of as great ability as he is a comedian. A reporter for the Record called on him at a theatre in Newark recently and asked him why it was that a burlesque book by him always had a more appeal in it, why it was so out of the beaten track and so different from the customary wish-wash of burlesque material.

ROSE BERNARD
With the "Bostonian Burlesquers" at the Plainfield Theatre Next Tuesday, Afternoon and Night.

"When a man has been writing burlesque material as long as I have," said Finney, "he is pretty apt to get out of fresh ideas. Judging by the sort of rot one sees here and there, this doesn't seem to trouble some writers much but I positively can't pass anything up to an audience which I do not myself consider original, original and away from the ordinary material.

"When I turned my mind to writing a book for this season's show, I was unusually hard put to it to secure a real valid idea. I couldn't seem to get the cob-webs out of my brains enough to get to the real ideas and so one night I walked aimlessly out into the world in search of Inspiration, that kindly spirit which is supposed to come to the aid of poets, authors and others whose artistic temperament gives them a right to call on Inspiration.

"I walked by the river and the water told me nothing. I looked up at the stairs and Inspiration wasn't there. I walked up blind-alleys, I swung along the Great White Way, I dove into bootblack parlors, cabarets, and all sorts of places. Inspiration was apparently taking a night off, enjoying a quiet game of stud-poker in some sequestered place or burying himself in some studious pursuit of knowledge.

"At last I paused on a street corner and my attention was attracted to a group of men who were discussing the prohibition wave which is sweeping the country. There was a difference of opinion on the subject of drink in that little circle and the discussion grew quite animated. One man was bitterly opposed to drink and he and another of the party got into a very lively verbal duel. Finally the latter said to him: 'Why, you do a lot of preaching against drink but I'd hate to offer you $10,000 to get drunk and stay drunk six months.'

"There was my inspiration. I went home and all night long I sat writing and, when I finally retired, I had a pretty fair outline of 'Lil' Ole New York,' which is the production we are using in this year's show.

"The piece has proved a big laugh getter and personally I consider it one of the best things I have ever done. All of which goes to show that inspiration is always on the job and is ever ready to come to the assistance of her servants who are hard pressed and in need of aid."

Vaudeville Returns To the Plainfield

Vandeville will return to the Plainfield Theatre this afternoon for performances concluding tomorrow night. The new six-act bill will be headed by a novel feature full of surprises entitled, "Kendall's Auto Doll." This offering is distinctively different than anything else of the kind seen before the footlights and should prove a pleasing change for the local patrons.

Other numbers on the new program will be Boyle and Dale, "two nifty misses," in a repertoire of songs and dances; Lon and Bessie Miller, in their own original comedy song skit; "Prabhie" James in her demonstration of "Sonology;" Calvin Di xand Company in the comedy number, "The Three Sports," and the return of the old favorite, Charlie Reilly, with his latest budget of fun and nonsense.

The program at the Plainfield Theatre each day includes the latest and best moving pictures those from the Pathe studio being features. A new Pathe Review will be shown this afternoon and tonight, flashing many interesting events of the great war on the screen.

JOHN MITCHELL RESIGNS FROM JOURNAL EDITORSHIP

John A. Mitchell, who has been connected with the Elizabeth Daily Journal for a number of years, first as reporter and later as its efficient city editor, severed his connection with that newspaper at the close of the year.

Mr. Mitchell's successor is Frank D. Gable, who was first engaged as a reporter on the staff of the Journal and more recently has served as assistant to the managing editor.

Mr. Mitchell for several months has felt the nervous strain of his exacting duties, and resigned on account of the necessity of gaining relief from it. While his plans for the future have not yet taken definite shape, he expects to establish a weekly newspaper in that city, and will doubtless make an announcement at no distant date.

As a token of their esteem members of the Journal staff on Saturday noon presented to Mr. Mitchell a handsome engraved silver toilet set and a leather-bound notebook. Mr. Mitchell has a host of friends in Plainfield, who wish him success in any undertaking in the future.

Labor Department Probing Accidents

When in a single month industrial accidents cause thirteen deaths and 4,555 injuries within a State, as happened in New Jersey in November, it pays to find out causes, to classify them and to adopt appropriate measures of prevention. Such, at least, is the belief of the State Department of Labor, which, under the direction of Commission Lewis T. Bryant, is compiling all the facts in statistical form.

A side-light on the effect of the war upon industrial hazard is furnished by the fact that of the 1,052 accidents attributed to building and construction work, eighty-five per cent. occurred at the Wrightstown and Tenafly cantonments and the new shipyards along the Newark meadows.

Comparatively few of the reported accidents were of a serious nature during the month, for which data today were made public by the department, yet many of them were severe. Roughly, in order of their importance, they are listed by the department as follows.

Two workers lost, each, one leg and one lost both feet. Sixty-five had fingers amputated. Fractures of the arm were suffered by twenty-eight, of the leg by eighteen, of the hands by eleven, of the fingers by seventeen, of the toes by nineteen, of the ribs by twelve and of the skull by four.

There were two cases of the loss of one eye, while there were 438 cases of other injuries to workers' eyes, of which 166 occurred in aeroplane and motor vehicle plants, thirty-eight in shipyards and thirty-four in machine shops, mostly as the result of flying particles from emery wheels or working tools. Twenty-eight cases of hernia occurred as the result of lifting strains. Burns and scalds caused 302 injuries, chiefly in foundries and chemical and smelting plants.

Classified in the four groups into which the accidents are sorted by the Department, eight fatal and 3,103 non-fatal accidents happened in factories and workshops, 1,052 in building and construction work, at least one fatal and nineteen non-fatal in mines and quarries, and four fatal and 382 non-fatal in the miscellaneous group. All of the accidents, fatal and non-fatal, were ascribed to 136 distinct causes.

Power generators caused seven, of which one was fatal; transmission apparatus caused thirty-five, of which twenty-one occurred on belts and pulleys and two on shaftings; working machinery caused 885 cases. Most important of the cases in the latter class were the following: One fatality occurred on a conveyor in a paper mill, fifty-one cases were due to lathes; milling and drilling machines (metal working) accounted for eighty-nine cases, circular saws for eighteen, punch presses for eighty-one, stamping presses for thirteen, other presses and embossing machines for forty-two, flying particles from emery wheels for 290, cutting and chopping machines for twenty-seven and power looms for sixteen.

Infections fatal in one instance occurred in the case of 146 slight injuries, in most instances injuries to fingers and hands in the metal trades; a fact, the department emphasizes, which clearly shows the urgent need for prompt medical emergency treatment, no matter how slight the injury may seem.

The industries in which most accidents occurred are thus listed by the department: Shipbuilding, 194; motor vehicles and parts, 188, one fatal; founderies, 130, one fatal; machinery, 161; chemicals, 157; munitions, 137; silk dyeing, 121; electrical appliances, 118; smelting and refining, 107; paper mills, sixty-six, one fatal; coke by-products, forty-two, one fatal; high explosives, fifty-one, one fatal; steel and iron (structural), nineteen, one fatal.

Trolley Connection May Be Made Today

Despite the severe weather of the past week, workmen in the employ of the Public Service Railway have continued operations at Fourth street and Watchung avenue and hope to connect up the Fourth street and Union lines over the new tracking today. This will do away with a serious cause of changing cars at this point, a procedure that has met with general dissatisfaction on the part of the trolleying public since it was first resorted to more than a month ago.

Making the connection will also permit a return to the old schedule from Front and Somerset streets for both the Fourth street and Arlington cars. The new double tracking will mean a big improvement to trolley conditions in general and although it has been a long time in coming, the people will fully appreciate the improvement. The work of placing the new brick pavement about the tracks will proceed while the cars are operated over the new rails.

$50,000 EXTENSION TO MARCONI PLANT AT ALDENE

Although work was only recently completed upon an addition at the Marconi wireless plant in Aldene that doubled its floor space, a contract has been let for the erection of still another building. War contracts have caused the work to pile up in such quantities that even by working night and day they cannot be filled.

The new structure will be built on the western side of the main plant and will cost about $50,000. The New York firm that has the contract started Monday to demolish the old Aldene station of the Jersey Central and prepare to start the foundation. Work will be pushed forward with all possible speed and it will be completed in about six weeks.

Council Elects F.J.Blatz as 1918 President

Francis J. Blatz will again head the Common Council for another year. He was elected president at the reorganization meeting Tuesday night, this, being the third time he has received the honor. At the same meeting John J. Carroll was named as city clerk for a term of three years at a salary of $2,000 per annum. Mr. Carroll has been serving as clerk for the past year, having been appointed to fill the unexpired term of James T. MacMurray.

George B. Wean was named as city stenographer and clerk to the committees at $600 a year, and William Kline was retained as page to the Council at $540 a year.

The following appointments by the Mayor were confirmed by the Council:

City physician, Dr. N. W. Currie; members Health Board for two years, Dr. C. B. Lathurrow and S. H. Voorhees; sinking fund commission, Joseph W. Sandford; research and advisory commission for five years, Richard A. Claybrook; shade tree commission for five years, Miles Roberts; recreation commission, five years, J. F. Zorega.

The Council appointed E. B. Waldorf clerk to the Board of Assessors and assistant in the office of tax collector at a salary of $75 per month.

The Courier-News and Plainfield Record were designated as the official papers.

Miss Vera Bush was appointed stenographer in the office of the city clerk at a salary of $65 per month, and Miss M. H. Clayton at a salary of $52 per month. John H. Cose, Jr., was appointed stenographer and chauffeur for the building inspector, at a salary of $60 per month.

The Mayor recommended the promotion of Arthur Erber and George Quinn, members of the fire department, from Class F to Class E for meritorious service.

The following applications for liquor licenses were received: Jacob Dimm, Somerset street; John J. Sullivan, Kensington Hotel; John A. Staats, Queen City Hotel; George R. Wescott, wholesale, North avenue; M. J. Devine, Liberty street; G. J. Weisman, Park avenue; Henry Windham, Waldorf Hotel; Frank Linke, wholesale; Michael F. Watson, Grant avenue; Eastern Bottling Works, wholesale, West Second street, and E. C. Wescott, East Front street. The applications were referred to the license committee.

President Blatz appointed the following committees:

Finance—Charles S. Sminck, chairman; G. Herbert Condict, Thomas F. Hylan, Charles C. Graves, Leslie R. Fort.

Streets—Thomas F. Hylan, chairman; Charles C. Graves, G. Herbert Condict, Peter J. McDonough, Theodore A. Martin.

Fire and Buildings—Chares C. Graves, chairman; Thomas F. Hylan, Charles E. Loizeaux, G. Herbert Condict, Chauncey L. Hight.

Public Affairs—Charles E. Loizeaux, chairman; Charles S. Sminck, John S. Dahl, Leslie R. Fort, Chauncey L. Hight.

Police—G. Herbert Condict, chairman; Leslie R. Fort, Charles E. Loizeaux.

Street Lighting—Theodore A. Martin, chairman; Chauncey L. Hight, Charles S. Sminck.

Alms—Leslie R. Fort, chairman; Charles E. Loizeaux, Charles S. Sminck.

License—Chauncey L. Hight, chairman; Peter J. McDonough, Charles C. Graves.

Law and Ordinances—John S. Dahl, chairman; Theodore A. Martin, Peter J. McDonough.

Auditing—Peter J. McDonough, chairman; John S. Dahl, Thomas F. Hylan.

School Estimates—Thomas Hylan, Charles S. Sminck.

Committee on Sewers—Thomas F. Hylan, Charles C. Graves, G. Herbert Condict, Peter J. McDonough, Theodore A. Martin.

ANOTHER FIREMAN RESIGNS.

Thomas Lappen, a member of the city fire department stationed at headquarters, tendered his resignation Monday. He was appointed three months ago as a probationer but found he could not stand the hours.