

CITY MANAGER BROWN RESIGNS

Resignation Accepted to Take Effect as Soon as Place Can be Filled

Council Chamber, May 11th, 1920. At a regular meeting of Council held this evening Mayor Jennings and Councilman McCallum were present. City Manager Brown and Mr. Olsen, of the lighting plant were also in attendance.

The minutes of April 13th and 21st were read and approved.

The clerk then opened the ballot boxes for the managers of election held this date for councilman, and tabulated the returns which showed that J. A. Raffield received 73 votes.

He was thereupon declared duly elected. The oath of office was administered by the city clerk and signed by Councilman Raffield.

Mr. W. C. Boyle was present to request Council to straighten the northern end of Church street, by making an exchange of land. As the plan outlined would require a considerable outlay of cash action was deferred until the members of Council could go out and investigate the matter.

The Mayor reported that Mr. Gilbert C. White had agreed to allow the city \$255 per month in lieu of a resident engineer who was to be furnished by him during the erection of the lighting plant building; this arrangement being possible on account of the city having secured the services of Mr. W. C. Olsen, who was formerly with Mr. White, and who will act in the capacity of a resident engineer. The allowance above mentioned to begin at even date with work of construction by the contractors, Messrs. Tucker and Laxton.

A request from Mr. C. G. Rowland to connect a wash rack for automobiles, to sewer line on Dugan street, was refused for the reason that such action would be against the ordinance applying to sewers.

The clerk read a letter from Mr. D. W. Cuttino with reference to connecting the residence owned by N. O'Donnell on E. Liberty St. to sewer. Council maintained that sewerage connections must be installed at once, or the house vacated, and the clerk instructed to so advise Mr. O'Donnell.

Police report for month of April was read, showing:

Total number of arrests 133; cash fines, \$1,807.02. Causes of arrest: Disorderly conduct 22; violating traffic ordinance 37; larceny bicycle 1; house breaking 1; electric light ordinance 1; transporting whiskey 1; drunk and disorderly 5; gambling 40; cruelty to animals 2; petit larceny 8; vagrancy 7; violating license ordinance 2; boys returned to reformatory 5. Total 133. Dismissed 15. Sent to upper court 2. Suspended 2.

A bill for \$1,639.68 from J. Van Linding Nursery Co., Pomona, N. C., covering shrubbery for Memorial park was presented and ordered paid.

City Manager Brown stated that three car loads of gravel would be needed for the walks in Memorial park, and 150 lbs clover seed. Council authorized the purchase of this material.

A communication from Mr. I. A. Ryttenberg was read by the clerk with reference to assisting the city in securing coal for the lighting plant, and asking for remuneration for services rendered. Action was deferred until next meeting, which Mr. Ryttenberg will be asked to attend.

A request from the Coca-Cola Bottling Works to install a gasoline filling station on Council street for use of their trucks was refused.

The City Manager reported that he and Mr. J. A. McKnight, of the Board of Health, paid a visit to Hartsville on April 30th to investigate the tank wagon used for sanitary service. He found that its use was entirely satisfactory, and recommended that Council install one of these outfits. After some discussion it was decided to purchase two tank wagons for the service.

A report was presented by Chief R. E. Wilder, of the Fire Department, showing list of firemen absent from fires during April, and their reasons for being absent. Same was accepted by Council as entirely satisfactory.

A letter was read from Mr. J. W. McKiever, of the Sumter Sash, Door and Blind Factory, making complaint with reference to the service given by the lighting plant, and the management of same. The Clerk was directed to acknowledge receipt of this communication, and request Mr. McKiever to attend the next meeting of Council, in order that the matter may be further investigated.

The resignation of W. T. Brown as City Manager, to take effect as soon as his successor is appointed, was read. The resignation was accepted with regret.

Mr. W. C. Olsen, manager of the lighting plant, was authorized to purchase necessary pipes, valves and fittings for the new light and ice plant.

Council decided to destroy all whiskey that had been seized, and the City Manager was instructed to notify Chief of Police to take necessary steps to this end at once.

A request from the Lawrence Construction Company for permission to erect pilasters in place of increasing thickness of wall to 17 in. of store building corner of Main and Hampton streets was refused, as the building code requires a 17 inch wall.

Council then adjourned.

The letter of resignation of City Manager Brown was as follows:

Sumter, S. C., May 11th, 1920. Honorable Mayor and City Council, Sumter, S. C. Gentlemen—

I beg to hand you herewith my resignation as City Manager to take effect as soon as you can get some one to take my place.

I regret very much to be forced to take this step, but it has become necessary on account of my health.

Thanking you for your many courtesies shown me while in your employ, I beg to remain, Yours very truly, W. T. BROWN.

City Manager Brown's Statement

Reply to Criticisms Contained in Letter of Mr. J. W. McKiever

Editor Sumter Daily Item: Inasmuch as Mr. J. W. McKiever has seen fit to address a letter to the City Council, which appears to reflect upon me, and the same having been published in your paper, I wish to make the following reply:

When I was appointed city manager, the city did not own the lighting plant, and, of course, none of the ordinances prescribing the duties of the city manager mentioned the lighting plant. It should be well understood by everybody that to manage an electric light plant requires great technical skill, both in steam and electrical engineering. For this reason the old company employed Mr. Eugene Moser, and for this reason the City of Sumter has employed Mr. W. C. Olsen as the manager of the entire lighting and ice-making plant. Mr. Olsen is an expert at this business and is paid a handsome salary, which I think he well deserves. The City Council has ruled that Mr. Olsen can make any purchases necessary, which do not exceed the sum of \$100 in any one month, and if necessary to purchase any equipment or material in excess of this amount, the matter is taken up directly with Council, and not with me. The fact in the case, therefore, is that Mr. Olsen is the manager of the lighting plant, and I have only such supervision in a general way as I may exercise in attempting to see that the best is done under the circumstances that can be done. I would feel that I was usurping authority to go into the plant and attempt to dictate what should be done with reference to matters which require skillful education and training to even understand, and, I presume, it is for this reason that the Council hired an expert to look after this particular plant.

On the occasion which Mr. McKiever mentioned I was down there looking over the plant in a general way, attempting to see how the repairs proceeding, and while I did not object, and never do object, to Mr. McKiever, or any one else criticizing me for anything for which I am responsible I did object to Mr. McKiever blaming me for matters that were entirely beyond my control, and for which I was in no way responsible. It is generally known that the lighting plant was very much run down at the time the city purchased it. If this had not been true, the city would certainly not now be engaged in building a new plant and purchasing new machinery, almost complete. I think the manager of the lighting plant has done the best he could under the circumstances, with the old and worn out machinery to keep the plant going, even as well as he has.

I am informed that the steam pump which Mr. McKiever referred to, was worn out before the city purchased the plant, and the electric motor which pulls the circulating pump for the turbine was installed for that reason. It was certainly no part of my duties to have the steam pump overhauled, nor was it my duty to have any part of the lighting plant replaced with new parts. That rested entirely in the hands of Council and the manager of the plant. Mr. McKiever might have pointed out numberless other things that are needed, and it is for this reason that a new plant is being built. If Council undertook to replace every part of the old plant which needs replacing, it would require practically a new plant; and that is what they are now building for the City as rapidly as it can be done.

Now, as to the belt, Mr. McKiever stated that he had been informed that when a similar accident happened to the belt when the plant was under private management, the belt was sent to Charlotte in a truck. In the first place, I did not tell Mr. McKiever that the belt had been broken some two months ago, but I told him it had been broken about two or three weeks, and that Mr. Olsen had been trying constantly to get a man who could cement the belt back on the engine. I am told that when the belt was sent to Charlotte by the old company, it was not to have the cement joints fixed, but the belt itself was broken in two and had to be mended, and I am informed that even on that occasion, after having had it mended in Charlotte it was necessary to have an expert cement the belt together at the joint after the same was placed upon the engine here in Sumter. The belt is such that it cannot be placed upon the engine while it is whole, but must be placed upon the engine and then cemented together at the joint, and this is the job which required an expert to be on the spot.

Before I had any intimation of Mr. McKiever's letter, I had already tendered my resignation to the city clerk and treasurer to be presented to Council at the next meeting. My friends know that my health has not been good for sometime, and it was for this reason that I felt it my duty to relieve myself of the many cares which pertain to the office of City Manager, before my health should be entirely broken down. While holding this position, I have attempted to perform my full duty. How well I have succeeded, it is for those who know all of the facts to decide. I have become accustomed to criticism, because I suppose there is no city where perfect machinery and ideal equipment can be procured with the funds which a city ordinarily has at its disposal. I have had to make the best use possible of the equipment put into my hands, under all the surrounding circumstances and conditions.

I shall welcome any investigation which seeks to place the blame, if there be any, for the unsatisfactory conditions at the lighting plant.

Respectfully, W. T. BROWN.

Sumter, S. C., May 13, 1920.

Nome, Alaska, May 14—Reports of the discovery of gold in Northwestern Siberia has reached Nome.

WILSON VETOES CENSORSHIP BILL

President Takes Decided Stand Against Encroachment on Executive Authority

Washington, May 13.—President Wilson pointedly informed congress today that in his opinion the legislative branch of the government was showing an increasing tendency to interfere unduly with the executive functions.

Taking as a vehicle for his admonition a sharply phrased veto of the annual legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill the president declared that one of the riders of the big supply measure would muzzle executive officials with a "censorship" regulated by the congressional joint committee on printing.

Immediately, the President's position both on the general principle involved and the specific case cited was challenged by Republican leaders of the senate and house. Senator Smoot, Republican, Utah, chairman of the joint committee declared in a formal statement that the president apparently had been "deliberately misinformed," about the appropriation bill and Representative Good, Republican, Iowa, chairman of the house appropriations committee told the house that "there must be some mistake somewhere."

Whether repassage of the bill unchanged will be attempted or whether the feature objected to by the President will be eliminated had not been decided tonight. The measure carries \$134,000,000 for salaries and miscellaneous expenses of many government departments, and it must be approved in some form by the end of June or these funds will lapse.

The President also cites several other measures enacted or proposed in the present congress to support his charge that there had been "an invasion of the province of the executive calculated to result in unwarranted interference in the processes of good government." He said that some of these measures he had permitted to become law as temporary expedients but that he felt the time had come to call a halt before "destructive" precedents had been established.

The section of the appropriation bill which led to the veto would prohibit the printing or mimeographing of any government publication except by authority of the joint committee. Such a provision, said the President, would give the committee "power to determine what information shall be given to the people of the country by the executive department."

Both Senator Smoot and Representative Good, however, asserted that the committee already had been given control over government publications by an act which the President signed on March 1, 1919, and that the purpose of the present provision was to extend that power so meritorious periodicals could be continued.

A row between the joint committee and Roger W. Babson, formerly connected with the committee on public information, was blamed for the president's action by Senator Smoot, who said in his statement that Babson apparently had "made use of the President or his advisers in carrying out his threat and determination to end the censorship which, without the least foundation, he has charged against the joint committee."

The President's veto message said in part: "I am in entire sympathy with the efforts of the congress and the departments to effect economies in printing and in the use of paper and supplies, but I do not believe that such a provision as this should become law. 'If we are to have efficient and economic business administration of government affairs the congress, I believe, should direct its efforts to the control of public moneys along broader lines. . . . This can be accomplished by the enactment of legislation establishing an effective budget system, which I have heretofore urged."

"The congress and the executive should function within their respective spheres. The congress has the power and the right to grant or deny any appropriation or to enact or refuse to enact a law; but once an appropriation is made or a law is passed the appropriation should be administered or the law executed by the executive branch of the government."

"I regard the provision in question as an invasion of the province of the executive and calculated to result in unwarranted interference in the processes of good government, producing confusion, irritation and distrust. The proposal assumes significance as an outstanding illustration of a growing tendency which I am sure is not fully realized by the congress itself and certainly not by the people of the country."

The president also cited a resolution adopted recently by the joint committee declaring that no person connected with any government department should furnish any publication for free distribution in excess of 50 copies without first making application to the committee. He also called attention to the recent creation by congress of the public buildings commission to have "absolute control of the allotment of all space in all public buildings in Washington except the White House, capitol building, senate and house office buildings, the capitol power plant, the Smithsonian Institution and the Congressional Library."

The commission, the President said, "is organized and operates as a congressional commission" and has on various occasions directed various branches of the executive department to vacate buildings occupied by them.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 14—One man is dead and two are in the hospital as the result of drinking wood alcohol, according to the police.

Bucharest, May 14—The king and queen of Rumania have decided to postpone their visit to the United States until next spring.

DIAL TO OPPOSE USE OF HIS NAME

As Candidate for National Committeeman From South Carolina

Washington, May 13.—Senator Dial, declining further today the State Democratic convention to be held next Wednesday, said that he hoped to attend as a delegate from Laurens, though he may be detained here, but that on further information and purely in the interest of the party solidarity he had reconsidered the decision announced in this correspondence Tuesday and would ask friends not to present him for National Committeeman. He adheres, however, to his original statement that he cannot allow the use of his name in connection with election as one of the four delegates at large and says that for a number of reasons it is out of the question for him to go to the San Francisco convention.

"When I stated the other day," Senator Dial said, "that I would not mind being elected national committeeman, I had it from several sources that the incumbent desired to retire not only from that office but also as State chairman. I have heard that contradicted since. I have been offered support by a great number of the delegates and I have entertained no uneasiness as to the outcome of the election. However, the suggestion comes to me from friends whose judgment I respect that I might be criticized for allowing the use of my name in connection with this additional office. I would not have my friends put in the position of having to defend any act of mine. But another consideration which appeal to me as one that I ought to regard above all others, is that no one ought to risk dividing the Democratic forces at this stage. I believe that I could be of service as national committeeman and I am under no obligation to the incumbent, but take pride and satisfaction in the growing solidarity among our people. Anyway, the post of national committeeman is not one over which I could enter into any scramble. I am deeply grateful to the friends who have been so cordial in their offers of support and am sure they will understand the reasons which constrain me to ask that they will not put my name forward in this connection."

Washington, May 14.—Secretary Daniels today declared that Admiral Sims' charge that the Navy prolonged the war four months by delays was refuted by the Admiral's own testimony.

BAPTIST HOME MISSIONS

Work of Last Year Reported to Convention

Washington, May 14.—Operations of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention have been practically doubled during the last year, Dr. B. D. Gray, secretary, reported today to the 75th annual session of the convention. In the general evangelistic work of the board, carried by fifty white general evangelists and singers, one special missionary to the deaf mute, and three negro evangelists, more than 14,000 persons were added to the churches during the last year. Evangelistic and educational work among the people of foreign tongues in the South has reached large proportions, this work being conducted in seven different languages.

DIVIDE DIOCESE IN THREE YEARS

Episcopalians Also Vote for Bishop Coadjutor

Spartanburg, May 12.—The council of the Episcopalian church of South Carolina, in session here today, decided upon division of the diocese to be brought about within three years and upon the election of a bishop coadjutor, setting October 12, next, as the date for holding the election in Columbia.

The council went on record as opposing the eligibility of women as delegates to the diocesan council. A two-thirds vote was necessary in both the lay and clerical orders. In the clerical order it failed by only one vote, while in the lay order the vote was 18 to 15 against.

The election of a bishop coadjutor at a special meeting of the council is of interest to the church in that, in case of the division of the diocese, the bishop coadjutor automatically becomes the bishop of one of the dioceses. The action of the council today was in accordance with the recommendations of Bishop Guerry, the present bishop of the diocese, who favored a bishop coadjutor rather than a suffragan bishop.

The present session of the council is the most largely attended in the history of the church in this State and has been one of decided interest.

POLES WIN VICTORY

Bolshevik Division Cut to Pieces in Battle at Mouth of Bresina River

Warsaw, May 15.—The rout of the tenth Bolshevik Division in a battle north of the Bresina river is reported in the Polish official communique. In attempting to escape the remnants of the division were killed or captured.

BOLD ROBBER KILLED BY THE POLICE

Chicago Bandit Overpowers Five Mail Clerks and Gets Away With Big Sum

Chicago, May 14.—A man entered a mail car on an arriving train today, made one clerk tie the feet of five others and took several hundred thousand dollars in currency. He was pursued by the police and dropped a bag containing a hundred thousand dollars in his flight. He finally took refuge in a building and was shot dead after two hours sniping.

CONVICTED BY HIS OWN WORDS

Secretary Daniels Cites Statement by Admiral Sims to Prove That He Slandered Navy

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EXPRESS CAR IS LOOTED

Agent Claims Bandits Kicked Him Into Insensibility

Spokane, Wash., May 14.—Nine thousand dollars were obtained by robbers who kicked the express agent into insensibility, according to the agent's account.

STATE PENSION FUND.

Distribution of Confederate Pensions Waits on Ruling of Attorney General

The following letter from Pension Commissioner McLaurin to Judge of Probate Thos. E. Richardson will be of interest to Sumter County Confederate pensioners. The adjournment of the fund to Sumter county is now in the hands of Judge Richardson for distribution, but it cannot be paid out to those on the list until a ruling as to the distribution has been made by the Attorney General.

Columbia, S. C. May 14, 1920. Judge of Probate:

Enclosed find warrant for the amount apportioned to your county under the last act of the General Assembly.

As soon as I can get the opinion from the Attorney General, I will send you instructions as to the distribution of this amount.

Yours very truly, D. W. McLAURIN, Commissioner.

CAPITAL STOCK INCREASED

Sumter Cotton Warehouse Company Increased to \$125,000

Columbia, May 14.—The Sumter Cotton Warehouse Co., of Sumter, has been granted authority to increase its capital stock from \$17,000 to \$125,000.

MURDER AT SOLDIERS HOME

Veteran of Civil War Kills Spanish War Veteran at Johnson City

Johnson City, Tenn., May 14.—John O'Mara, a veteran of the Spanish-American war was killed by Luther S. Sands, a veteran of the Civil War, at the Soldiers' Home here. The killing is said to have been the result of a quarrel following the ejection of Sands from the grounds. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide.

LEE COUNTY FAIR PRIZES

Premiums to Amount of \$10,000—Plans to Encourage Advanced Agriculture

Shippsville, May 13.—The Lee County Fair Association, believing that the fair of this and other States have not fulfilled their proper sphere as developers of the agricultural interest of this country, has, after mature deliberation, decided to increase this line materially. The premium committee has offered the following premiums for individual farm exhibits: \$500 as a first prize; \$300, second; \$200, third; \$100, fourth, and \$50, fifth. These prizes are open to all who desire to compete. The entire premium list will amount to about \$10,000 this year. The prime object of this fair association is not to make money for the stockholders but to promote the agricultural and industrial interests of the country.

Wilhelm Changes His Residence

Doorn, Holland, May 15.—Former Emperor Wilhelm arrived from Amroengen to .

FRENCH TROOPS WITHDRAWING

Paris, May 15.—The withdrawal of the French troops from the Frankfurt and Darmstadt region has begun.

BYRNES' SPEECH CAUSE STORM

South Carolinian's Attack on Speaker Gillette Causes Gillette to Make Foolish Display of Himself

Washington, May 14.—Investigate the investigations committee. This was the purport of a resolution introduced today by Representative Byrnes of South Carolina, whose speech in his support of his resolution was a scathing arraignment of the so-called Graham committee that Speaker Gillette had a brainstorm and made a foolish display of himself.

Because of interruption from the Republican side which he handled with great effectiveness, the South Carolina Congressman was not able to finish his speech in the twenty minutes which he had obtained. At the end of that period he asked unanimous consent to speak for five minutes more. In a fit of partisan resentment, Speaker Gillette refused to submit the request to the House.

"Does the Speaker object," asked Mr. Byrnes, in astonishment. "No," said the Speaker, "but the chair does not recognize the gentleman for that purpose." Former Speaker Champ Clark, former leader of the minority, there arose to express the hope that the time of the South Carolinian would be extended five minutes as he had requested.

"The gentleman from Missouri and the gentleman from South Carolina are both out of order and will take their seats," ordered the Speaker. "Will the chair permit me to remain in the house?" sarcastically replied Mr. Byrnes, while former Speaker Clark walked out of the chamber in inarticulate disgust. Speaker Gillette made no answer to Mr. Byrnes' sally, but cut matters short by recognizing Representative Sells, Republican, of Tennessee, who had not even risen from his seat.

The refusal of the Speaker to put the request of Mr. Byrnes to the House is declared to be without precedent. Nevertheless, Mr. Gillette said later in conversation that he intended to continue this method of handling requests for additional time under similar circumstances.

L U M B E R

Flooring, Ceiling, Siding, Casing, Mouldings, Framing Lumber, Red Cedar Shingles, Pine and Cypress Shingles, Metal and Composition Shingles, Doors, Sash and Blinds, Porch Columns and Ballasters, Beaver Board, Valley Tin and Ridge Roll.

Brick, Lime, Cement, Plaster, Fire Brick, Fire Clay, Sewer Pipe, Stove Pipe, Terra Cotta Thimbles, Mortar Colors and Stains, Water Proofing Mineral, Corrugated Metal Roofing, Asbestos and Composition Roofing.

Locks, Hinges, Nails, Grates, Saws, Hatchets, Hammers, Door Hangers, Carpenter's Tools, Paint Brushes, Paints and Oils, Inside Decorations, Calomines and Cold Water Paints.

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