

WEATHER. Fair and cooler tonight and tomorrow. Temperature for twenty-four hours ended at 2 p.m. today: Highest, 81, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 54, at 5 a.m. today. Full report on page 7.

Closing New York Stocks, Page 23. PRESIDENT HARDING'S POLICY ON FREIGHT RATES WITH C.C. Goes to Office of Commission for Informal Talk on Rail Situation.

THINK TOPIC OF FUNDING BIG DEBT WAS DISCUSSED \$750,000,000 for Improvements Asked by Roads Probably Touched Upon as Vital Question.

Downward revision of railroad rates, particularly of those on necessities, was discussed by President Harding today with members of the Interstate Commerce Commission, at an informal conference at the commission's headquarters.

Mr. Harding inquired particularly about the prospect for modification of rates on fruits. The commission officials are understood to have told him that they were making considerable progress in plan for obtaining voluntary reductions in some rates through concerted action by the carriers.

It was said that this movement and the general work of ironing out inequalities had gone much further than information given to the public had indicated. Details as to this, however, were not made public.

Although there was no outward indication that the chief executive and the commissioners discussed the possibility of providing for the funding of the \$750,000,000 owed to the government for permanent improvements made while the roads are under government control, the subject is known to be under active consideration by administration officials and the commission.

A recommendation that the government take the lead in having the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee yesterday by President Harding that the government had gained considerable favor among some members of the committee. It is believed that the funding of the \$750,000,000 owed to the government for permanent improvements made while the roads are under government control, the subject is known to be under active consideration by administration officials and the commission.

Mr. Harding and all of his close advisers are watching closely the testimony given by the commission members but have indicated that they did not consider the data complete enough at present to warrant a decision on any policy.

AGREE ON VOLSTEAD BILL. House Committee Favors Ban on Beer by Doctor's Order.

The House Judiciary committee agreed today to report out the Volstead bill which would prohibit sale of beer on physician's prescription for use by the sick.

The committee is composed of Francis H. Stephens, corporation counsel; Daniel E. Gargan, secretary of the commission; and Wadzi Combs, superintendent of the license office.

The city heads took this action following receipt of a letter from Supt. Combs, in which he outlined a number of revisions he believes should be made in the law.

The first suggestion of the superintendent is that drug stores should pay a higher license fee, \$25 a year, now required of them. The superintendent tells the Commissioners that "in view of the profit which appears to be derived from this line of business, the license should be \$50 a year."

The same law requires building of other contractors to pay a license of \$25 a year. Mr. Combs points out that the Court of Appeals has held the term "other contractors" to be too indefinite. The superintendent recommends that this section be amended to define more clearly the contractors to be licensed.

Under existing law a license of \$12 a year is required to sell cigars, but this permit is not required to sell cigars or other forms of manufactured tobacco. This section should be amended to include dealers in all forms of tobacco, the superintendent believes.

Two important recommendations are made in connection with the licensing of poolrooms. One is that the law should be amended to require the approval of the Commissioners on applications for poolroom licenses. The other suggestion is that the law should fix definitely the hours during which poolrooms may be open.

Poolrooms Close With Bars. The existing law specifically states that poolrooms shall remain closed from 12 o'clock noon to 4 o'clock in the morning and that week days they should close at the same hour. The superintendent suggests that the law be amended to close poolrooms at the same hour as the saloons.

Mr. Combs also goes on record in favor of raising from 1 to 2 per cent the monthly interest rate that pawnbrokers may charge in the District. The Commissioner also suggests that Congress amend a bill that would provide for this change, so that this recommendation would be sent to Congress as a separate bill.

VAULT SPACE TAX IN D. C. UPHOLD BY SUPREME COURT

Right to Levy Assessment for Use of Areas Under Sidewalks Affirmed.

APPELLATE BODY IS REVERSED IN FINDING Cases Decided Were Those Against R. P. Andrews Co., Saks & Co., and Abraham Lisner.

The United States Supreme Court today upheld the contention that the District was right in assessing merchants who used vault space under sidewalks. The Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Court of Appeals and affirmed that of the Supreme Court of the District, which had sustained the District Commissioners.

The cases decided were those of the District of Columbia against the R. P. Andrews Paper Company, Saks & Co., and Abraham Lisner. The decision was handed down by Justice Clarke.

"Concluding as we do," said Justice Clarke, "that the respondents were merchants, charged with the duty of limiting the act of Congress as the Court of Appeals limited it to contractors, we are of opinion that such an interpretation of the act would so obviously result in unjust inequality that it should be adopted only under the most extraordinary circumstances."

The respondents, the R. P. Andrews Paper Company, Saks & Co., and Abraham Lisner, defended against the collection of the assessments, claiming that their property was not in such form as to create in each a vested right of property in the vault space under the sidewalks. They argued that they were not required to pay the assessments because they were not merchants.

From paragraph three, supra, they sought the stipulation that the result of the assessments should be that the respondents should be held liable for the assessments. The Supreme Court, however, found in favor of the District Commissioners.

The Supreme Court, in its decision, stated that the respondents were merchants and that their property was in such form as to create in each a vested right of property in the vault space under the sidewalks. The Court affirmed the decision of the District Commissioners.

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WORK ON NEW HOME OF CITY CLUB BEGUN

The Commissioners Break Ground—President Graham Makes Address.

Ground was broken for the new home of the City Club, on G street near 14th street, this morning in the presence of several hundred club members and officials.

Two minutes after the ceremonies ended, a big motor truck loaded with earth by a steam shovel wheeled out from the site. Others followed in rapid succession. At noon today an excavation large enough for three ordinary houses had been made.

Edward C. Graham, president of the club, presided at the brief ceremonies and made the address. He was assisted by the Rev. William H. Woodard, pastor of the Church of the Incarnation, and a member of the club.

The three spades with which the Commissioners turned the first soil will be preserved in the club archives. The ceremony was held at 12:30 a.m.

President Graham was applauded and the construction of the new home of the City Club was discussed. The address was held at the time the club chose for beginning construction.

President Graham also praised the civic spirit of the club, of which he is a life member, and predicted an industrial future for the city. The address was held at the time the club chose for beginning construction.

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PLANS TESTS ON MICE. City Chemist to Study Poisoning of Twenty-Five Students.

Dr. T. M. Price, District chemist, investigating the illness of twenty-five members of the Phi Chi Fraternity, who are believed to be suffering from some form of poison resulting from their having eaten bread pudding and canned food has secured samples of the bread pudding and is ready to make a test at the District building this afternoon.

Two little white mice will be fed some bread pudding, then the scientist will watch the effect. In this way the poison will be located, it is said.

Dr. C. HEADS GREET NOTED ZIONISTS. Welcoming Rites Held for Drs. Weizmann, Levin and Others of Commission.

The board of District Commissioners today welcomed to the National Capitol at exercises held on the steps of the District building, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Dr. Schmarya Levin and associates of the world Zionist commission, following a triumphal parade from Union station.

Dr. Weizmann is head of the commission sent to the United States with the object of establishing the Jewish National Home in Palestine. The Jewish residents of Washington turned out in large numbers to greet the delegation at the District building.

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RICH OFFICE PAYS EMPLOYEES POORLY

D. C. Recorder of Deeds Discloses \$220,000 Surplus Credit.

Disclosing the existence of a surplus fund of approximately \$220,000 to the credit of his office, John F. Costello, District recorder of deeds, today appealed to the joint congressional committee considering classification legislation to provide more adequate pay for his employees, whom he represented to be grossly underpaid.

Following his testimony, Mr. Costello, in a statement to the representative of the Star, suggested that the surplus fund be used toward the construction of a new building on 5th street opposite the Court of Appeals building, in order that the District judicial and legal recording offices might be brought together in a group of buildings, connected by passageways.

He said this suggestion had been made to the District committee of the House, and that it has the endorsement of several District judges.

Mr. Costello proposed increases for the salaries of his employees on an average of not less than \$1,800 per annum, and said that the pay of the District judges should be even greater. He pointed out to the committee that the office of the recorder of deeds is an independent establishment having no connection with the District government.

He asked the committee to make provision for an increase of his salary to \$12,000 a year. Mr. Costello proposed increases for the salaries of his employees on an average of not less than \$1,800 per annum, and said that the pay of the District judges should be even greater.

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75 KILLED IN RACE RIOTS AT TULSA, OKLA., AS MOB FIRES 10 BLOCKS OF CITY

City Put Under Martial Law By Governor's Order—Torch Set to Buildings and Efforts of Fire Department Blocked.

PITCHED BATTLES BRING DEATH TOLL; 2,000 REFUGEES ARE PUT UNDER GUARD

Trouble Reported to Have Started by Arrest for Assault on Orphan Girl—Airlanes Circle Overhead as Flames and Smoke Pour Out of Area.

By the Associated Press. OKLAHOMA CITY, June 1.—Seventy-five persons, whites and negroes, have been killed in the race outbreak in Tulsa, according to a telephone message to Gov. Robertson here today from the chief of police at Tulsa.

Martial law in Tulsa was ordered by Gov. Robertson at 11:15 a.m. today, and Adj. Gen. Barrett was placed in command of the city. The order was given over the long-distance telephone. A proclamation from this effect was being prepared for immediate issuance.

The martial law order was extended to include all of Tulsa county. The order placed the adjutant general in command of the city and county.

TULSA, Okla., June 1.—Nearly ten square blocks of the negro section of Tulsa, where an armed conflict has been in progress between white men and negroes since early last night, resulting in the death of at least six whites and fifty negroes, and a rapidly increasing list of wounded, were in flames today. The fire was reported spreading and threatening to wipe out a white residence section in the Standpipe and Sunset Hill additions.

The trouble is reported to have been the result of the arrest late yesterday of Dick Rowland, negro, for an alleged assault on an orphan girl. The negro was spirited away from the county jail early today by deputies from the office of Sheriff McCulloch, who refused to divulge his whereabouts.

An indication that the riots had been renewed. State troops under the command of Adjt. Gen. Barrett arrived at 9 o'clock to take charge of the situation, augmenting local units of guardsmen who were called out last night. At this time there were reports of sporadic shooting, and the situation seemed to be easing.