

STATEN ISLAND FERRY TO BE OWNED BY CITY

Sinking Fund Commission Adopts Mayor Low's Suggestion.

Will Expend \$2,000,000 for New Boats— Alderman McCall's Plea for Municipal Ownership May Be Granted.

Acquisition by the city of the Staten Island Ferry service was determined upon yesterday by the Sinking Fund Commission at its regular meeting. This involves the expenditure of \$3,200,000, of which approximately \$2,000,000 will be for the construction of new ferryboats, and the other money for the terminal and approach at St. George, S. I. Only the minor question of operation of the service by the city itself, instead of leasing the property under definite terms and rates, was left unsettled.

By this action the commission has ended an agitation which for years has been in progress, and by the action taken the Borough of Richmond will be greatly advantaged. Mayor Low and Dock Commissioner Hawkes have been the strong advocates of having the city take over the property in question, and last week they published a report in which they outlined the very plan yesterday adopted by the Commissioners. In addition to acquiring the necessary property and building new boats, the Mayor suggested that the entire plant could be leased to the highest bidder. Two bidders are in prospect in such an event, one being the Staten Island Rapid Transit Company, which operates the present ferry, and the other the syndicate headed by H. H. Rogers of the Standard Oil Company. The report also suggested that in the event of the failure of any one bidding, the city should operate the plant under the supervision of the Dock Department.

When the Commissioners took up the Staten Island Ferry question, Alderman John T. McCall, the Tammany member of the commission, declared in favor of municipal ownership.

"You now have the opportunity, Mr. Mayor," he said, "to make your administration memorable long after you and I are gone. I am opposed to the part of the resolution you propose, which makes it possible to lease the ferry after it has been built and equipped by the city. The time is ripe for a municipal ownership of such a ferry."

Mayor Low accepted the Alderman's suggestion to the extent of amending his resolution so as to direct Commissioner Hawkes to submit two forms for the consideration of the Commissioners. One is to be the form of a lease, together with the details of the cost of construction and equipment, while the other is to be a plan for municipal ownership of the ferry and what the cost of operation would be to the city. This report must be submitted by the Commissioner not later than Dec. 1 next.

Following this the Sinking Fund Commission adopted the joint report which the Mayor and Dock Commissioner made public last week, while the large gathering of Staten Islanders present applauded vigorously. Borough President Cromwell of Richmond thanked the Mayor and the commission on behalf of the people of his borough. Resolutions were presented from the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce approving the plans and urging the carrying out of them as outlined by the Mayor.

Other business of the session included the granting to the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad a franchise for the establishment of a ferry from a point between Twenty-second and Twenty-third Streets, North River, to the foot of Ferry Street, Hoboken.

AGAINST GARBAGE PLANT.

Talk of Dynamiting Offending Establishment at Mass Meeting of Morrisania Citizens.

At a meeting of the taxpayers of Morrisania, held before the Aldermen of Morrisania in the Borough Hall at One Hundred and Seventy-seventh Street and Third Avenue yesterday afternoon, to consider the abolition of the garbage burning plant at St. Joseph Street and Whitlock Avenue, a threat was made that if the plant was not removed the people of that section would blow it up with dynamite. The borough was represented by Borough President Haffen and Aldermen Leitner, Peck, and Goldwater.

The first speaker for the taxpayers was Clarence R. Lester of One Hundred and Forty-fourth Street and Southern Boulevard. He was accompanied by his father, mother, and sister. He spoke very strongly against the plant, saying that the people in that vicinity became ill from the fumes and smells, and that during the hot weather the smell was almost intolerable. The windows of the house, he said, had to be kept closed, and it was impossible to hang clothes out on the line, as they became dirty from the smoke. The flaky cakes which issued from the chimney, he said, blew in the windows and covered their meals so that it was impossible to eat them.

Rudolph Doherr, a resident near the plant, vehemently opposed the plant. He spoke of the nuisances and ending stated that there was not the slightest doubt in his mind that if the plant was not removed that the residents would combine and blow it up with dynamite.

Superintendent Lake of the Lincoln Hospital, at Concord Avenue and One Hundred and Forty-fourth Street, stated that the windows of the hospital during the warm weather had to be kept closed on account of the smell, and that the 200 patients suffered greatly. Among the other speakers were Peter Fries, Jacob Slescher, John Hensling, and Miss Alice B. Lester.

The board, after hearing the arguments, drew up resolutions in which it was stated that they considered the plant a nuisance, and that its continuance would be violative of good order, peace, comfort, and good government. It was also resolved to ask the Board of Health to take steps as soon as the resolution was approved by the Mayor, and if it was not approved by the Mayor that the Board of Health take the matter to law to abate the nuisance.

MRS. WILLIS GOES TO KANSAS.

Mrs. Julia M. Willis of 36 Park Place, Brooklyn, mother of Miss Gertrude Willis, whose marriage last week to the Rev. Carroll M. Burck is claimed to have been hastened because of threats and annoyances from a married man, a wealthy Produce Exchange broker, who became wildly infatuated with the young woman, started last night for Manhattan, Kan., to join her daughter in response to a telegram received from her son-in-law. The dispatch, which was received yesterday afternoon, was as follows:

Come to Marhattan as soon as possible. Answer at once. CARROLL.

Mrs. Willis packed her trunk immediately and started for Kansas on an early evening train. She fainted when she read the dispatch, believing that it meant that her daughter was dying.

At the Willis residence last evening Mrs. Burck, the mother of the Rev. Carroll Burck, was seen. She was closing the house up for Mrs. Willis, who had departed.

"We feel sure," said Mrs. Burck, "that Gertrude is very ill. Carroll, of course, would not say so in his message. We have no fear that she has met with harm at the hands of this broker who has been annoying her. It is not likely that he would follow her to Kansas."

Mrs. Burck made the somewhat mysterious statement that, although Mrs. Willis had gone to Kansas alone, she was well guarded. She would not make her meaning more clear. So far as she knew, Mrs. Burck said, no attempt would be made to prosecute the broker.

When Mrs. Carroll Burck went with her husband to their home in Kansas she was almost on the verge of nervous collapse as a result of the persecutions of the broker. Letters received by her mother from her have indicated that she was still in an extremely nervous condition, and her friends in Brooklyn now fear that she has completely broken down.

Mrs. Willis is the widow of an Episcopal clergyman, and Gertrude is her only child. Several of the friends of the family expressed the belief last night that Mrs. Willis would not return to Brooklyn, but would make her home with her daughter in Kansas.