CELEBRATION IS TO BE NATIONAL

How Commission Would Observe Centenary.

THE PROGRAM AS OUTLINED

PRESIDENT WILSON WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

Birth of Our Flag to Be Commemorated With Brilliant Displays Extending Throughout a Week—Many Novel Features Proposed. Banner to Be Again Unfurled, and Great Battle of North Point Will Be Fought Over Again—Winds Up With a Historical Pageant.

School Commissioners Arthur S. Bibbins, Sidney P. Thanhouser and James H. Delevett, on behalf of the School Board, submitted to Mayor Preston a tentative program for the centenary celebration of the Battle of North Point, bombardment of Fort McHenry and the writing of the national anthem, The Star-spangled Banner, by Francis Scott Key, during the week of September 7 to September 15, inclusive, 1914. Accompanying the program was a letter from Commissioner Bibbins in which he said that "the committee does not include all that it wanted carried out, but that perhaps its program will perhaps serve as a point of departure. At the next meeting of our committee we shall consider these supplementary matters and endeavor to estimate the approximate expense involved."

The main features of this program will be adhered to by the committee of representative citizens who will be appointed by the Mayor shortly to put it into executive effect. In fact, the program fairly city officials, in addition to a number of patriotic citizens who have examined it, are of the opinion that the program will be finally carried out in detail.

It is planned to have present President Woodrow Wilson, one of the ex-presidents, and a number of other dignitaries. In fact, the program fairly teems with practical and novel suggestions which will no doubt create widespread interest throughout the state.

THE PROGRAM.

Here is the program:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7—HOME-COMING DAY.

9 A. M. to 4 P. M.—Each day, registration at celebration headquarters.

2 P. M.—Family and society reunions.

8 to 10 P. M.—The Mayor's reception at the Fifth Regiment Armory, followed by a promenade concert. Facsimile of Key flag (29x33 feet) as central decoration.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8—CONSTELLATION DAY.

10 A. M.—Arrival of frigate Constellation (now at Newport) off Fort McHenry. Salutes. (The Constellation was one of the first frigates of the United States Navy. Built in Baltimore, 1798. She was a sister ship of the Constitution, now in Boston, known as "Old Ironsides").

Excursions to points of historic interest within and about the city under the guidance of school teachers and pupils by steamer Latrobe and other boats, going to Forts McHenry, Carroll, Howard, Armistead, etc., and to the fleet of warships, including the old Constellation. Visits to Flag House, Pratt and Albemarle streets; Carroll Mansion, Front and Lombard streets; Rodger's Bastion and defenses of 1814 in Patterson Park, Key Tablet and Monument, etc.

2 P. M.—Public school parade; display of banners bearing new school names of Revolutionary and War of 1812 patriots.

7 to 10 P. M.—Open air concerts and Colonial garden parties at Carroll Park; receptions at Mount Clare Mansion, Baltimore's oldest Colonial memorial, by its host, Barrister Carroll, and Generals Washington and Lafayette, and at Patterson Park by William Patterson, who gave the ground where the principal land defenses of 1814 were thrown up. Also at Clifton and Druid Hill Parks. Fireworks.

SALUTING THE FLAG.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9.—FLAG DAY.

2 P. M.—Mass band concert at Fort McHenry, where main assembly will await arrival of facsimile of flag received by Guard of Honor from maker, Mrs. Pickersgill, at the flaghouse. At fort wharf Guard of Honor carrying flag outspread will be surrounded by great human flag of children and escorted to the special flag staff. Flag raising at Fort McHenry with salute of cannon and singing of Star-spangled Banner by children and German singing societies. Dedication of proposed Defenders' Memorial Hall and Congressional Monument to Francis Scott Key. Here will take place the exhibition of the original flag and the original manuscript of the Star-spangled Banner. Address by President Woodrow Wilson.

8 P. M.—Patriotic open air concert by German singing societies and combined bands at Courthouse Plaza.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.—BATTLE DAY.

10 A. M.—Re-enactment of Battle of North Point Day.

2 P. M.—Encounnter of Americans and British on the North Point Battlefield. Retreat of the British to their ships.

4 P. M.—Unveiling of proposed monument to the citizen soldiers in center of battlefield. Address by one of the ex-presidents. Return to Baltimore by car and boat, stopping if desired at Fort McHenry.

8 P. M.— Bombardment of Fort McHenry by warships, guns and rockets, with replies from the fort, ending with special pyrotechnic pieces. Illumination of facsimileof original flag by searchlight. Landing of Key and Dr. Beanes from the Minden, bringing facsimiles of original manuscript of Star-spangled Banner for fre distribution.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11.—PARADE AND PAGEANT DAY.

2 P. M.—Military and naval parade (in order to be determined) state and city militia, Naval Cadets, St. John's Cadets, Agricultural College Cadets, cavalry regiment, artillery with mounted bands, Grand Army and Confederate veterans, Naval Reserves, etc. Reviewed at Washington Monument by national, state and city officials.

HISTORICAL PAGEANT.

BALTIMORE BEFORE AND SINCE 1904.

Section 1—Procession.

Float No. 1—John Smith exploring the Patapsco; eating maize with the Indians at wigwam.

Float No. 2—Surveyors laying out Baltimore Town.

Float No. 3—First vessels of the port, Sloop Baltimore and brig Philip and James, laden with Baltimore's first exports and imports.

Float No. 4—Model of old Courthouse, with Declaration of Independence, 1776.

Float No. 5—A Baltimore privateer, naval gun and crew.

Float No. 6—American campfire.

Float No. 7—Old field gun mounted and drawn by six horses.

Float No. 8—Washington resigning his commission at Annapolis, 1783.

Float No. 9—Text of declaration of war with Great Britain, 1812, written by William Pinckney, of Baltimore, attorney general of the United States. Citizens, soldiers, patriotic societies, Pennsylvania troops, etc. Descendants of Old Defenders.

Section 2—After the Fire. One Hundred Years of Progress.

Floats First Things Achieved in Maryland. Baltimore.

Float No. 10—First steamboat, invented by James Rumsey, 1784.

Float No. 11—First inoculation hospital in America, 1768.

Float No. 12—One of the first frigates of the United States Navy, the Constellation, built in Baltimore in 1798.

Float No. 13—First Baltimore clippers, first stage coach and first Chesapeake Bay steamboat, the Chesapeake, 1813.

Float No. 14—First American city lit by gas, 1817.

Float No. 15—First and latest Baltimore public schools, 1829-1914, with school delegations.

Float No. 16—First American railroad, Baltimore and Ohio, first engine.

Float No. 17—First telegraph line, 1844.

Float No. 18—First electric trolley line.

Float No. 19—First cotton duck mills.

Float No. 20—Colored children picking cotton, 1814.

Float No. 21—Colored schoolchildren using printing press, 1914.

Float No. 22—First linotype machine, etc. Civic, commercial, industrial and improvement associations in the procession.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12—FIELD DAY.

2 P. M.—Athletic exercises and field sports. Baseball, football, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, etc. Track races. Awarding of trophies.

8 P. M.—Fraternal parade—Mardi Gras.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13—MEMORIAL DAY.

Special services, addresses and music in all churches.

INDORSED BY MERCHANTS.

The success of the celebration was assured yesterday, when the executive committee of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, representing 789 of Baltimore's largest firms and corporations, went on record as favoring the project and authorizing the president of the association to appoint a committee to co-operate with the municipal authorities to make all necessary arrangements for the pageant. The action followed addresses made before the executive committee at their regular meeting yesterday at the Merchants' Club by Mayor Preston, Major Joseph G. Pangborn, special representative of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad; Isaac H. Skates, representing the Builders' Exchange; State Senator Peter J. Campbell, W. W. Cloud and the Mayor's secretary, Robert E. Lee. These men came to the meeting as invited guests to discuss the matter of the celebration. So convincing were their arguments on behalf of the celebration that the committee unanimously indorsed the scheme and pledged the hearty co-operation of the association.

Mayor Preston said: "It is a real opportunity for this city to be able to celebrate the writing of The Star-spangled Banner within its bounds. The writing of that poem marks a red-letter day in American history. Baltimoreans should be proud of this and do all in their power to make the occasion a brilliant success. One day should be given over to a great military and naval display; another should be given over to the fraternal orders; another should be given over to a great trades display, and on still another the schoolchildren should form a gigantic chorus to sing patriotic songs and form a human flag. The governors of the 13 original states should be invited to attend, accompanied by the crack military companies of their respective states. Senator John Walter Smith has introduced a bill at Washington to secure an appropriation for erecting a permanent memorial to Key at Fort McHenry, and has secured the promises of the holdover senators to do all in their power to aid Baltimore in making the affair a success. Maryland senators will endeavor to secure an appropriation from the General Assembly, and the City Council will also be asked to appropriate funds. The preliminary expenses necessary to start the project will be taken care of by me out of the contingent fund."

AGREES WITH MAYOR.

Major Pangborn was called upon to tell what the old Oriole celebrations had done for the city. He stated that they had redounded much to the credit and advantage of the city and that the proposed celebration would prove advantageous to the city from every point of view.

State Senator Campbell stated that his colleagues were enthusiastic over the project, and that if it were carried out he had no doubt that many fraternal orders would hold their conventions in this city during the week of the celebration and participate in the great fraternal parade.

Mr. Skates stated that the Builders' Exchange was in close touch with at least 160 organizations of a similar character throughout the United States and that he would do his utmost to bring the matter to their attention and advertise it throughout the country. At the conclusion of the speeches the Mayor and members of his party were thanked by the committee for their eloquent and effective addresses and the resolution of co-operation unanimously passed.

MR. M'CANN IN NEW ROLE

Appears in Box Scene in Premiere of Canchita.

A dispatch to The American last night from Philadelphia stated: An audience that was particularly brilliant greeted the initial production of Canchita, the new opera by Zandonai, at the Metropolitan Opera House tonight. Baltimoreans in the audience enjoyed the production, particularly because Charles Andrew McCann, of Baltimore, was on the stage.

"Several novel features marked the production. One scene showed the interior of an opera house, with the boxes filled with society folks. In order to make the scene as realistic as possible, the management had invited many prominent society people of Philadelphia and other cities to occupy the boxes and thus become temporary members of the company.

"At the last moment many who had accepted the invitation found that their histrionic abilities were not strong enough to stand the strain. Mr. McCann, prominent socially and a member of many clubs, including the Paint and Powder Club of Baltimore, adhered to his acceptance and appeared in one of the boxes on the stage.

"The remainder of the boxes were filled at the last minute with members of the company, who appeared to greatly socially select. Mr. McCann made the scene realistic by nodding to the stage folk as if they were society acquaintances."

ROT, SAYS THE "UNKISSED"

George Deems Says He Osculated Morning, Noon and Night.

George W. Deems, who is said by his wife, Mrs. Theresa Deems, to be an unkissed husband, declared yesterday that all the talk of his wife to the effect that she had never kissed him was "bunk." "Why it is ridiculous for anyone to imagine me married to the woman and never kissing her," he said.

He was reminded that his wife had declared to Justice Levinson at the Southern Police Station, the State's Attorney and others that she had never kissed him or their child. "That's all rot," he replied. "How could any man court a girl and then marry her if he never kissed her?" Deems said he had kissed his wife morning, noon and night.

LOCAL MENTION.

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons strongly urges all Catholics to use the Manual of Prayers, the most complete and best Prayer Book published. Why not procure a copy now? Bindings and prices to suit all. Meditation Books for Lenten reading. John Murphy Company, Retail Department, Park avenue and Clay street, headquarters for Church Goods.

A SPLENDID LOT OF FABRICS.
Bought at Unusual Prices, Makes A Saving Of 30 To 40 Per Cent. To You On A Suit Or Overcoat.
Made in the standard Weyforth way, which has been maintained for 68 years. B. WEYFORTH & SONS, Popular-Price Tailors, 217-219 North Paca street. Close 6; Saturday 8 P. M. St. Paul 1836.

Coal—E. Stabler, Jr., Coal Co.—Wood. Highest Grades Coal. Lowest Market Prices and Full Weight. Office, Cor. Eutaw and Madison Sts. Yard, Cor. Oliver St. and Maryland Ave.

Legal-rate loans on furniture and other securities. Anywhere in Maryland. All business confidential. Baltimore Investment Co. 120 N. Paca st., nr. Lexington.

"Fr. John's Medicine Is Good for lung trouble. It cured me." Thos. Wright, 74 De Frees St., Washington, D. C.

BACK ON THE FIRING LINE

TROUBLE AGAIN IN POLISH CHURCH

MEMBERS GIVE UP EDIFICE AFTER SQUABBLE.

NEW CONGREGATION FORMED

Because Company Which Took Over House of Worship on South Broadway Has Decided to Raise Rent, Parishioners Decide to Form New Flock and Meet in Hall Until Better Place Can Be Secured.

Because they believed unreasonable certain demands in connection with the lease on their property, members of the parish of the Church Society of the Polish National Catholic Church of the Holy Mother of Consolation, on South Broadway, near Pratt street, decided at a massmeeting held in White Hall to dissolve and vacate the present premises. A resolution was also passed by which a new body known as the Holy Cross National Catholic Church was formed.

The trouble started a short while ago, when the company which owns the present property demanded a higher rent. During the last 11 months the congregation has been paying $115 a month, aside from heating, lighting and all other minor expenses. Then, it is said, when the building company learned that the church was progressing rapidly and had managed to save about $400, it decided to raise the rent. Hence the massmeeting.

More than 500 persons attended the massmeeting and were highly indignant over the demands made of them. The board of directors was ordered to turn over the keys to the church, which was done the following day.

Steps were immediately taken towards organizing the new church. Already 80 families have been enrolled for membership in the new church. Although at present the members of the parish are unable to rent and furnish a large church, they have taken a small house in the eastern section of the city, where an altar will be installed and Sunday services held until funds are raised to purchase a new edifice.

While the work of installing the altar is under way the members of the congregation will assemble each Sunday in White Hall, Bank street, near Broadway. The members of the parish are also highly indignant over the fact that the necessary church vestments, which they claim belonged to them, were also taken from them by the building concern when they decided to vacate the old church.

The little church has had a stormy career. In July, of 1911, it became known that its former pastor, Rev. Joseph Zielenko, had married his housekeeper a year before. When the congregation heard of this it was necessary for the priest to call on the aid of the police to protect him. This trouble ended with the resignation of the priest. Rev. John Zajonczkowski was assigned to succeed him. Things ran along smoothly for a short while, until one Sunday morning during the services Father Zajonczowski stated that he believed that a priest should have the right to marry. Then he, too, was asked to resign.

Rev. Andrew Rycek next took charge, and once more things went along calmly. But more trouble was due. There arose some dissension among the members of the congregation, and finally 16 members, who held mortgages on the property, foreclosed. The pastor disappeared.

From then on until February 27, last year, when the church was sold at public auction, everything went wrong. At the sale the property was purchased by a building company, and leased to the congregation which recently decided to vacate it. On March 17, 1912, it was reorganized, and Rev. Alexander Witenburg, of Russian Poland, was placed at its head.

Caleb Rigdon Buried.

The funeral of Caleb Rigdon, who died Wednesday, took place yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from his residence at the corner of Southern and Holder avenues, Gardenville. Rev. C. C. Day, pastor of the Lauraville Methodist Protestant Church, officiated, and the pallbearers were selected from the members of the Waverly Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons, to which organization Mr. Rigdon belonged. Among the floral offerings was a large crescent sent by the Gardenville Engine Company. The deceased was a contractor. In addition to his widow (Rachel Rigdon), he leaves a son (Capt. Harrison Rigdon), who is in charge of the Gardenville Engine Company.

Holland's Letter Today

Issues business hopes Wilson will discuss in his inaugural address:
1. Bank deposit guarantees.
2. The income tax.
3. Stock exchange supervision.
4. Clearing-house control.

Read It On The Financial Page.

HENRY PHIPPS IN CITY

Donor of Psychiatric Clinic at the Belvedere.

Henry Phipps, donor of the Phipps Psychiatric Clinic, which is to be opened at the Johns Hopkins Hospital on April 16, partner and associate of Andrew Carnegie, came to Baltimore yesterday afternoon and registered at the Hotel Belvedere. He was accompanied only by his valet. With his characteristic dislike for publicity Mr. Phipps came to Baltimore unheralded. Even Dr. Adolph Meyer, director of the Phipps Building and intimate friend of Mr. Phipps, was unaware of his presence until he had been in the city several hours. Dr. Meyer when seen late last night said that he has not seen Mr. Phipps since his arrival, but will go to the Belvedere some time this morning.

Mr. Phipps did not visit the Johns Hopkins Hospital yesterday. After registering at the Belvedere he dined and, taking his valet with him, went for a short walk through Druid Hill Park. He returned to the hotel at 8 o'clock and retired immediately. It is probable that he contemplated giving the officials of the Johns Hopkins Hospital a surprise by walking in upon them today.

Mr. Phipps, next to Carnegie, is the most wealthy steel magnate in America. He is one of the foremost philanthropists in the country. He has donated princely sums to charity and to medical work. His home is in New York, on Fifth avenue, between Eighty-first and Eighty-second streets, and takes in the entire block.

His gift to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, involving more than $650,000 for the erection of the Phipps Clinic, was made in June, 1908.

SOUTHERN METHODISTS DINE

Under Auspices of the Baltimore City Mission Board.

The banquet given at St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, West Fayette street and Carrollton avenue, last night, under the auspices of the Baltimore City Mission Board, provided the biggest social gathering of Southern Methodists this winter.

Bishop Alpheus W. Wilson, senior bishop of the church, and over 200 of the leading church members in the city attended the banquet. Covers were laid for 250. Bishop Wilson was unable to deliver his address as scheduled owing to an important engagement which compelled him to leave early in the evening.

Ex-Mayor Thomas G. Hayes spoke of mission work of the Southern Methodist Church. Rev. Dr. L. M. Zimmerman, of Christ Luthern Church, delivered an address on The Home Mission Work of a Downtown Church, and Dr. M. D. Mitchell, presiding elder of the Baltimore district, discoursed on the obligations of the denomination to the City Mission.

OLD PAPERHANGER DEAD

William T. Biddison Is Stricken With Apoplexy.

William T. Biddison, one of the oldest and best-known paperhangers in the city, died yesterday at his home, 686 Columbia avenue. Death was due to apoplexy.

Mr. Biddison was in his sixty-seventh year. About four years ago he suffered a sudden stroke of apoplexy. Since that time his health had failed steadily. Mr. Biddison had conducted a paperhanging and decorating business for nearly 30 years. He was born in this city and was a veteran of the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities Mr. Biddison joined the Purnell Legion. He fought throughout the war and distinguished himself in a number of engagements.

Mr. Biddison was a member of Veteran Post, No. 46, and Victory Conclave of the Improved Order of Heptasophs. He is survived by his widow (Mrs. Sarah V. Biddison), one son (William T. Biddison) and three daughters (Mrs. William Weisgerber, Mrs. Alma H. Newman and Mrs. S. W. Kopp). A sister, Miss Catherine Biddison, also survives.

MAYOR TALKS OF BOROUGH PLAN

DISCUSSES ANNEXATION AT ROLAND PARK BANQUET.

GUEST OF THE CIVIC LEAGUE

His Friendly Gibes at What He Calls Place of Lorgnette Politics, Beautiful Girls and High-minded Countians Who Want to Boss the City Received With Applause — Declares Baltimore Needs Suburb and Others.

Lord Baltimore, through his official representative, Mayor Preston, last night extended a formal invitation to the fashionable residents of Roland Park to become a part of the city. The Mayor explained interestingly the benefits of annexation and predicted that the time was not far distant when Baltimore would be the fourth city in the Union with a population of 750,000 persons.

It was at the sixth annual banquet of the Roland Park Civic League, and the ballroom floor of the Baltimore Country Club, where the feast was held, was filled with society. The hall was handsomely decorated, greens and flowers predominating. Dr. Paul Haupt, of the Johns Hopkins University, president of the league, was toastmaster. The speakers, besides the Mayor, were Mrs. Frederick A. Savage and Dr. William H. Welch.

The Mayor was in a happy mood and he poked fun at the fashionable and wealthy countians. The Mayor drew applause when he humorously described Roland Park as the place of "lorgnette politics, beautiful girls and high-minded countains, who persisted in wanting to boss the big city of Baltimore." Despite the shortcomings of Roland Park, the Mayor said that Baltimore, which was too big for its clothes, needed the suburb as well as it needed Brooklyn, Highlandtown, Canton and other outlying districts to develop into a truly greater Baltimore.

After describing the vast commercial possibilities of the city, the Mayor explained the important features of the Annexation Bill introduced in the last legislature. He said that Roland Park would not be burdened with taxes and would even have a voice in the City Council. His borough plan, he said, was patterned after the Greater New York scheme.

That Baltimore should have home rule, greater representation in the legislature and other manifest benefits the Mayor declared with emphasis and earnestness. Comparing the various forms of government, he said that a middle-of-the-road course was preferable. The commission form of government and the Mayor and City Council form, he said, both had their good features.

"Baltimore at the present time, I believe, has an excellent form of government," said the Mayor.

Mrs. Savage spoke on co-operative buying. Sanitary conditions in Baltimore county were discussed by Dr. Welch.

John H. Straw, for 13 years a member of the league and who contemplates making his home on the Eastern Shore, was presented with a pair of opera glasses by the league in order, it was explained, that he might keep his eye trained on the park in future years. The diners later sang him a farewell toast. The officers of the association are Dr. Paul Haupt, president; Carl A. Luederitz, first vice president; B. Latrobe Weston, second vice president, and Dr. Theodore C. Foote, secretary.

Women Invade Sixteenth Ward.

The Women's Civic League last night invaded the Sixteenth ward. To awaken citizens of the ward to a realization of their duties to their neighbors a meeting was held in the assembly-rooms of the State Normal School. A committee was appointed to see that the garbage is properly collected and disposed of in that neighborhood, that the streets and alleys are kept clean, to encourage the citizens to adorn their windows with window-boxes and otherwise to see that everything in the neighborhood is kept as orderly and clean as possible. Mrs. Benjamin W. Corkran, Jr., president of the Civic League, presided. Addresses were made by Mrs. J. Swan Frick, Richard B. Tippett, Rev. Richard W. Hogue, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Ascension; Frederick C. Weber, president of the Northwest Baltimore Improvement Association, and City Councilman Tolson, of the Sixteenth ward. The meeting was largely attended.

RAISED VOUCHER CAUSED TROUBLE

LED TO RESIGNATION OF ENGINEER HOUSTON.

THE HISTORY OF THE CASE

Paving Official Declares the Act Had the Approval of City Engineer—Mr. McCay Makes Denial of This. No Financial Benefit to Mr. Houston—The Mayor Acts Promptly—What the Minutes Set Forth—A Question of Veracity.

The City Hall was stirred yesterday from its customary placidity when it became known that L. J. Houston, Jr., assistant engineer of the Paving Commission and to City Engineer McCay, had been permitted to resign one week ago after charges had been made against him. It was said by friends of Mr. Houston at the time that he had accepted another position in New York. It was stated yesterday that Mr. Houston had been allowed to resign and that the particular offense charged against him was with raising a voucher to the extent of $800, which represented the last payment on paving contract No. 6. It was awarded on March 6, 1912, to the Elder Paving and Contracting Company.

Mr. Houston, when seen yesterday, declared he had acted under orders of City Engineer McCay, who is in Panama. By padding the voucher the total final cost of the contract was changed from $114,157.50 to $115,037.50. He said that he would issue a detailed statement in a few days explaining the whole matter. He intimated that he would employ counsel to help him prove his innocence.

Friends of Mr. Houston, who is a classmate of Water Engineer Ezra B. Whitman and several other prominent Baltimore engineers, were shocked when informed that charges had been made against him. They declared that he was a high type of man, with lofty ideals, and that he could not be guilty. They stated that at the proper time the true facts would be known and that Mr. Houston would be exonerated by the public.

Declaration and Denial.

Several members of the commission stated that while they were not convinced that Mr. Houston had committed any overt act or had intended to benefit himself financially, they deemed it wise that he sever his connection from the city government. They asserted that they would have favored his dismissal had they the slightest proof that in changing the voucher he would have benefited pecuniarily.

Chairman R. Keith Compton, of the Paving Commission, and Harry D. Williar, an engineer of the commission, were the first officials to discover that the voucher in question had been changed. Mr. Compton's suspicions became aroused and he sent for Mr. Houston and demanded an explanation. It is said that the young engineer stated that the allowance covered extras.

It might be stated that the Paving Commission has adopted a rule permitting extras to be paid for small amounts on paving work whenever a contractor has experienced unexpected and accidental difficulties and expenses. The commission passes on the extras after the city engineers have decided on them.

It is said that Mr. Houston denied to Mr. Compton that he had intended any wrongdoing and added that his act had the approval of City Engineer McCay. When asked about the matter, Mr. McCay denied that he knew anything about the matter. The matter was then placed before the commission by Chairman Compton and Mr. Houston, who had left for New York on his vacation, was summoned to the City Hall.

Mayor Acts Quickly.

A day before the scheduled meeting, Mayor Preston was informed of the facts and after an interview with Mr. Houston, dispatched the following letter to the commission:

"R. Keith Compton, Esq.,
"Chairman Paving Commission.
"City Hall, City.

"Dear sir: I regret very much that owing to absence from the city I will be unable to attend the meeting of the Paving Commission at 2:30 tomorrow (Wednesday), though it is possible that I may get back in time to attend.

"If I should not, I want to make very clear my views on the subject to be brought up.

"I appointed the Paving Commission particularly with a view to removing from any field of conjecture the integrity of our entire paving operations. It is too serious a matter to permit individual views, either political or personal, to enter into the question.

"I have gone over with you and with Mr. Houston the question to consider which the meeting for tomorrow is called. By Mr. Houston's own statement, and by Mr. Houston's whole history in city work, I think there is nothing in the world to be done in that connection by your commission than the dismissal of Mr. Houston, if he should decline to resign; and I would therefore vote, if present at the meeting, to drop Mr. Houston from the city's engineering force. Yours very truly,

"JAMES H. PRESTON.
"Mayor."

Charges in Detail.

Here are the minutes of the meeting, at which the charges were officially made against the deposed engineer:

"A special meeting of the commission was held this date, to consider the resignation of L. J. Houston, assistant chief engineer.

"The chairman charged Houston with raising item No. 5, estimate No. 8, contract No. 6, said raise constituting an addition of 200 tons of binder on this item over the correct amount and amounting to $800.

"The chairman further charged Houston with changing this item after the correct estimate had been tabulated and signed by Harry D. Williar, Jr., the assistant engineer in charge of the contract, and, further, that Mr. Houston failed to notify Mr. Williar of the change.

"Houston submitted a written statement, claiming that he had made the change in accordance with the verbal orders of Chief Engineer McCay, and he understood that the amount involved was to cover extra expenses that Elder was subjected to in narrowing up certain driveways in this contract, whereas the contract had been let on the basis of the driveways remaining at the original widths.

"Mr. McCay denied all knowledge of the transaction, and stated that the first he knew of it was when Houston and Mr. Compton came to his office after the change had been discovered by Compton.

"Messrs. Williar and Cookney, assistant engineers, outlined to the commission the details of the change as far as the matter came under their observation, and stated that Mr. Houston changed the item back to the correct amount after they had pointed out to him the seriousness of the situation.

"Elder denied all knowledge of the transaction, but claimed that some amount was due him, after the extra expense he had been put to, but as to what amount he had no idea, as he had kept no account of same.

"After hearing all testimony in the case and fully discussing the matter the commission accepted Houston's resignation, to take effect at once.

"Mayor Preston, who attended the meeting, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

"'Resolved, That nothing has transpired at the present hearing to reflect on the integrity, honesty and character in public service of the City Engineer.'

Mr. Houston's Plans.

When seen last night at his home, 602 Chestnut Hill avenue, Mr. Houston was reluctant to talk about his resignation from the city government. His wife urged him not to make any statement.

"There is nothing that I can gain today by talking about the case," he said. "I will, however, have something to say in a few days. I'm going to consult with my friends and a lawyer. I have done no wrong. I will explain all. It's a question of veracity between me and Mr. McCay. I am satisfied to let the public judge. I am sorry that he is out of the city."

SAFETY-FIRST RALLY

Great Gathering of Railroad Men at the Lyric.

With an audience which completely filled the main floor of the Lyric and a large portion of the galleries, officials and employes of the Pennsylvania, the Northern Central, the Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, the Baltimore and Ohio, the Western Maryland, the Maryland and Pennsylvania and the Canton Railroads held a monster safety-first rally last night. Incidentally, Blair Lee fired the first gun in his campaign for the United States Senate by having thousands of cards distributed to the men as they entered the auditorium bearing the words: "For Safety First, Vote for Blair Lee."

The object of the meeting was to have the attention of the men called to the many dangers to which they and the people entrusted to their care are exposed by lack of compliance with the rules of the company and trifling acts of carelessness which could easily be avoided. For this reason all of the speeches were made by employes of the road who are familiar with conditions and are exposed to the dangers of which they told every day in the year. Engineers, conductors, shopmen, track hands and machinists recounted the many dangers attached to their respective duties and gave sound advice as to how many accidents could be avoided by the exercise of a little care.

At the conclusion of these speeches members of the safety committee of the Pennsylvania Railroad showed a series of stereoptican views graphically illustrating many of the points spoken of, and still further emphasized the existing dangers and illustrated how they could be avoided.

Among many of the dangers which could be avoided, but which, nevertheless, exact annually a frightful toll of human life, and which were vividly illustrated by the pictures were: Attempting to board an engine from the rear when it is moving backward; attempt to uncouple cars when they are still in motion, hanging from the sides of cars to couple or uncouple, getting under cars to make repairs without having a clear understanding with the train crew and rear-end collisions due to the master of the train sending an inexperienced man back to flag approaching trains, who, unfamiliar with the duty, places his danger signal only a few feet in the rear of the train. The danger of the use of intoxicants was also emphasized, and the duty of engineers to blow their whistles when approaching switches or clearings where trackmen are working was strongly insisted on. An orchestra furnished music between the addresses.

The meeting was presided over by H. M. Carton, general superintendent Erie Division Pennsylvania Railroad and Northern Central, and among the officials and guests present were Gamble Latrobe, general agent of the Pennsylvania lines; E. F. Brooks, general superintendent Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington; C. W. Galloway, general manager Baltimore and Ohio; J. W. Coon, assistant general manager Baltimore and Ohio; J. W. Brown, president Maryland and Pennsylvania, and M. E. King, second vice president Maryland and Pennsylvania.

WEHR'S EVIDENCE UNSHAKEN

Head of Sewerage Company Strong Witness at Towson.

Unshaken by a grilling cross-examination at the hands of Col. David G. McIntosh, Albert H. Wehr, president of the Baltimore Suburban Sewerage Company, concluded his testimony yesterday in the Circuit Court at Towson in the trial of the suit filed to have set aside the sale of the Mount Washington sewerage system to the Baltimore County Commissioners. It was generally conceded that Mr. Wehr had made a strong witness for the defense.

Mr. Wehr admitted a great many stock transfers to various companies in the vicinity of the disposal plant and pipe lines, which, he said, were given them for rights of way and so forth. He denied that any preferred stock was sold for cash.

The offer to sell the Cross Country Boulevard to the Baltimore County Commissioners was next taken up. Mr. Wehr said he offered to sell it for $40,000, and that the figures given by Commissioner Coghlan were incorrect. The offer, witness stated, was made in August of 1912, once to Commissioners Mattfeldt and Mann and on another occasion to all three commissioners. He denied that Mr. Shirley ever put any price on the boulevard.

Colonel McIntosh wanted to know if Mr. Wehr had any private interests along the boulevard, and the witness replied that he had seven lots in the old Hamilton property, parallel to the boulevard.

Mr. Wehr denied that the company wanted to sell the boulevard because it was hard up, and said that he and Mr. Frederick Bauernschmidt were able to finance it for an indefinite period.

"Doesn't your company show a deficit of $250,000?" asked McIntosh.

"Yes," replied Mr. Wehr, "because this sale was made at $600,000. It should have been at a higher price, to avoid that deficit."

Mr. Wehr said that he had $100,000 invested in the company. He denied with much earnestness that the company had expended any money to promote the sale of the sewerage system to the county, or was under any obligation to pay anyone for services in connection with the transaction except the counsel employed, Carey, Hall & Piper and Elmer J. Cook.

MRS. CHERMONT IN HOSPITAL

Wife of Ex-Brazilian Ambassador Has Nervous Breakdown.

Mrs. E. L. Chermont, formerly Miss Helen Sloan, of this city, and wife of E. L. Chermont, ex-Brazilian Ambassador to Mexico, is a patient in the Women's Hospital of Maryland, where she has been taking the rest cure for nervous breakdown for the last week. For several months Mrs. Chermont has been suffering from nervous trouble at her home in Washington, and about a week ago she came to Baltimore with her husband and went to the hospital for treatment. The physicians in attendance upon Mrs. Chermont say that she will be able to leave the hospital in about two weeks. While in Baltimore Mr. Chermont is a guest at the Stafford and pays daily visits to his wife.

Mrs. Chermont is well-known throughout Maryland and several years ago she was prominent in society here. She is a sister to Mrs. Charles B. Roberts, 706 St. Paul street, and is a sister to the late Miss Nannie Sloan, who died several months ago at her home in the Green Spring Valley, from appendicitis. Mrs. Chermont is also related to Robert Sloan, of this city, who is traveling abroad.

About 10 years ago Mrs. Chermont was married to Mr. Chermont, who at that time was Brazilian ambassador to Mexico. Mrs. Chermont met him at a society function in Washington, and a year later the engagement was announced. After the marriage she went to live with her husband in Brazil, and later in Mexico. The climate did not agree with her and her health became impaired. She was attended by specialists and seemingly regained her health, but when her husband's term as ambassador expired, and the couple went to Washington to live, she was stricken with nervous trouble. About two months ago Mrs. Chermont suffered a breakdown.

DUKE AND MISS WISE TO REHEARSE

PREPARE TONIGHT FOR WEDDING TOMORROW.

COUNT WILL BE AN USHER

Groom-to-be to Entertain Ushers at Dinner at the Maryland Club This Evening — The Bride-elect Guest of Mrs. Owen Daly—Presents Still Pour In—Guests at the Nuptials to Include Members of the Nobility.

Duc de Richelieu, whose marriage to Miss Elinor Douglas Wise will take place tomorrow morning at the Cathedral, returned to Baltimore yesterday. He will entertain his ushers at a dinner this evening at the Maryland Club. The best man, just announced, will be Mr. E. Markosky, of Russia. Count Villa Franca, of Italy will be an usher. Arrangements are also being made for a rehearsal this evening at the Cathedral.

Miss Wise was the guest of honor yesterday afternoon at a luncheon given by Mrs. Owen Daily, at her home on Cathedral street.

A number of handsome presents have been received by the young couple and more are arriving hourly. The tables about the room are filled with rich pieces of silver, cut glass, jewelry and art.

The guests at the wedding will include many prominent persons from out of town and members of the nobility. Among the invited guests will be:

Mr. and Mrs. William May, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Adams, Dr. Harman Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Chalmers, Mrs. Lee Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Poole, Misses Thursby, Madame Eames, Misses Hewitt, Mrs. E. Hewitt, Mrs. William H. Macy, Mr. and Mrs. Thorndike, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Belmont, Dr. and Mrs. Magruder, Mr. Newton Gulick, Mr. and Mrs. O. McComas, Mrs. Brymiere, Messrs. Louis and Emil Brymeiere, Mrs. John Duer, Mr. Roger Nicholson, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Kahn, Mr. and Mrs. John Magee, Mrs. Oliver Belmont, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Burders, Mrs. Cortland Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Bayless, Miss George Berd, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald de Koven, the Misses Emory, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hopper, Miss Marion Barry, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bryan, Miss Elizabeth Barroll, Mr. Frederick Dawson, Miss Kremelberg, Mr. Peter Magruder, Colonel Tilton, Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Cussocks, Mr. and Mrs. B. Webb, the Misses Webb, Mr. Julian Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Clarke.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wright, Judge Ingram, the Misses Gittings, Mr. Roland Gray, Miss Fanny Gray, Mr. William T. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. White, Mrs. St. George Teackle, Mr. James Tyson, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Van Ness, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Van Ness, Mrs. Edwin White, Mr. Louis White, Mr. J. C. M. Lucas, Mrs. Frederick May, Col. and Mrs. Henry May, the Misses May, the Messrs. May, Mr. and Mrs. Otis Post, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Miller, Mrs. Robert Broler, Miss Marian Wise, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Patterson, Mr. Lawrence Hopkins, Mr. Crawford Blagden, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martin, Mr. Harry Oelrichs, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert