

RAPID TRANSIT TROUBLES.

A Prospect That They Will Be Satisfactorily Settled.

FITZGERALD TO TAKE CONTROL.

The Belt Line Will Be Built—The New York Mutual's Proposition Stirs Up Life Insurance Men—Brevities.

[FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN BUREAU.]

The Rapid Transit railway organized and constructed the past year has not been a paying investment thus far and the road was expensive both in construction and in the rolling stock. The steam motors, thus far used being very expensive. One of the principal objects in the construction was to secure easy transit to West Lincoln and the packing houses there, but the road, while it has been a great accommodation to the suburb, has not found the traffic of sufficient volume to meet the expense of operating. It is evident to a great many that cars operated by a steam motor to and from the business center of the city, do not as readily accommodate passengers as horse cars and the snowfalls interfere greatly with the motors. At the meeting of the stockholders of the Rapid Transit company the past week, a proposition was made to John Fitzgerald, one of the heavy stockholders, that if he would assume the entire management and control of the road and operate the same for two years that the other stockholders in consideration thereof would surrender their stock to Mr. Fitzgerald. The latter gentlemen asked a few days in which to consider the proposition, and it is now generally understood that the same will be accepted and that the entire control of the line will be extended from the city limits south to the asylum and then one motor will be used on that end, the other on the line from the north city limits to West Lincoln and the road through the center of the city be operated with horses. Under a change of this kind, with attendant improvements, the road will undoubtedly be put upon a paying basis.

THE BELT LINE PROJECT.

One of the prominent features of public improvements under discussion for the past six months has been the proposed belt line around the city. This road was incorporated in a preliminary survey made, but the work of securing sufficient co-operation on the part of property owners to be directly benefited, to warrant the construction of the road, has been the difficult part of the project. In the operations. Three months ago the work of securing this needed co-operation was placed in the hands of John C. Bonnell who is known among his business associates as "the man who has not been idle, and it is understood that his negotiations have been so successful that the belt line is now an assured certainty for one of the improvements in the city during 1939, and its construction will be the grandest character for new manufacturing institutions that can be located on all sides of the city. A definite announcement in regard to the movements of the belt line is promised for an early day.

AN INSURANCE CONTROVERSY.

Since the advent of the general agent of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company in this city, and the submission of their proposition to secure business life insurance, agents have awakened as never before. The proposition of the New York Mutual to erect in Lincoln a \$100,000 building in consideration of the citizens giving the company a million dollars in business, was favorably received, and was placed at once in the field canvassing for the amount. Other life insurance companies have now entered the arena and one proposition was made that if a million dollars in business was given to that particular company that \$10,000 would be set aside to assist the city in securing manufacturing enterprises. The agent of the Mutual Life of New Jersey has prepared a proposition to deposit \$100,000 in the city and will be presented to the city council at its meeting tonight. This proposition is that if the citizens of Lincoln will give to that company business that will cause the premiums to aggregate \$250,000 that the company will set aside \$10,000 of the amount for the construction of a city hospital, and further if the citizens cannot raise that amount of insurance, if they will give the Mutual of New Jersey business upon which the premiums returned to the agent agree to set aside \$5,000 to aid in constructing a hospital building. It is very evident from the rivalry existing, that Lincoln people will either take a great deal of insurance and secure the benefits of the same, or else the controversy will so divide matters that none will be secured.

FILE WARDEN NEWBURY.

The action of the mayor in attempting to depose W. H. Newbury from the position of fire warden meets with no popular approval. To the contrary, business men and insurance men, almost with one voice, accord to Mr. Newbury the credit of being an efficient officer, and one who has through long experience and energy developed in the city of Lincoln one of the best and most active and reliable fire departments in the west. The action of the mayor in attempting to unseat facts prejudicial to the fire warden under the pretense of reforming a department familiar to excite comment. The committee to inquire into the charges against the warden consists of Messrs. Pace, Briscoe and Graham, and it is understood that thus far they have discovered nothing to warrant the removal of a man of Mr. Newbury's experience and to throw the department into new and untried hands.

CITY ITEMS.

Ed. A. Church, who has been busily at work for the last three months preparing the plans for the construction of an opera house in this city that will eclipse any like house in the west, announces that the house is an assured fact, but few details remain to be arranged, and that the house will be constructed ready for the season of 1939-9.

The board of trade and freight bureau have removed to new and elegant quarters in the Burr block, occupying commodious front rooms across the street from the Farmers' and Merchants' insurance company. The new rooms are more central, more commodious and will hereafter be headquarters for public improvements in the city.

The growth of the city is exemplified in the constantly increasing demands for additional school room, the Sixth ward, with its three or four hundred school children, being the latest petitioner for accommodations in that line. The school board has responded to the demand by purchasing an eligible site on East O street, for which it paid \$4,000. Upon this it will be the coming season build a handsome brick that will meet every demand.

Bill Nye, the humorist, will be in Lincoln on the evening of the 23rd and will lecture at Funke's opera house. The public generally will record the noted humorist a cordial reception, and the Lincoln Press club will have a hand in making his visit to the city a pleasant one.

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