

FORMAN TO ACT IN POSTOFFICE MOVE BY U. S.

Government to Take Con- demnation Action for Freight Station Site

Jan. 4, 1929.

DELAY OF A YEAR

LIKELY TO RESULT

United States District Attorney Philip Forman probably will be designated by Washington to conduct the wholesale condemnation proceedings to acquire the Pennsylvania Freight Station and adjoining properties at East State and Carroll Streets, selected by the Government yesterday as the site for Trenton's new postoffice.

Simultaneously with the announcement of final selection of the site, the Federal Building Commission instructed the Department of Justice to start suits in the Trenton court to acquire the properties by law. It is expected that Forman will receive formal notice to begin the condemnation suits within the next few days, unless the owners bring their offers down to a reasonable figure.

The railroad company submitted a sale offer of \$350,000 and the owners of other properties needed for the project held their properties at a total of \$401,000. The railroad's bid is regarded as exorbitant, and the Washington authorities hold that the other land owners have asked prices out of all proportion to their value.

Letters were sent out last night to the railroad company and the other owners by the Joint Committee on Federal Building Construction bearing notification that all proposals are too high and that condemnation action will be instituted at once.

If the property owners refuse to revise their bids, a long period of litigation will intervene before construc-

(Continued on Page Nine)

tion operations begin. It is probable that the court proceedings will occupy the better part of a year.

Massive Structure Likely

The postoffice will be a massive structure, on a site fronting 278 feet on the north side of East State Street and 347 feet northerly on Carroll Street. It is estimated that it will take two years after ground is broken before the building will be completed and ready for occupancy.

In conjunction with the erection of the postoffice, Mayor Donnelly intends to put through a scheme for the construction of an additional bridge over the canal on an extension of Hanover Street to Carroll. The bridge will parallel the span on East State Street, and will afford the postoffice two means of egress to the up-town section. The double railroad tracks at that point will be changed to a single track, over which greatly reduced freight traffic will pass.

The sum of \$1,650,000 has been authorized by Congress for the new post office. Of this amount \$700,000 has already been appropriated, and the rest will be available as soon as the impending legal battle to obtain the properties is concluded.

When the new building is completed, the old structure at East State and Montgomery Streets will be sold. The land and building are held by the Government at \$900,000.

Architects will be assigned in the near future to draw plans for the new structure. The building will house the postal department, the Federal Court and the Department of Justice.

Owners' Figures High

Owners of property embraced in the freight station site have asked prices that range in some instances more than 200 per cent. above the assessed valuation. While there has been some indication that the bids will be reduced, it seems likely that the land will figure in long drawn litigation before the Government acquires ownership.

Following are the prices submitted to the Federal Building Commission by the various owners:

No. 414 East State Street, James E. Jones (owner), assessed value \$21,300, asks \$47,000; 416 East State Street, Mrs. Lella A. Sweeney, assessed value, \$19,000, asks \$50,000; 418 and 420 East State Street, Walter P. Wilson, assessed value \$52,000, asks \$125,000; 9 Carroll Street, Mary E. Hayes, assessed value \$5,250, asks \$21,500; 13 Carroll Street, estate of Susan O. Scott, assessed value \$5,550, asks \$15,000; 15 Carroll Street, Henry Zulauf, assessed value \$5,550, asks \$20,000; 17 Carroll Street, Mrs. Margaret H. Hunt, assessed value \$5,125, asks \$20,000; 19 Carroll Street, Margaret E. Clair, assessed value \$5,125, asks \$20,000; 21 Carroll Street, Sarah V. Robinson, assessed value, \$5,550, asks \$20,000; 23 Carroll Street, Mrs. Anna C. Cogle, Wal D. Couple, assessed value \$5,125, \$20,000; 25 Carroll Street, Hiram Storer, assessed value \$5,125, asks \$20,000; 27 Carroll Street, Harvey F. Hart, assessed value \$5,125, asks \$20,000; 29 Carroll Street, Edward D. Parsons, assessed value approximately \$5,000, asks \$18,000; 31 Carroll Street, Anna F. Priest, assessed value approximately \$5,000, asks \$9,500.

No sale proposals were submitted on properties at 11 and 34 Carroll Streets, and the Government will have to obtain a court order for their acquisition.