

BROENING SAYS CITY CAN CHECK QUARRY DANGER

Mayor Declares Holes Can
Be Ordered Filled
Up.

WILL PASS PROBLEM
ON TO MAYOR JACKSON

Favors Steps To Prevent
Recurrence Of Drown-
ing Of Boy.

Mayor Broening said today that the city, through the Board of Public Safety, could take action to remove the menace to the public from the existence of abandoned quarry holes, old mine shafts and other depressions. He made this statement in answer to a question as to whether the city government contemplated any steps to prevent further accidents similar to the drowning of 10-year-old James Ellsworth Peddicord in the quarry hole on West Twenty-eighth street.

Hole Belongs To City.

The water-filled quarry hole into which Peddicord fell belongs to the city. It was acquired about five weeks ago from the Baltimore Quarry Company for a dumping place for refuse.

Preparatory to its use by the city, Street Cleaning Commissioner Schuch ordered that a cable be stretched along the quarry side of a short road which passes near the lower end of the quarry.

A sign was also placed on the property giving notice that it was city property and that there should be no trespassing. These were the only two means adopted to keep vehicles and the public away from the perpendicular cliff and the body of water at its base.

A springing board, which had been at the edge of the water and used by boys, was taken away, however, by the department's men to discourage trespassing by those who wanted to swim in the pond.

Asked whether a meeting of the Board of Public Safety would be called to consider the matter, the Mayor said that he would leave the problem to his successor, Mayor-elect Howard W. Jackson.

Says City Has Power.

"There is hardly time enough in the few days remaining in my administration," he continued. "The question of existing dangers at these quarry holes has been brought to the attention of the city from time to time during the past 25 or 30 years. Nearly all the holes are on private property, and the city has no direct responsibility.

"Through its general police power, however, the city could require the filling up of the holes or the establishment of safeguards to keep trespassers away from them. The question has been dealt with only informally, and has never been investigated thoroughly as to the city's powers in the matter."

May Use Holes For Dumps.

The advisability of using the holes for the dumping of ashes and refuse has been considered at times, the Mayor pointed out, but the property owners always wanted to charge the city for the privilege and it was deemed the better plan to use the dumping for the filling of city-owned land.

The city is about to take over another of the abandoned quarries, the Board of Estimates having authorized the purchase of the property of the Baltimore Quarry Company near Falls road and Twenty-eighth street, which is not far from the hole where young Peddicord was drowned.

While a crowd of neighbors and child playmates of James Ellsworth Peddicord watch them, police of the Northern district and members of the crew of the police boat Lannan are dragging the quarry hole on West Twenty-eighth street, where the Peddicord boy was drowned yesterday.

Dragging Difficult.

Because of the depth of the hole—it is said to be 60 feet deep, the police are having difficulty in dragging it.

Crowds stand around the edge of the pool and, from the hill above it watch the work. It was from this hill that young Peddicord slipped and fell into the hole. He was running and playing

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SAYS CITY CAN END MENACE OF QUARRIES

Broening Declares Steps Should
Be Taken To Fill Up
Holes.

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with Rittner and Ray on the hill above the place when he lost his footing and fell.

Many Other Quarries Open.

The city government has had before it at times proposals for acquiring and filling up abandoned quarry holes. Offers of such properties were given consideration because of the advantage of using the hole for dumping of ashes and to remove danger that exists in the fact that the holes are seldom protected.

No general plan for acquisition of the abandoned quarries by purchase ever went beyond the discussion stage. The Board of Estimates, however, has authorized the purchase of one of them—known as Falls road quarry, situated on that thoroughfare near Twenty-eighth street, and not far from Atkinson's quarry, where Peddicord was drowned.

Some of the other abandoned quarry holes are located as follows:

Schwind's quarry, on Edmondson avenue, now being used as a dumping place by the United Railways.

Quarry at Lexington street near Calverton road not used for any purpose.

Hillsdale quarry.

Gwynn's Falls quarry near the end of Baltimore street.

Are Considered Menace.

Other deep holes on unused property include the depression in South Baltimore near Locust Point called Devil's Bucket, abandoned iron mines along the Annapolis and Washington roads and another old iron mine hole north of the city near Falls road.

The advisability of calling a meeting of the Municipal Board of Safety to consider the danger to the public from these holes has been considered at the City Hall. The Building Inspector, the Health Commissioner, the president of the Fire Board, Police Commissioner and Mayor make up the board.

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