

LIBRARIAN FIGHTS FOR JOB LOST OVER CRITICISM OF JOURNALS CHOSEN

Oklahoma Oil Town in Squabble About Control of Reading Matter — Court Suit Filed in Firing.

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BARTLESVILLE, Okla. — Citizens of this oil-blessed city, counting their blessings one by one but weighing against them the value of their civil liberties, are waiting for the district court to say whether the City Commission can control the public library and exclude therefrom "subversive" publications.



Miss Ruth Brown

Denied a decision by Judge James T. Shipman, who disqualified himself in deference to the divided sentiments of the community over the dismissal of the library board and discharge of Miss Ruth W. Brown, librarian, the defenders of civil liberties are strengthening their position and preparing to carry on "the Battle of Bartlesville" if the district court decision is against them. The question that, if necessary, they will carry to the higher courts is whether they shall have the right to read, without restrictions, such publications as the Nation and the New Republic. Over the question there is sharp dissension between city officials and the members of a "citizens' committee" on the one hand and a defense committee of the friends of Miss Brown who are asking the court to reinstate her and the old library board members who supported her in her refusal to remove such publications from the library shelves.

Ousters Hesitate to Talk.

City officials and members of the "citizens' committee," although they are presumed to have at least the tacit support of the powerful Phillips Petroleum Corp. and the Cities Service Co., don't like to talk about the civil liberties case. They are allergic to publicity as something that might hurt the town. There are indications that the high command of the oil industry deplors the fuss that has been made over such a little issue as control of the public library.

Members of the defense committee and others who have come to the help of Miss Brown talk freely about it, but on the other side shush is the word.

The City Commission, whose action has been challenged in the district court, is composed of Mayor E. S. Dunaway, who is in the abstract business; Milo L. Margenau, public relations man for the Cities



Mayor Dunaway

Service Co.; E. F. Kindsvater, manager of the engineering department of the Cities Service Co.; Joe Henton, who runs a filling station, and W. A. Forrest, a grocer. At the time when they passed an ordinance taking over control of the library they did not hold cards as patrons.

Mayor Dunaway is out of town. He has, however, placed himself on record in an oration that he delivered at a meeting of the City Commission on March 6, at which friends of Miss Brown were booed and heckled and called Communists. The mayor on that occasion dramatically poured oil on the troubled waters.

"These are times," he said, "that try men's souls and men's minds as they have never before been tried in the annals of our history. The whole world is in a state of confusion, engaged in

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