

HYDRO DISPUTES BILL OF WORKS DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Harris Strenuously Objects to Advice From City Solicitor on the Matter.

City Solicitor Johnston was very plainly told by Commissioner Harris that it was not his business to offer criticism of the works department. The commissioner was very angry at the solicitor's reference to an action of his as "high-handed" and declared that it was his function to run the works department and not the right of other officials to interfere. The reason for his anger was contained in a report of the solicitor on the right of the Hydro Commission to charge the Hydro \$2,000 for an inspection of underground hydro work on the city streets. General Manager Cousins, of the Hydro Commission, appeared before the board and contested the claim. In his report, Solicitor Johnston stated that the Hydro Commission's workmen had established a right upon the highways of the city and that its work was not subject to supervision and instruction in any way by the works department. Dealing with the commissioner's disregard for his advice, the solicitor said: "This appeared to be the most high-handed action to take by any official and was practically giving judgment in his own favor."

"It is absurd for Mr. Harris to take the position he does in face of that report," said the mayor.

"It is my function to run the works department, and not the city solicitor's business to criticize it," retorted the commissioner heatedly.

Other public institutions, Mr. Harris explained, had to pay the city for inspection and even the Provincial Highway Commission thought the city should pay the account it would place the city in a very serious position.

"It is intimated to the city for a public service corporation to operate on the streets and it should pay these charges," said the commissioner. "The taxpayers should not be asked to pay the amount. The city is paying for the removal of poles and I only quoted \$2,000, which the city expended for the inspection of the underground services."

Mayor Church stated that Mr. Harris was asking the Hydro to do something it was not asked to do in other municipalities in Ontario. The board decided to lay the matter over for the present.

Dominion Bank Official Has Two Sons Killed in France

Lieut. Gordon M. Pearce, son of W. K. Pearce, manager of Dominion Bank, Toronto branch, was yesterday reported killed in action on April 25. This is the second son Mr. Pearce has lost in the war, his other son, Walter K., being killed on Sept. 15.

Lieut. Pearce secured his commission in November, 1915, with a local battalion, and in August, 1916, proceeded overseas. He was born in Seaford, Ont., 20 years ago and was taken to Hamilton as a child, where he attended the Highfield private school. On coming to Toronto he entered University Schools and later entered the school of science, U. of T. He was in his second year when he enlisted.

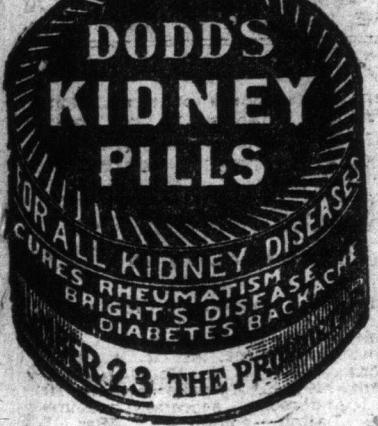
He is survived by his father and mother, a sister, Helen, and a brother, Ralph.

Many Hear Garden Lectures Delivered in Public Schools

The series of lectures given in the Toronto public schools on home gardening ended last night with the lecture in the Humberwood School, at which there was a large attendance. Last night's lecture made forty that have been delivered, which have been attended by over 11,000. These included parents of the pupils and a great number of older pupils. Some idea of the great success these lectures have proved this year may be obtained by comparing the attendance with any one of last year, which was only about 1000.

APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES.

The local union of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union has elected Walter Brown and P. C. Cribbin to represent them at the convention of the International Union in Philadelphia this year.



That Son-in-Law of Pa's

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MAY CHANGE METHOD OF DELIVERING COAL

Local Dealers May Adopt Buffalo System of Dumping Fuel on Curb.

Wages have been increased and hours of work decreased in many of the local coal yards since the first of the month. Many of the drivers and yard men are now getting Saturday afternoons off and are quitting daily at 5 p.m. In addition to this they have received an average increase of one dollar per week.

Mr. Gibson, of the Conser-Lehigh Company, stated that his men had received a one dollar increase and their hours have been shortened from 46 to 45 per week. He said that the company was doing its utmost to secure coal and sell it at the lowest possible price at \$3.25 at present. Mr. Gibson could give no advice as to whether the public should secure the winter fuel now or wait for a month or two. So many factors had to be considered that it was impossible to judge what future conditions would be.

Coal is selling in Buffalo at \$7.35 a ton for egg and stove sizes, delivered on the curb. Placing in the cellars costs an additional 25 cents, making the total price \$7.70 per ton.

The delivery system in vogue in Toronto is deemed extremely expensive and inefficient by Buffalo business men. The dumping of coal on the curb enables continuous operation on the part of the trucks and wagons, whereas here the wagons and trucks stand idle while the coal, which is loaded in bags, is dumped in the cellars. A change to the Buffalo custom would, it is claimed, cut down the operating cost of the local dealers almost a dollar a ton.

COMMISSION MEETS HERE

All six members of the Canadian and American sides of the International Waterways Commission met in the parliament buildings yesterday. They are believed to have been considering the final report of the commission on maximum efficiency from the Lake of the Woods watershed.

Soldier Who Deserted Twice Appears at Court-Martial

Pte. James G. W. Walsh appeared before a district court-martial yesterday on the charge of twice deserting his unit at Exhibition Camp. The first time he was arrested in civilian clothes at Prescott, and brought back to Toronto. He then asked for his discharge. This not being granted, he rebelled and was put in the guard-house, but in a few days he got away again by scaling a high board fence which separates the camp from the city. On April 12 he came back, having given himself up to the military authorities at Sudbury.

When brought before the court yesterday he pleaded guilty to all charges and left himself to his mercy. His sentence will be promulgated later. It is not likely that his sentence will be a severe one.

BOOTH MEMORIAL HOME READY FOR SOLDIERS

Total of Invalided Men Being Cared for Has Doubled Since December.

Since New Year's Day the total number of returned invalided soldiers being cared for by the Military Home, Booth Memorial Home, has doubled. The Booth Memorial Home, erected by the Salvation Army as a training institution, but lent to the commission for occupancy by returned soldiers, is now ready. It will accommodate 450 men. The bulk of the 150 soldiers now in the College street convalescent home will likely be transferred to the Booth home about May 15. The College street home will probably be retained for use by the returned men who are sent from all parts of Canada to Toronto to be fitted with artificial limbs. The building is nearby to the commission's artificial limb factory on Buchanan street.

Work Progresses Rapidly On Toronto Harbor Front

The Toronto harbor front, between Bathurst and York streets, will this year be materially changed from the present dilapidated condition into concrete piers and walls.

The contracts, amounting to \$711,795, were let a short time ago by the Harbor Commission to J. E. Reddick for Section 3, Weddell & Sons, Section 4, and Port Arthur Construction Co., Section 5.

The work will soon be in full swing, as the contractors are now on the job preparing their scows, dredges, and material.

The contracts call for 10,000 feet of concrete wall work, which will consist of wooden cribbing and super-structures of concrete.

Last year this kind of construction was done by Weddell & Russell on the water front between the western wing-wall to Peter street.

TO ASSIST PRODUCTION.

The latest proposal in Toronto to aid production is to form an auxiliary of young women willing to take over household duties on farms and so release farmers' wives to help their husbands in the field. The matter has been taken up by the War Production Club and it is anticipated that a number of the young women attending the school of domestic science will offer their services.

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Through Tourist Sleeping Cars to WINNIPEG on above dates, leaving Toronto 10:45 p.m., no change of cars.

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STRUCK BY MOTORCYCLE

When struck by a motorcycle at the corner of King and York streets yesterday afternoon, Lee Wint, a Chinaman, was badly gashed about the head. At St. Michael's Hospital the wound required four stitches to close it.

EXAMINATIONS FOR TEACHERS.

The Ontario Department of Education will provide examination for teachers in parts A and B of the middle school Normal entrance course and in parts A, B, C and D of the upper school faculty entrance course at the close of the summer session in August.

By G. H. Wellington

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