

NEW YORK INVESTIGATORS CLAIM LONDON ACTUALLY PAYS \$43 H.P.

Charge That Power Sold for \$24 Costs Almost Double That Amount—Is City Paying for More Than Fifty Per Cent of Power Used?

PROBERS CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN FIGURES IN EVERY PLACE VISITED; HAD REPORTS

Municipal Extravagance Charged in Statement That Three Cities Have Increased Expenditure for Light and Power \$225,000—Minority Report Coming.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 16. — The joint legislative committee of New York State appointed in 1911 to investigate the question of waterpower in its report to the Legislature finds that the hydro-electric plan in operation in the Province of Ontario is a failure.

It claims to base this conclusion upon the financial reports and figures of the Hydro-Electric Commission. The investigators say they held sessions in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Montreal, Fort Arthur, Fort William and Winnipeg, and examined the workings of the distribution by the province of electric energy.

Power Below Cost.

It summarizes its findings as follows: 1. That the Hydro-Electric Power Commission has never developed any hydro-electric power, but has acted merely in the capacity of middleman in the merchandising of electrical energy.

2. That power is not furnished by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to the municipalities at cost, but below cost.

A Large Annual Loss.

3. That if the same methods of bookkeeping and business principles were applied to the operations of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission as are employed in ordinary business transactions of a similar nature, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission would be found to be losing at least \$200,000 a year, besides which the expenses of the commission itself for the year 1912 amounts to \$173,990, which amount has been paid by the province, and has never been included in the cost of the power charged to the municipalities supplied.

4. That the power that is now being sold to the city of Toronto by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission at \$15 per horsepower actually costs the commission over \$19 per horsepower.

5. That the power which the Hydro-Electric Power Commission now sells to the city of London for \$24 actually costs the commission over \$43 per horsepower.

6. That in addition to the provincial loss from the operations of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, the net loss down to June 30, 1912, of the city of Toronto from the operation of its own local municipal electric system was \$238,384.

Increase Civic Consumption.

7. That in order to utilize the large amount of power the various municipal

ities have contracted to take from the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, they have greatly increased the municipal consumption, until in several cases the city itself is paying over 50 per cent of the gross amount received from the operations of the municipal power plants.

Burden on Taxpayers.

8. That the three larger cities—Toronto, Hamilton, and London—in order to utilize the power thus contracted for, have increased their annual expenditures for public lighting and power service more than \$225,000 a year, which amounts to municipal extravagance, the burden falling upon the taxpayer.

Small Places Hard Hit.

9. That inequalities in the proportional amount of capital cost charged against various municipalities appear to be inevitable in any attempt to serve by governmental processes a variety of consumers—in fact the cities of Toronto and Hamilton, comprising 74 per cent of the population are required to pay for power, at a price based upon 24 per cent of the cost of the transmission system, and to amortize only that proportion of the capital investment, while fourteen small villages, containing only 14 per cent of the population served (or one-tenth of that of the two cities mentioned) are required to bear the burden and pay nearly 30 per cent of the capital cost.

Selling to Private Firms Direct.

10. That while the Hydro-Electric Power Commission was designed to deal with municipalities only, it appears that it has deviated from that rule and is in several instances furnishing power directly to private corporations.

Senator T. Harney Ferris, of Utica, N. Y., is chairman of the investigating committee. One of the members, Assemblyman J. Lewis Patrie, of Greene County, refused to sign the report, and will soon submit a minority report to the Legislature, contending that the Canadian system has been a success.

Secured Figures Direct.

With its report, the investigators append a report of the financial operations of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission. They claim to base their conclusions on this and upon figures obtained from the municipal records where the power is supplied.

The New York State Conservation Commission declares that the investigating committee has made a biased and inaccurate report, and will reply to it.

SHOWS NEED FOR INVESTIGATION BY CIVIC AUTHORITIES

New York State Report Regarded by Businessmen to Demand Serious Consideration of Situation.

FLAT RATE HANDICAP ALWAYS TO FRONT

Industrial Commissioner Cannot Secure Industries While London Is Discriminated Against.

The charges made by a committee chosen from both sides of politics in the New York State Legislature, that the entire hydro-electric system is financially unsound, have impressed many businessmen in London with the need for further independent inquiry. "Without a flat rate, paying the price that we are for power, if these charges are true, London is in a serious position at the present time, and there should be an investigation into the local situation at once," said a citizen who has been a keen observer of developments.

Keeps Prices Down.

"It is my honest belief that if the London Electric Company were not in the field at the present time, there would be no appreciable decrease in the price of power for house-lighting or anything else. They were the ones to keep prices down in London, and without them in the field there would be a great difference.

"The lack of a flat rate for power is keeping industries away from London. Who would expect a concern to locate here and pay \$24 for power when it may be secured at Welland for \$8 or at Toronto for \$15?

Shrouded in Mystery.

"There has been great mystery connected with the operation of the system in London. The street lighting revelations were enough to show that London was being used as a cat's paw in the game, and that we were being charged \$100 a horsepower for the light we formerly secured for less than half that price. There has been no reply to that charge that would satisfy the citizens, and that the commission has not shown any disposition to have the matter gone into on its merits.

"Some day there will be a different attitude towards hydro-electricity in the city of London. That it has placed London in a most unfair position in regard to industries cannot be gainsaid. The industrial commissioner knows in his heart why he cannot secure industries for London.

Power Prices a Barrier.

"The reason is plain. He cannot convince new industries that they should locate in London when they can secure power at other places for half the price charged here.

"It would do the city and the Province no harm to have a thorough investigation into the present state of affairs in the hydro system. If there is nothing to hide, the commission should not be averse to having the matter cleared up. Otherwise there will be a blundering along in the dark and the whole thing will end in chaos."

AGED LADY DIED AS RESULT OF ASPHYXIATION

Mrs. Geo. Craddock Was Overcome in Her Home Some Days Ago.

Mrs. George Craddock, of 101 Fullarton street, the aged lady who was discovered lying helpless in her home and almost asphyxiated by coal gas, when Detective Egleton, who was summoned by neighbors forced an entrance to the house, died Thursday night at Victoria Hospital.

Her daughter, Mrs. Walter Just of Chicago, was with her at the time of her death.

Mrs. Craddock, whose husband predeceased her exactly two months, was stricken with paralysis while in her home, and as one of the lids of the stove was displaced she was almost asphyxiated by gas before the arrival of neighbors. The double shock proved too severe, and her death resulted.

She was born in this city 79 years ago, and had been a resident of this city all her life. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Walter Just, of Chicago, and Mrs. Thomas Craddock, of New York City.

The funeral will be held Monday afternoon from her late residence, 101 Fullarton street, to Woodland Cemetery. Services will be conducted by Rev. Canon Tucker, of St. Paul's Cathedral, at 2:30.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—COLDER.

Forecast: Toronto, Jan. 17—8 a.m.

Today—Strong southerly winds, shifting to west and northwest; a few showers.

Saturday—Turning colder, with some light local snow or drizzle.

Temperatures.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations.	High.	Low.	Weather.
LONDON	42.5	32	Rain
Toronto	42	32	Rain
Victoria	40	32	Fair
Calgary	38	22	Fair
Winnipeg	38	10	Cloudy
Port Arthur	38	30	Cloudy
Perry Sound	38	34	Cloudy
Toronto	40	40	Rain
Ottawa	38	24	Rain
Montreal	38	36	Rain
Quebec	38	42	Cloudy
Father Point	30	38	Cloudy
Minus (—) means below zero.			

Weather Notes.

The depression which was in Wyoming yesterday morning now covers Lake Superior with increased energy, causing a continuance of the mild, showery weather from Ontario to the Maritime Provinces. The pronounced cold continues in the Western Provinces.



JOHN REDMOND.
Leader of the Irish Nationalists.

Chronological Story of Irish Home Rule

1801—Act of union by which Ireland became part of United Kingdom passed.
1803—Robert Emmet led first open rebellion.
1829—Daniel O'Connell's agitation for repeal of act of union, unsuccessful, but led to passing of the Catholic emancipation act.
1842—Great famine.
1848—Great rebellion.
1869—Irish Protestant Church disestablished.
1871—First Irish home rule party established under the leadership of Isaac Butt.
1872—Land league founded by Michael Davitt.
1880—Charles Stewart Parnell became leader of the Irish party.
1880-5—Premier William E. Gladstone passed land act and coercion act.
1882—Phoenix Park murders, Dublin.
1884—Fenian outbreaks in England.
1885—Gladstone converted to home rule.
1885—First home rule bill introduced in English parliament; rejected by House of Commons, on second reading, by majority of 341 to 130.
1886—Land league introduced; passed by Commons, but rejected by the Lords—412 to 41.
1903—George Wyndham's (Conservative) land purchase act.
1907—Irish Secretary Augustine Burrell's Irish councils bill, rejected by the Irish Nationalist convention and dropped by the Liberal Government.
1912 (April 12)—Third home rule bill introduced by Premier Asquith.

EMIGRANT SHIP WRECKED LOSS OF LIFE IS GREAT

British Ship Veronez, With Emigrants for South America, Was Driven on the Rocks Near Oporto on the Spanish Coast—Steamer Broken Amidships.

Oporto, Spain, Jan. 16. — The British steamship Veronez, with 375 passengers, mostly third-class emigrants for South America, and a crew of 680, was driven on the rocks at Boanova, seven miles north of here, during a severe gale, at six o'clock this morning.

Attempts were made to rescue her passengers throughout the day, but tugs were unable to reach her. The seas were breaking over the boat and some vessels which made efforts to reach the distressed ship were smashed on the rocks. The latest report is that she will probably be lost, with the majority of the passengers and crew.

The Dutch steamship Hollandia stood by the Veronez for five hours, but the seas were running so high that she could give her no help. When she left, 84 of the passengers had been landed, but it is feared that in the first transfer sixteen were drowned. The Veronez, according to the Hollandia, has broken amidships, and is in momentary danger of being smashed by the waves.

ICE BREAKS UP ON THE THAMES

Both Branches Are Now Fairly Clear—Ice Was Very Thin.

The earliest breakup on record occurred in the Thames this morning, when the ice crumbled and went away with a rush.

Both branches are now fairly clear, though quantities of the ice, driftwood, etc., are floating down. The stream is considerably swollen, a rise of about three and a half feet being recorded at the pump-house at Springbank. The ice ranged from 3 to 8 inches in thickness.

The mild weather and the rain of last night caused the breakup. Of course, another spell of very cold weather is to be expected, and it is altogether likely the river will be ice-bound again, and that very shortly. This appears to be an exaggerated January thaw. A year ago the thermometer was far below zero at this time.

NOTE OF POWERS HANDLED TO TURKEY

Constantinople, Jan. 17. — The collective note drafted by the ambassadors in London of the European powers was presented to the Turkish Government today.

MAYOR GRAHAM WELL PLEASED THINKS FAIR WILL GET GRANT

His Worship Would Not Be Surprised if the Western Should Have \$10,000 Slipped Into Its Stocking as a Help From the Dominion Government.

The members of the deputation from the Western Fair Association and other bodies, who went to Ottawa on Wednesday evening to interview Hon. Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, relative to a grant for the Western Fair, returned at noon today, well pleased with the results of their visit. Some of them stopped off at Toronto, Secretary A. M. Hunt is spending the day at Woodstock, going through the schools of that city.

Mayor Graham and Lieut.-Col. R. McEwen, when seen by The Advertiser, expressed themselves as very hopeful that the Western would receive substantial aid.

Were Well Received.

"We were well received," said Mayor Graham. "Hon. Mr. Burrell complimented the deputation on the excellent manner in which the case of the Western was presented to himself and his colleagues. He listened with a great deal of interest to our arguments, and seemed impressed.

"Personally, I am confident that we will obtain a good grant, possibly \$10,000. We are hopeful that it will be made an annual one.

Saw Hon. Sam Hughes.
"I had an interview with Hon. Sam Hughes, minister of militia, and informed him of the progress made regarding the federal square. He expressed himself as well pleased with what we had done, and urged us to complete the deal at as early a date as we possibly could. It is our intention of doing this.

Bad Roads.

"Further, I would like to state that if the downtown streets of London were kept in as bad condition as Ottawa's or Toronto's, there would be a riot. It was just such a day as this in the capital yesterday, and not a gutter was open, and water lay on the streets everywhere. Toronto was in a similar condition. London can show the way to all of them in this regard."

Col. McEwen Optimistic.

Col. McEwen, of Byron, was also optimistic regarding the results of the trip.
"The delegation was a most representative one, and made a good impression," he said. "Our case was presented very carefully and systematically, and I think we will see good results."

GIRL DIES FROM BITE OF STRAY DOG

Daughter of St. Thomas Citizen Succumbs to Dread Disease.

[Canadian Press.]

St. Thomas, Jan. 17.—Bitten by a stray dog Dec. 8, Alexandra, 4-year-old daughter of John Kenn, an employee of the city gas works, died this morning. She did not suffer the terrible agonies usually attributed to hydrophobia. She had been in a feverish but conscious condition for 24 hours. She was not taken ill till last Saturday. Physicians pronounced the case hydrophobia, but the child had no convulsions, and was rational all the time. This is the first death from hydrophobia in St. Thomas. The dog, which the child attempted to stroke, and which bit her on the cheek, was never found, though several resembling it were put to death by the police.

PRISONER HAD A KNIFE CONCEALED

Said He Would Have Suicided But for Trouble to Jail Officials.

Sheriff D. M. Cameron has just concluded an investigation into an incident in the transfer of Joseph Davies, the convicted hold-up man, from the county jail to Kingston Penitentiary, where he commenced a ten-year term a few days ago.

Davies, although searched at the jail prior to his departure, was in possession of a sharp paring knife on the train, and threats to kill himself aroused the suspicion of Deputy Sheriff Benj. F. Watterworth, who had the man in charge.

The investigation of he sheriff makes it appear that Davies concealed the knife in his clothing prior to the search of his person at the jail, and that when he was removing his shoes and socks for the officers he slipped it beneath a bathtub, regaining it again when he stooped to put on his footwear.

Liked the Officials.

Davies cried bitterly and created quite a scene when taken to the Grand Trunk depot to commence his trip to the penitentiary, and it was not learned that he was armed until after he had taken his position in the coach.

He then asserted that he would have killed himself before commencing the term had it not been that he did not wish to injure the jail officials in their positions.

When asked as to what method he would have pursued he declared that he had the weapon all right, and the knife was thereupon discovered and taken from him.

Davies robbed William Wilkinson, a farmer who resides near Thamesford, and was convicted before Judge Talbot Macbeth, who sentenced him to the ten-year term at Kingston.

Davies had done time before, and bitterly lamented the prospect of having to again endure a period of confinement.

TWO KILLED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

St. Louis, Jan. 17.—Russell F. Davis, of Cleveland, assistant secretary to Mrs. Helen Britton, owner of the St. Louis National League baseball club, and William H. Walters, of St. Louis, president of a novelty company, were killed in an automobile accident here today.

NOT CONVINCED OF HYDRO SUCCESS

Member of New York Conservation Commission Has Doubts on Beck's System.

STATE SYSTEM FAVORED

But Submit No Evidence in Support of Statement That Ontario Method Is Successful.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 16.—Two members of a committee of the New York State conservation commission to investigate hydro-electric power have presented a report to the New York State Legislature on hydro-electric power. The report says that "it is claimed" that hydro-electric is a success in Ontario, while the third says he has received no evidence to convince him that the scheme is a success financially.

Commissioners John D. Moore and George D. Van Kesteren are in favor of a state system of power distribution, but present no evidence in support of their statement that the claim is that hydro-electric has been successful.

"It shows," says the report, "that through the Hydro-Electric Commission many municipalities in Western Ontario are being furnished with electric energy for light and power purposes; that in Ontario the movement is not regarded as political, but as economic. The question, it is claimed, that the project in Ontario is highly successful from a financial and engineering standpoint; that the service is reliable and efficient; that the sales of electric current have constantly increased and prices have been continually reduced.

Toronto Claims Surplus.
"In Ottawa, where the plan has been in operation about seven years, the price for private lighting has been reduced to an average of 5.4 cents per kilowatt hour, and the price for commercial power ranges from \$9.30 to \$22.50 per horsepower. As a result of these low rates, 88 per cent of the houses in Ottawa are lighted by electricity. On the same basis for lighting and with approximately 60 per cent reduction in charge for power, the municipal distribution in Toronto has earned a surplus in the quarter ending Nov. 30, 1912."

Some Doubts Expressed.
Of this portion of the report, Commissioner James W. Fleming expresses disapproval. "While this plan may at some future time be proven wise," he says, "I have not been furnished with evidence which convinces me that the operations of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission have been a financial success. Until a detailed balance sheet of that commission has been submitted, I shall continue to withhold my approval of any plan which, without further investigation, may commit the State of New York to the expenditure of large sums of money necessarily involving an increase in taxes and the expense of the State Government."

GERMANY CONSENTS TO POWERS' PEACE MOVE

Ambassador to Sultan Told to Participate in Handing Note to Turkey.

[Canadian Press.]
London, Jan. 17.—No claimant has yet appeared for the first prize of 100,000 francs in the recent Bank of Italy lottery. It is believed that the winning ticket may have been lost when the Titanic sank last April. All efforts to trace the holder of the ticket have been fruitless, and it is recalled that a batch of other tickets which were sent to America on the Titanic was lost.

PRIZE LOTTERY TICKET LOST ON TITANIC

[Canadian Press.]
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Ocean Steamships.
Jan. 17. Reported at From
Meganitic.....Liverpool.....New York
first.....New York.....Bremen

COSTLY AND FATAL FIRE IN HEART OF EDMONTON

Blaze of Unknown Origin in Wholesale District Causes Loss of \$400,000, and Falling Walls Crush Shack, Taking Toll of Four Lives.

[Canadian Press.]

Edmonton, Alta., Jan. 17.—Fire in Edmonton's wholesale district last night caused the loss of probably four hundred thousand dollars and took the lives of several Italians.

The blaze started after midnight from an unknown cause in the five-story brick building of the Canada Rubber Company, which was completely destroyed in less than an hour. The fire then spread to the two-story frame building occupied by the Edmonton Produce Company, Western Carriage Company, Vernon Fruit Company, Dominion Brokerage Company and Snowden Oil Company. This was also completely destroyed.

The sudden and unexpected collapse of the high wall of the Canada Rubber

block crushed a small adjoining shack occupied by Italians.

Four Perished.

The number inside is unknown, but certainly four perished. The number cannot be learned positively until the ruins are sufficiently to permit a search. Chief of Police Carpenter had a narrow escape, having just passed underneath the wall when it collapsed. Fire Chief Laidler was overcome by the smoke and taken to the hospital, but will recover.

At 2 o'clock the fire was under control, though still smoldering, having been contained to two buildings. Firemen were greatly handicapped by lack of water pressure, and could do little to stop the flames.

Dalton, both of St. Thomas. Neither are critically hurt. The wreck, it is said, was caused by the failure of the switch to the siding at Nixon to close properly. The passengers were not hurt. The wreck delayed traffic a couple of hours.

POINCARÉ ELECTED FRENCH PRESIDENT

Versailles, France, Jan. 17. — M. Poincaré elected president of France. Four ballots were required to elect M. Poincaré, his nearest opponent being M. Pams.

WABASH FREIGHT RAMMED BY EXPRESS

Two Brakemen of St. Thomas Slightly Injured in Wreck at Nixon.

[Canadian Press.]

St. Thomas, Jan. 17.—There was another serious wreck on the Wabash Railway Friday morning, when No. 1 express ran into the rear end of freight train, No. 95, at Nixon, breaking up the caboose of the freight, and injuring brakeman A. Wilson and F.

A CASE OF NEED IN LONDON

Inspector Sanders of the Charity Organization Society of London has come across a case of need on Wellington street south, which is very distressing and requires urgent measures. An aged couple, the husband 76 and the wife 72, are in want. They have only a very small stove, and have been practically without fuel and food for some days. They are highly respectable, and Mr. Sanders would esteem it a favor if anyone who would care to help the old people would call on him, or phone him at once. The stove the couple have been using is said to be the smallest in the city, and is a mere toy. The man has been suffering from rheumatism, and was found in a pitiable state of cold and want today.