

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 23

Street Lighting Rates

We have considered the correspondence with the T. E. L. Co. regarding the Hydro-Electric Commission closed, but the company returns once more, and we shall have to request for the last time, to a reiteration of what has already been copiously dealt with. We believe that the company would have done well to observe the true which was established a year or two ago on such controversies, but it has not been the hydro which broke it.

We feel sure that every contention of the company regarding rates only served to remind the public that they are now paying only one-fourth what they paid before the hydro system was established. More than this, if the company is correct in its statements about the amazingly cheap rates at which it can now sell power, what justification does it offer for the extortionate rates previously charged, any reduction of which it was asserted would ruin the company? There appears to be a hope that a discussion of the hydro rates might elicit some information which naturally the hydro commissioners cannot and will not divulge for the benefit of competitors, but we think the facts as known from official reports are sufficient to go upon.

It is a matter of regret, after the acknowledgment of their desire to throw light on the facts, that the company seeks to emphasize the half-truths contained in the letter to which we have already replied. The present letter, published elsewhere, indicates that to suppose the company had made a mistake about these things would be too charitable a view to take. What we took exception to and pointed out on a previous occasion was that the information which the company stated had been obtained from a hydro report was used without the qualifications accompanying such information in the report. Without these qualifications the information referred to gives quite a different meaning.

An example of this is made clear by the present letter in which it is stated that "the rate per K.W. Hr. as stated in the annual report and is not restricted to any part of a year." Now the column in the hydro report in which the rate in dispute appears is headed "rate of 1915," and the comparative column was also marked "same period 1914." Comment is superfluous. To wriggle still further on this point can serve no good object, and can only discredit the company.

It is suggested that we consult an expert to advise us on the comparative capital cost of street and residence lighting. The company, however, carefully limits the suggested consultation to a hypothetical question. We have no doubt that a clever expert can prove most things theoretically, but we have to deal with facts, something far more solid when real, than theory. Our statement was that the capital cost of supplying the street lamps in Toronto was fifty per cent. greater than the cost of supplying the same demand for residences.

In support of, and as justification of, the theoretical contention as to capital cost the company states that poles used for house lighting as well as street lighting should not be charged against street lighting. Anything more unfair and unbusinesslike it is hard to imagine, but when it is realized that originally the main object for which the hydro was started in Toronto was for civic purposes the company's statement becomes ridiculous. Again, in many streets the hydro wires were provided for street lighting when there was no other business, or at best, insufficient business to justify the outlay.

No doubt there are many scientific ways of calculating what proportion of the charges should be debited to the different classes of service given from one pole line which includes residence, power, commercial and street lighting, or civic street railway, but if only one-half of the cost of the poles is charged against street lighting it would be getting off very easily.

As we pointed out before, street

lighting when compared with residence service is handicapped in the matter of capital cost by the extra fifty per cent. This handicap is increased also by such charges as the cost of nightly patrolling the lamps and providing free lamp renewals. On the other hand there are admittedly some charges which are applicable to private services and not to street lighting, but that these are amply covered by the increased rate charged for residence service is obvious to anyone who knows that the rate per K. W. Hr. obtained from the residence service in Toronto last year was practically three times the rate obtained from street lighting after deducting from the latter the charge made by the T. E. L. Company to their customers for free lamps.

That these arguments have convinced the company of the unreasonableness of its position is shown by the change of ground. The company now seeks to compare two dissimilar services—power and lighting. It is a well-known fact that electric supply undertakings, whether publicly or privately owned, charge a rate for lighting largely in excess of that for power. Take, for example, Montreal, which is the nearest instance of private ownership on a large scale. We have authoritatively advised that the rates in force last year (and we have heard of no reduction since) were for commercial power: \$80 to \$100 per horse power per year; street lighting, \$72.70 for one size of luminous are lamp, and \$63.15 for a smaller size of the same class of lamp. Now the demand of the larger size of these is 650 watts, or about three-quarters of a horse power, and for the smaller lamp about half a horse power. On this basis, therefore, the charge for street lighting is about \$99 to \$130 per horse power as against \$80 to \$100 for power.

This shows that the latest argument of the T. E. L. Company is absolutely unsound, and we are forced to the conclusion that it is trumped up for the purpose of this discussion.

The last contention in the company's letter is on a par with the rest. It asserts that the hydro charges to the city are a large part of the reason for the present rates which it alleges are "increasing by leaps and bounds." The fact is that in 1910, before the hydro started, street lighting was over three per cent. of the total city taxes, but last year this percentage was about 2.5 per cent. and that is after excluding the special war tax.

This expenditure gives us 43,000 lamps in 1915 as against 3000 in 1910, the present system, while consisting of smaller lamps, giving a far better and more even distribution of lighting, as well as greater reliability. The T. E. L. Company should be glad that it is paying less for its street lighting in taxes than it did six years ago.

Public Safety in Toronto

The Ontario Safety League is now well into the third year of service and usefulness in Toronto. The educational work being done by the league is bearing excellent fruit and the executive committee and officials are to be congratulated upon the manner in which the campaign has been conducted. It would probably be advisable at this time that an effort be made to spread the propaganda throughout the province, particularly in the larger centres.

During 1915, an enormous amount of safety literature was distributed and the large reduction in the violent death rate must be attributed, in part, to the activities of the league. The work done in the schools of the city has proven the most important part of the safety campaign, and the league has been well advised to devote the major portion of its time to the education of the rising generation. Each week a safety bulletin is sent to the various class-rooms, so that the pupils have a constant reminder of the need for caution. The subject matter of these bulletins is changed from week to week and the scholars learn to think of safety from all angles.

It is expected that the league will enlarge the scope of the school campaign for 1916 and the officials hope to arrange for the "safety patrol" idea among our school children. This would mean that certain older pupils in each school would be appointed "safety scouts" to look after the younger children on the streets. This idea has been most successful across the border and should be effective here.

The most striking testimony to the success of the league is the fact that the violent deaths in Toronto have decreased from 275 in 1912, and 291 in 1913, to 191 in 1915. The citizens are being taught to look alive.

Street Lighting Rates

Editor World: Your editorial of the 16th inst. reminded us that we for the courtesy extended in publishing our letter, but as we were not at all certain that you would do so, we the fact. We now desire to express our appreciation of your courtesy, both in past favors and in anticipation of your publishing this letter.

In reply to your further remarks, please be advised that it is only the facts we desire to throw light on, and we are quite satisfied to rest our case before any competent tribunal. We do not wish to becloud the issue with trivialities as to whether the hydro report was published in June or August; the fact is that it was an official published report. Another fact is that it states that the new rate for street lighting, which is the present rate of \$5 per lamp per kilowatt hour for electric energy. Another fact is that the rate per kilowatt hour as quoted in the annual report is not restricted to any part of a year. Your editorial contends that the capital cost of street lighting is



"Now, dot'll be about all from you, young feller."

A Line o' Cheer Each Day o' the Year

By John Kendrick Bangs.

THE SURE HERITAGE.

(Copyright, 1915.)

THERE'S smarter folks no doubt than I. And Fortune doesn't smile on me. In fact she seems to pass me by. As if I'd never chance to be.

Yet what I have in pleasant things. All other folks are welcome to. And while I have no golden wings. To fly on as some others do. I've quite convinced myself Who runs along with smiling face. Will come into a legacy Of daily light, and love, and grace.

WILLS PROBATED

Arthur Pearson, former superintendent of the United States Fidelity and Guarantee Co., who died in Toronto Dec. 30 last, left an estate of \$5442. His daughter, Mrs. E. S. Furst of Cedar Springs, Pa., gets the income from the estate, and at her death the estate is to be divided among her children. Several relatives were given keepakes.

F. H. Cragg, who died in Toronto Feb. 13, left an estate of \$12,738. His widow, Mrs. Emma L. Cragg, is the sole beneficiary.

An estate of \$5653 was left by Edward E. Stratton, who died at Holyoke, Mass., May 21, 1914. Edward A. Stevens of Westfield, Mass., and Mrs. Addie Johnson of Belleville, N.Y., uncle and aunt respectively of Stratton, will share equally in the estate.

An estate consisting of an equity of \$3744 in 564 College street; household goods, and a small sum in the bank, made up by Luigi Zupo, who died in Toronto September last. His widow will get one-third of the estate. The remainder of the estate is to be divided between the children, Dominico, Carmine and Filomena.

Isabella S. Miller, who died March 14, left an estate of \$648. Isabella Jane, Margaret and John Miller will share equally in the estate.

An estate of \$950 was left by John Killen, who died in Toronto May 27. His widow, Annie Killen, gets the entire estate.

THE TORONTO ELECTRIC LIGHT CO., LTD.
BRITISH MAIL CLOSING.

The next British and foreign mail (via England) will close at the central postoffice at 8 a.m. Friday, March 24, with a supplementary at 10 a.m. same date.

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GETTING MAD.

INSPIRATION CLUB

Extracts From a Soldier's Letter.

Y OUR letter was waiting for me when I arrived here (at the base), and I have your letter and the photo and a bath and a real bed all at once seems most too good to be true. Surely sometimes the gods are good. Was given my commission today, too, teach—so this must be my lucky day.
I expect to turn into a tea-caddy pretty soon. I have been with the English troops lately and they drink tea every fifteen minutes; but it is either tea or water, and water is so liable to rust your stomach.
One of the chaps came in to supper last night just before I left for here and asked the cook what there was for supper. He said: "I hope it's not that d—n roast chicken and dry champagne again. It gets so monotonous. To appreciate the point of this it is necessary to live on bully beef and mulligan for a few weeks. But it must be healthy because I have put on about ten pounds' weight in the past month and a half. I know your good wishes with the boys out here, and it sure helps—because, leaving all joking aside, it is living on the mess and there isn't much romance.... Years. And to know there is someone back in a decent clean country thinking about them and wishing them well helps a lot.
Last night was a beautiful night, and at 3 o'clock the moon was full. We were coming thru Calais, and some one of the sentries on the line was singing. He had a beautiful voice, and today I heard the song in the mess and will send you a copy. It may be an old song, but the accompaniment is swell, and I like the sentiment—do you?
Your message to the little corporal will be delivered when I go up the line, probably tomorrow. Am sending you a snap in this.
"Somewhere a Voice is Calling" is the title of the song.

The Grouch.

I KNOW a fellow, who ordinarily is one of the finest chaps in the world. But he has a colossal falling.
Something goes wrong—his personal comfort or his work is interfered with, and naturally he becomes aggravated and pretty nasty to anyone with whom he happens to come in contact about this time.
"Then," you ask, "afterward he is sorry?"
Not a bit of it! He nurses that aggravation until it becomes a sulk, nurses the sulk until it grows into a grouch, and carries that around with him for the remainder of the day.
His wife has to suffer. He generally finds her at least partially responsible for his ugly feelings. His disagreements and friends suffer; and when he meets strangers he is hurt indefinitely by creating a bad impression.

What satisfaction he gets from this attitude must be meagre. Perhaps he thinks he over-humans a knock in the return for the little hurt done him, so he retaliates by hurting his sympathetic wife and long-suffering friends. Eventually of course this all hurts himself—alone. It lessens everyone's opinion of him; makes them pity him, which is intolerable.
And really, I think he must have a kind of rankling sore in his conscience the time. Such things are ingrowing instead of as popularly supposed—the reverse.

Canadian Eyes

IMMORTAL eyes:
Cool as the cold Saskatchewan's stream,
Blue-gray as cold Saskatchewan skies,
Thou art the symbol of a dream
I dreamed last night.
From their bright face their radio-glow
Seemed like the flash of a midnight sun.
So, there reflected, northward lo,
I saw a miracle begun.
The gleam, and the still, still voice of the snow.
The blue of the Arctic, which cannot fade—
Blended with gray of the barren lands
(Emblems of truth cool and unfeared).

And Aurora's glitter
And freezing stars
Created thine eyes, Canadian maid.
Immortal Eyes.

Coined and "Conned."

"BEEHIVE" steins the froth as it glides
Along the greasy-gue
It slides
On prohibition's watery tides.
What will the thirsty person do—
As he sees his beer on the Greasy-Gue?
He'll moan:
"I wish they'd leave my beer alone!"
He'll brood:
"I'll fend!"
These "Pros" and Temperance men so rude,
If they take my beer when I'm Fatty-Gued.

There may be an "idea" in this effusion, like—but I don't know about it!
Ed.

Will the young lady who accused the editor of being a "big fat man," please apologize? The editor of this inspiration Club is as good-natured as possible—but he is far from being unduly "stout."

The Child.

THE RACE'S ONLY HOPE.

W HY not see that every child that is born has a chance to get started right in "the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness"? Let none waste for food or education until self-support. All have the chance of a real technical school, where in time they would naturally go to the thing they liked to do best, and their proficiency in it would soon pay back to the state the capital invested in their training.
This should pay better than penning mothers, for the mere fact of being a mother is no guarantee that a woman is wise.

Canadian:
Your other idea is of socialistic tendency—not practical. It may come with the millennium.

"One Who Has Suffered":
We publish nothing that is unaccompanied by the signature of the contributor.—Ed.

In the Manner of Elbert Hubbard.

AM the germ of an idea—
I find myself in bodies frail and small—and in some that are strong, like eagles of ideas.
I am the germ of an idea.
I breed a countless myriad of ideas. But sometimes one idea predominates, and I become a star-like canvas, a symphony, a fine philanthropy, or a war!
When these are effected thru the submission of some parts of a man's thinking machine, and the elevation of another part—
I am called Genius.
Or,
I am the germ of an idea—
I am the germ of an idea.
This is the song of the idea.
I grow. I grow.
I conquer with my inimitable strength. I recruit from the ranks of the humble and the mighty.
I raise my hand like Thor—within the hills.
And men tremble.
I am the germ of an idea.
I am a model, and I am immoral—for I create my own standard.
I have called men to speak truth, without shame-faces and some to whisper without egotism. "I am genius," exclaiming.
I am the germ of an idea—
I am an inspiration. Editor.

Blinded With Star Dust.

Women whose only pursuit is house-keeping, and who work conscientiously at it from day to day, in working hours who wisely present the large suggestion, system and management, should study the modern sense. Then, if they gain a little time, spend it in the open air or at least vary their pursuit.
There are some women tied down to earth by poverty and too large families, who have inherited the large suggestion. Their work is endless. Better for them to leave some of that drudgery undone, to open the doors of the home and let the fresh air and sun in there are any—without the baby, drinking in deep cheaters of nature's tonic, turning home refreshed, and to a refreshing home.

"Hill's one of Arnold Bennett's books. 'There were three women in the place, one a woman, a woman, a young woman, and a girl, and in theory the preoccupation of them all was this business of domesticity. It was, of course, ridiculous."
"One of the first things to remember in 'keeping house' systematically should be to make up a schedule, wherein each piece of work is to be accomplished should be 'timed,' and then have every day's summary adhere to as nearly as possible. Then take the work in perspective—forget details—which women are prone to exaggerate, and pounce on the heaviest tasks in no less hurried a way."

Harmony.

A chord.
A mystic chord—she struck:
Its pure and fitting harmony
Awoke the very soul of me;
So thrilled my heart
And "knewed" my brain
That looking up I seemed to see
A wondrous vista, new to me.
Four notes!
It must have been the way
She sang them.
Like a flash of day
It seemed full pent with super-sense
And on their way
The long vibrations paused to say
The theme is here, compose thy lay!

Is It Here Now.

"There was in the air.
"That wild exultation in the air
Which makes the passers in the city street
"Congratulate each other as they meet."
Longfellow in his Tales of a Wayside Inn. (Student's tale) This is above quotation—descriptive of a September morning.
It seems to apply also to spring's coming.

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