

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XVI.

CHATHAM ONT. TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1907.

NO. 73

THE RELIABLE  
STORE

Thomas Stone & Son

THE RELIABLE  
STORE

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We have been in the Wall Paper business now for two years, and by gradually increasing our stock as the trade demanded, we have brought our stock up to that state of perfection required by such a store as this.

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Our designs are exclusively confined to us.

**WE WILL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU THROUGH!**

**THOMAS STONE & SON.**

Carpets and Wall Papers

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Choice Goods at 10c, 12c,  
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Not more than Six Pieces sold to one person.

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## The City Council Approves Of Bowyer's Poll Tax Bill

More Help Asked For Isolation Hospital—New Market  
Regulations—Humane Officer Gets \$25.—New  
Dynamo Left Over

All of the aldermen were present at last night's meeting with the exception of Ald. George Megnell. The meeting was quite business-like and a large number of important matters were considered.

The secretary of the Municipalities committee in the Legislature, wrote asking Chatham's views with regard to the Bill introduced by P. H. Bowyer, M. P. P., in which Mr. Bowyer proposes to do away with the obnoxious poll tax.

Mayor Stone stated that he for one was heartily in accord with Mr. Bowyer in this movement. The poll tax was annually causing a great deal more trouble than it was worth in revenue to the city.

etc., are deducted, the city only derives a revenue of a few hundred dollars out of the poll tax.

Medical Health Officer Hall and Dr. Charteris, of the Board of Health, appeared before the Council asking that body on behalf of the Board of Health, that something be done to better conditions at the local Isolation Hospital. They set forth the claim that the hospital as it is at the present time, will not accommodate two forms of contagious disease at one time. They said that it could be properly fixed up for about \$1,500 or \$1,700.

Mayor Stone said that though the expenditure might be needful, the city at present is facing very large expenses, and a big tax rate. The Board of Health had already almost exhausted their estimates of former years. He had been given to understand last year, that when the city purchased the Isolation Hospital property, it would only cost a few additional hundred dollars to fit it up in proper shape.

The matter was finally referred to the Finance committee.

Ald. Potter, of the Property committee, brought in a report making the following recommendations:

1. That the new market building be insured for \$6,000 in the Equity, Unity, London and Lancaster, Northern British and the Scottish Union fire insurance companies.

2. That the new market building be heated by the Chatham Steam Heating Company, and that the heating be paid for by the tenants.

3. That the tenants be prohibited from using stoves in the market building.

4. That the renting of rooms in the building be left in the hands of the Property committee with power.

5. That the market scales by-law be amended to read that the caretaker receive the fees from the scales up to the sum of \$480, instead of receiving a salary of \$450, and that the present caretaker be retained.

6. That one new dynamo be placed in the municipal electric light station, and that one-half of the purchase price be paid out of the general fund this year. The new dynamo will operate 60 lights of 10 ampere capacity.

All of the clauses of this report were adopted with the exception of the sixth, which deals with the new dynamo. Ald. Kerr asked that this clause be left over till a subsequent meeting, as he intends to bring in a report on the municipal electric lighting plant to show that it is a losing proposition to the city, and that more money could be saved if the lighting of the city were contracted for.

The expenses of the cut-off department on their recent trip to Toronto amounted to \$40. This was ordered paid.

The Board of Works pay sheets for the past two weeks amounted to \$69.48 and \$82.69 respectively. A communication was received from S. B. Arnold, stating that if the market scales were sold to a private individual, there would no longer be an authentic scales in the city, at which any legal disputes might be settled.

City Engineer Jones wrote stating that through inquiry he had learned that the iron work on the Aberdeen bridge would be finished by March 30, and the woodwork would be completed by April 20.

Humane Officer McGee applied for a grant of \$25 a year from the Council, as he receives no salary for his services. On motion of Ald. Kerr and Ald. Massey, the request was granted.

A. T. Arnold applied for the position of Inspector of local improvements.—Board of Works recommended that the matter of Thomas Keyes' complaint re taxes be referred to the assessors, as the Council have no jurisdiction in the matter.—Adopted.

The Standard Bank of Canada will, in future, add interest to its Savings Bank accounts four times a year at highest current rates.



PHIL. H. BOWYER, M. P. P.

Whose Bill to Abolish Poll Tax Was  
Heartily Endorsed at Last  
Night's Council Meeting.

All of the aldermen held like opinions, and it was moved by Ald. Austin, seconded by Ald. Potter, that the Clerk be instructed to reply that this city is heartily in favor of such legislation.—Carried unanimously.  
It was shown that after the fees,

## The Ark

REMEMBER THIS

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Last Week

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...BARGAIN SALE...

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THE ARK.

See Our Window on Friday for

SATURDAY BARGAINS

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DON'T MISS THIS

CHANCE.

**H. Macaulay**

## The Natural Gas Question Is At Last, Finally Settled

Gas Company Will Purify All Gas Used For Household  
Purposes With Proper Purifiers—Price Raised  
To 27 Cents

The natural gas question, over which the Council has lost so much time in discussions, and which the Gas Co. has taken so much time in explaining, has at last been settled, and the final outcome will be that the gas will be purified for all household purposes, by the company, and the price charged will be raised to 27 cents instead of 25 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

It was the feeling of the Council last evening that the citizens wanted the gas purified by all means. This would not be done properly by the use of the famous "tin cans," and as the company were prepared to install suitable purifiers at different points through the city, it was thought that the citizens would not object to paying the two cents extra which was stipulated by the company, if in the end they would be assured that the present nauseating odor would be done away with, and the gas would be delivered in acceptable shape.

Ald. Austin brought the matter up by presenting Prof. McGill's report, the substance of which was reported in last night's Planet, viz., that the gas contained 405 grains of sulphureted hydrogen to every thousand feet. This was the finding of the analyst after four tests. He also found that the sulphur was not found in the gas in any other form except as sulphureted hydrogen. From the sentiment contained in the letter from the Government, it was impossible to say what legislation was being considered in connection with the natural gas question; in fact, it seemed that they had not yet made up their minds just what to do.

Ald. Austin then read a letter from the Gas Company, in which the company agreed to purify the gas for all household purposes, providing they were granted the privilege of charging 27 cents instead of 25, as their agreement calls for. It was pointed out that under the present arrangement for purification, the

people would be put to expense when the purifiers became fully charged with the impurities of the gas—they would have to be taken out and cleaned, causing annoyance and expense,—and in the end, even if the price were raised the two cents, the consumers would save money. Separate lines will be laid to manufacturers. It was felt that while a few might object to the raise in the rate, the majority would be pleased, for even at that rate—27 cents—it is very moderate.

A resolution was presented to the effect that the company be granted the privilege of charging the increased rate, providing they properly purify the gas for household purposes, with the proviso that if another company came into the city with gas and offered to sell it at 25 cents and still purify it, that the Chatham Gas Company reduce their price again to 25 cents. This was passed.

There was some discussion over this proviso. It was thought by some of the aldermen that it was not necessary, for if some other company came into the city with natural gas, the Chatham Gas Company would see it in their interests to hold their patronage by reducing their prices. The clause was left in the motion, however. Mr. Coats was heard on the subject, but the aldermen insisted on the disputed clause. It was stated at the meeting that there was another company ready to come to the city with natural gas, which they would offer to the citizens at a rate of 25 cents, and they would also agree to purify the gas the same as the Chatham Gas Company agrees to do.

Mr. Coats thought that the Chatham Gas Company should not be compelled to reduce the price from 27 cents until the other company had piped half the city at 25 cents.

If another company comes into the city with natural gas, the Council said that they would impose the same restrictions on them as they now do on the Chatham Gas Company.

## PRINTING HAS NOT BEEN TENDERED FOR SINCE 1899

Peculiar State of Affairs Brought Out At Last Night's  
Meeting Of The City Council—No Reason Given  
For Extraordinary Procedure

A curious state of affairs in connection with the municipal printing came to light at last night's meeting of the City Council. This was the first time since the year 1899, no competition has been asked for in the matter of civic printing. This means that for the past eight years no tenders have been opened for the work, and the printing offices that contracted for the work in that year have been holding it continuously ever since, without fear of opposition.

No other branch of city work is let in this loose manner. Every other branch of municipal work is opened to competition each year with the exception of printing, which annually absorbs a large amount of the ratepayers' money. Why matters have been allowed to drift along in this manner has never been properly explained, though at various times aldermen at the Board have been asked to bring the matter up for investigation. Inquiry about it has invariably brought forth the reply that the matter would be looked into and receive early consideration.

Many of our citizens will be surprised to learn that neither of the daily newspapers in Chatham receive a scrap of the municipal printing—they are not even given a chance to tender for the work. Further, it is understood that a certain amount of the local civic printing is done outside the city. This latter statement appears all the more peculiar by reason of the fact, that long ago, large outside concerns, hundreds of miles from Chatham,

realized the fact that they could get better satisfaction in this line of work in Chatham than they could any place else in Canada.

It may be safely stated that there is not another city in Canada which treats its newspapers as shabbily in this regard as Chatham. It may have heretofore been an oversight, but it is an oversight which should be promptly rectified. There seems to be a disposition on the part of the aldermen to keep the municipal printing away from the local newspapers. If the local newspaper offices had to depend on the printing they at present get from the municipality, their presses would be idle the year round. To the intelligent reader who takes all these facts into consideration, this condition must appear extraordinary, when everyone recognizes that the newspapers do so much for the city and these same aldermen gratis.

True, Ald. Austin did attempt to prove that because the printing was tendered for years ago, when prices were lower, the city was getting a better bargain, but his argument does not by any means hold water. Simultaneously the prices for other lines of work have advanced. All other lines of civic work are opened for competition each year. Why should printing be singled out as the one exception in which this rule is not carried out?

The matter came up last night under the head of reports. J. D. Duval, a local printer, made appli-

Continued on Page Eight.

## NOTICE!

There is not a mural decoration or wall covering known that we cannot supply.

Every fabric known for decoration we have on hand.

Our stock is the largest and best selected in Western Ontario. We are proud of our stock and want you to see it.

### BURLAP

Every shade and grade.

### SANITAS

The new oilcloth decoration

### TILES

Of all kinds.

### INGRAIN

Of every shade

### STRIPES

The daintiest that can be bought

### ROOM MOULDING

To match all paper.

Come to the store with the stock. See the newest and best the world can produce.

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Bring them in while down town. They'll enjoy seeing a first-class China Store.

Maybe you will need some new dishes while entertaining your company. Get them here.

We have a large stock of good goods at reasonable prices.

Also Knives, Forks and Spoons in silver-plated and common goods.

Come in Anyway and Have a Look!

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## GRAY'S CHINA HALL

### FOLDING

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### KODAK

Takes pictures 2 1/4 x 3 1/4. Very convenient size. Can be put in an ordinary coat pocket. Films are 40c per roll (1 doz.)

Price \$10.00

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Takes Pictures 2 1/4 x 4 1/4. A little larger and better than No. 1, but is small enough to carry in your pocket. Films are 50c doz., 25c a half-dozen

Price \$12.00.

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Makes pictures 3 1/4 x 3 1/4, and has a rapid lens and bulb release. Films are 60c per dozen, 30c per half-dozen.

Price \$15.00

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