

LET PEOPLE DECIDE ON POWER QUESTION.

That Is the Recommendation of the Special Committee to the City Council.

City Solicitor Advises That Hydro and Cataract Contracts be Placed Side by Side.

Let the people decide. That is the recommendation made to the council by the Power Committee, which for an hour and a half last night discussed the advisability of hitching up with the Hydro-Electric Commission or accepting the Cataract's guaranteed offer to supply the city with power at ten per cent. less than the lowest price quoted by the Government. While a technicality prevents the city from submitting the by-law as a plain question to the people as to which of the two offers they would favor under a provision in the Hydro-Electric act, the power by-laws may be submitted again because the form of contract was not in the hands of the municipalities when the vote was taken, in January. If the council acts on the committee's recommendation and the people reject the Hydro proposition, it will be taken as evidence that it is the desire the Cataract offer should be accepted.

Complain of Lighting Rates.

After Secretary Brennan read the letter from General Manager Hawkins announcing that the Cataract had withdrawn the clause of the offer to which the aldermen took objection, providing that the company would "furnish power for city purposes not coming into competition with the company," Alderman Jutten demanded to know how Hamilton was to know what the Government power was to cost if it did not make a contract.

"The lighting part is the serious part of it," observed Ald. Gardner. "I know a case where a man paid \$115 under the flat rate, and although he cut the quantity used to half, he pays \$179 now. My idea is that if we can get some means to protect the citizens, no matter what it is, that we should have it."

The Mayor said he had been furnished with a list showing the increases under the Cataract's new rates as compared with the old flat rate. He had the names of the parties who paid the bills, but had been requested not to make them public. This is how some of the comparisons figured out: Under old rate \$55.75, new rate \$117.78; old rate \$96.55, new rate \$204.90; old rate \$7.74, new rate \$13.25; old rate \$1.98, new rate \$4.50; old rate \$3.50, new rate \$8.00; old rate \$4.80, new rate \$22.50 and \$3.60 for one sixteen candle power light.

"What I say," declared his Worship, "is this, if the company will, when opposition is knocking at the door, attempt to raise the price of power one hundred per cent. what would it do when opposition is not knocking at the door? Is that the company we should trust ourselves to for fair treatment? I say it is not."

Would Ask Company for Relief.

Ald. Jutten—What I claim is that we have not got the Cataract's lowest offer. We have been dickering with them for a year now, and I do not like this delay.

Ald. Sweeney—What relief can we assure manufacturers and private users if we take 1,500 horse power from the Hydro-Electric?

The Mayor—We are not doing that. We agree to take 1,000 horse power. It is our option to take more if we want it. We can get 100,000 horse power if we give six months' notice.

Dealing with the editorial which appeared in the Spectator with a list of the shareholders in the Cataract, he said, "I have not a word to say against any of them. They are good, decent citizens, but the paper goes on to say that we are going to drive them out of business. The amount of power we will take is 1,000, which means about \$5,000 to the company. If that puts the city in business, the quicker the better. That would not be a fly on the wheel. As to the manufacturers, no one has heard me say a word. As far as I am concerned, I do not care a pin whether they take it or not."

Ald. Allan—Is it the city's intention to go into the incandescent lighting of private houses?

The Mayor—Undoubtedly.

Ald. Allan—Is that proposition before the council now?

The Mayor—No.

Ald. Allan—If it was I do not think you would get four men to vote for it.

Ald. Sweeney—That was not the original intention.

The Mayor—It was always my intention and I am sure that the cost will not be more than twenty-five per cent. of what the company has been charging lately.

Ald. Sweeney—We have specifications for light and power, but we have not prepared for the other at all.

Ald. Jutten—We are paying too much for house lighting to-day, and more than they are paying in Toronto. They talk about cheap power; it is all rot.

Ald. Gardner—For the private and commercial lighting, as far as I am concerned I think we are paying too much. Otherwise we would be better off with the Cataract, for we know under its offer what we are paying, and we do not under the other.

Ald. Sweeney—I think we should see the company and see what relief it is prepared to give these people. If it is holding them up it is our duty to see them.

Ald. Gardner—That is my idea.

Ald. Sweeney—I think we should do this, because I know it will be a long time before we will be able to give private users power. There is no doubt that under the old flat rate people abused the privilege.

Ald. Allan—I don't blame the company for stopping that part of it. People in many cases were burning the lights night and day.

Mayor Stewart declared that he had been assured by the manager of the Ontario Pipe Line Company that in one case where the Cataract was charging \$25 for certain lighting it could be done for \$3 by gas. Surely electricity was produced cheaper than gas. If the city owned its own plant it could make a big display with electricity on the main streets, as was done in many cities across the border. There was no doubt about the Commission having three plans prepared for the route of the transmission lines, and notwithstanding what some of the papers said about this being

Ald. Allan—I don't know anything about Toronto.

The Mayor—They are men with good common sense.

Ald. Allan—And just as likely to make mistakes as we are. I am looking at this from the standpoint of Hamilton. They had no such offer as we have to turn down. It is only a question of which is best for the city of Hamilton. I am not a Cataract man, more than any sitting around this board. I have not one cent invested in the Cataract, and no friends interested in it. If the Government would guarantee this I would say accept.

The Mayor—They are guaranteeing it.

Ald. Allan—They are not.

The Mayor—We have their solemn promise that if the line cannot be built so that we will get power for \$17.50 it will not be built.

Ald. Allan—If it goes on and costs more we have to pay it. If theenders do not work, as is very often the case in city works, we have to pay it.

The Mayor—I will stake my reputation to-night that the installing of the underground system can be done for less than \$200,000, and the people voted \$225,000.

Ald. Allan—I refer to the power line.

The Mayor—Our power line will never cost us more than \$4.

Ald. Allan—Sothman says it is hardly worth while building a line for 60,000 volts. They want a line for 100,000 volts, and your contract says that you must put more money to pay.

The Mayor—If Hamilton takes 1,000 horse power and never takes any more, how much is it going to suffer?

Ald. Allan—Is it worth while suffering anything?

Ald. Sweeney—What are we going to gain by it?

The Mayor—We will have our own lighting and pumps.

Ald. Sweeney—Can we not do it as cheap under the other?

The Mayor's reply to this was a repetition of statements he made before the election of money the city would save doing its own pumping and lighting, as contrasted with the first offer of the Cataract.

Ald. Allan—That is what we were talking about before the by-law was passed.

Ald. Sweeney—While discussing this do you think it would be advisable to see the Cataract regarding private lighting.

Ald. Gardner—Yes, I do.

Ald. Sweeney—Should we write them or send a committee?

Ald. Gardner—I think a committee.

The Mayor—Well, sir, this is a great scheme, going after the Cataract again. Ald. Jutten—I think we have waited long enough.

Ald. Sweeney—This is something new.

Ald. Jutten—We come up here night after night and do nothing. This board is the laughing stock of the country.

The Mayor—That is it.

Ald. Jutten—Why don't you get some backbone?

The Mayor—Well, we will let the lighting go and deal with the rest. Let them trust to luck after we get done with the rest of it.

Ald. Sweeney—What do you want to do with this proposition?

Voted This Down.

Ald. Allan—To bring it before the committee, I will move that the secretary write to the Cataract Company and ask what relief it is prepared to give private consumers in connection with this matter.

The Mayor—We are discussing it in connection with this.

The Mayor—It is a wonder that you never thought of ringing it in before.

Ald. Allan—I think it is one of the things that will bear looking into.

Ald. Gardner—I don't care where the relief comes from. If we can get it from the Hydro let us take it.

The Mayor—We can go into that later on.

Ald. Gardner—I second Ald. Allan's motion.

The Mayor—I move in amendment that we recommend the Council that a contract be made with the Hydro-Electric Commission.

Ald. Sweeney—We have not reached that yet.

The Mayor—The other is out of order. I ask your ruling.

Ald. Sweeney—I think it is quite in order.

The Mayor—I take exception to your ruling.

Ald. Sweeney—I will leave it to the members of the committee.

Ald. Clark—Are you correctly reported, Mr. Waddell, when you say that this proposition cannot go to the people? The papers report you and Mr. Kent as saying so.

Mr. Waddell said that the municipal act said such by-laws could be submitted at any time to the city council, and at any time he thought it would be open to question and a ratepayer might restrain the Council from doing it.

Ald. Allan wanted to know how Stratford was submitting the by-law again and was informed that this was being done under the special provision, making for submitting the power by-laws again.

Ald. Allan's motion to have the secretary write the Cataract regarding what relief it would give private consumers in connection with its offer to the city was defeated on a division of four to three, only the mover and second voting for it and the Mayor, Ald. Jutten, Bailey and Clark against it. Ald. McLaren, the only other member of the committee is out of the city.

After the division Ald. Clark said that if it was possible to do it legally, he would like to see the by-law go to the people, and was prepared to move to that effect.

Mr. Waddell again explained that if it were a money by-law it could be submitted. If it was just a plain question it would be open to a ratepayer to issue an injunction.

The Mayor—If the Hydro-Electric does not go through then we have to fall back on the \$16 offer of the Cataract.

Ald. Clark—We would have to fall back on them anyway in that event.

Ald. Jutten, seconded by the Mayor, moved that the committee recommend to the Council that a contract be entered into with the Hydro Commission.

Can Submit By-Law Again.

Ald. Allan followed up his question as to the law under which Stratford was submitting its by-law again, and the solicitor explained that the municipalities had the right to submit the form of contract if they wished a verdict on it, because the contract was not in the hands of the municipalities last January, when the vote was taken. "But the people here have already given their assent," said the solicitor.

"Not on this," retorted Ald. Clark, who said that this was shown by the fact that neither Mayor nor solicitor was aware of the clause providing for a forty-year contract. "There have been developments," he added.

"I admit that," he added. "We have had more light."

"The people did not vote on this," replied Ald. Clark.

"That is the ratepayers' funeral," said His Worship.

"We should not make the people suffer," answered Ald. Clark.

"I am satisfied that the people are safer in the hands of a government than a private corporation," chipped in Ald. Jutten.

Ald. Clark, seconded by Ald. Gardner, moved in amendment to Ald. Jutten's motion that the Council be recommended to submit a by-law to the people so that they might give a verdict on the contract.

"Supposing you do that, and the people say not to take it from the commission. You go back to the Cataract, and if they say they want \$25 a horse power, where are you at?"

A written offer, Mr. Waddell pointed out, was very much different from a contract, and some of the things in the offer placed in a contract might not be consented to by the company nor the city. He thought the Cataract and the Hydro contracts should be side by side.

"Certainly," said Ald. Clark. "The contracts should be side by side, and the people would be better able to decide than before."

"What you want," said the solicitor, "is to submit this form of contract?"

"Yes," said Ald. Clark. "The people will know what they are voting on then. They don't know before. The vote I give now will not bind me in the Council."

"Nor me, either," said Ald. Gardner. "I am not antagonistic to the Hydro."

The Mayor, Ald. Jutten and Bailey voted against the amendment, and Ald. Clark, Gardner and Allan voted for it.

"Carried," said Chairman Sweeney.

Does Your Back Ache?

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EASTERN CANADA.

Bacteriology Revolutionizing the Science of Agriculture.

(Special Despatch to the Times.)

Ottawa, Ont., May 27.—The Agricultural Committee of the Commons this morning heard Prof. J. W. Robertson, head of the MacDonald Agricultural College, at St. Ann's, Que., and accepted an invitation to visit the institution on June 13. He stated that bacteriology, which had revolutionized the science of medicine, was now doing the same thing for agriculture. This was a special branch, in which the collection and the laboratories on the continent for bacteriological studies.

He declared that in Eastern Canada the rural population had deteriorated in the last twenty or thirty years, owing to the more adventurous and energetic elements being drawn off, while the rest of Canada had been occupied it had not been developed. Prof. Robertson claimed that Eastern Canada had greater potentialities than the west, owing to its superior capacity for growing trees.

Mr. A. Lavergne's Resignation.

Before the orders of the day were called the Speaker announced that he had received the resignation of Mr. Armand Lavergne as member for Montmagny, and had issued his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to issue the writ for an election to fill the vacancy.

Replying to Mr. Boyce, Hon. Mr. Graham said strong representations had been made to the Government to place further orders for steel rails with the Algoma Steel Company, in order to insure the continuance of the operation of the steel rail plant at Sault Ste. Marie, which had been in operation since 1892, but, owing to the lack of money caused by the withholding of the appropriations it had been impossible to consider the matter.

Hon. Mr. Fielding informed Mr. Macdonnell that the expectation of the Government to proceed with the insurance bill as soon as satisfactory progress was made with the more urgent work of obtaining appropriations for carrying on the public service.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux told Mr. Armstrong that the Secretary of the Board of Trade, Montreal, had submitted twenty-eight cases of alleged delay in the transmission of mail matter, but in nineteen of these cases the complaints had not been substantiated. The remainder had been in fault, or the delay had been due to causes for which the postoffice could not be held responsible.

Mr. Lewis' Bills.

Mr. Lewis urged the Government to take over the following bills standing in his name: A bill providing that immigrants be searched and knives, revolvers and other dangerous weapons taken from them, a bill increasing penalties for assaults on women and children, a bill to make homicide while hunting a penal offence, and a bill to protect the public against motor car accidents.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said there were enough Government bills on the order paper already, and they could not even get into supply. (Laughter.)

Sir Frederick's Reply.

Sir Frederick Borden, alluding to Mr. Foster's concluding suggestion that he ought to resign, doubted very much whether the member for North Toronto was fitted to act as censor of the public morals of Canada. He was very fertile in seeking wrongdoings in others; he seemed to have doubts even about the members of his own party, as some of them had of him. This was certainly the case a few years ago, when the leader of his own party designated him among "the nest of traitors."

"The hon. gentleman," he went on, "seems to be suspicious; but, Mr. Speaker, assuming that every word he has said to-day is true, and scarcely a word of it is true in its application, I ask this House to consider if at its worst it is to be compared for one moment to the position of a man who succeeds in placing himself in a position of trust, and then succeeds in placing himself in another position connected with another company, and then is engaged in the delightful occupation of selling out of one company of which he himself is a director to make a man in another company, taking the commission which goes out of the hard-earned savings of the people of this country, in connection with one of the insurance companies, and putting it in his own pocket." (Liberal cheers.)

Mr. Foster Denies It.

Mr. Foster—All of which is untrue. Sir Frederick Borden—It was proven.

LONG TERM FOR DESERTER.

Artilleryman Sentenced to Six Months' Hard Labor at Kingston.

Kingston, May 27.—Soldiers who desert from the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery are severely dealt with. Six months at hard labor was the sentence given to-day to Driver Foote. He was located at Stratford after a year's absence. Two other deserters await sentence.

Valuable Mixture to Be Prepared at Home

GOOD SPRING MEDICINE

For a good spring tonic, get from your druggist:

One ounce Fluid Extract Doan's Kidney Pills.

One ounce Compound Sarsaparilla.

Four ounces Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla.

Mix, shake well, and take in teaspoonful doses, after meals and at bedtime.

The formula is given by a prominent physician, and is said to have remarkable results in ridding the blood of the uric acid and poisonous waste matter which while in the blood is likely to be cleared by the action of the kidneys, and enables the kidneys to filter these poisons from the blood, restoring the healthy, necessary to perfect health.

If you feel that you need a tonic, prepare a bottle and try it anyway, for being so highly recommended it can bring nothing but good results.

MR. FOSTER SHOWN UP.

He Tries to Make a Point Against Minister Borden.

Sir Frederick Gives Him a Nice Dressing Down.

Obstructionists Discuss the Cold Storage Question.

Ottawa, May 27.—Mr. Foster again came before the civil servants and their salaries to-day, with a grievance connected with cold-storage at St. John, New Brunswick, which he endeavored to magnify into a scandal reflecting upon Sir Frederick Borden.

The indictment which Mr. Foster attempted to draw against the Minister of Militia was based on the most flimsy grounds. A pork-packer named Williams had applied for the Government bonus to enable him to start a cold-storage establishment at St. John, but, having had his application declined, he gave vent to his disappointment by starting a campaign of abuse against the Minister of Militia, who, he wrongly assumed, was financially interested in the New Brunswick Cold-storage Company.

The correspondence between Williams and the Department of Agriculture having passed into his hands, Mr. Foster found one or two sentences which to his mind suggested that Sir Frederick Borden had obtained the bonus on behalf of a company with which he was connected, and on this he founded an attack upon the Minister of Militia, who, he contended, had abused his position as a Minister. Sir Frederick Borden, in a spirited and convincing speech, effectually disposed of the bogey which Mr. Foster had raised, and severely scored the member for North Toronto. He declared that the statements made by Mr. Foster, tending to reflect upon him, were absolutely without foundation. He did not own a dollar of stock in the company which had obtained the subsidy, and he had received no benefit whatever from it, nor did he expect any. The only interest he had in the cold-storage enterprise at St. John was that of a public man anxious to see the fruit-growers in his own district enjoy the benefits of cold-storage.

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