

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL.

AGAIN THE HYDRO QUESTION.

To the Citizens of St. John—
When you read what a man writes, or when you listen to what he says, consider the viewpoint. When I wrote my first letter on Musquash Power, various viewpoints were ascribed to me—among others that I was "in the pay of the N. B. Power Company." Now consider the actual viewpoint. I write from the standpoint of a taxpayer of St. John—I am the Vice-President of a Company that pays annually into the City Treasury about \$12,000.00, and my individual share of this is about \$2,000.00 annually; moreover, I was "turned down," about a year ago, when I applied to the N. B. Power Company for a job, which was then open; I do not own a single share of N. B. Power Company stock and have no interest, and evidently no influence, either direct or indirect, with that Company.

We gain nothing by distorting the truth, in the problem before us, and yet it is most obvious to some, who should be "moulders of public opinion" for the general good of the community, are doing this very thing.

I write, as an engineer and business man, in the interests of the taxpayer, and without fear or favor of any party, political or otherwise, or from any group of individuals who may "have an axe to grind."

A general and unified review of the hydro question has not yet been given to the public. Messrs. Mitchell's letter (Telegraph, March 10) is good as far as it goes, but much is omitted and no cogent answer is taken of the fact that we have an established distribution plant already in the city—and we must consider that whether we like it or not. Then Messrs. Kirby and Phillips report (Globe, March 27) is excellent, as far as it goes, but it does not cover several phases of the question that must be considered, and to their estimate of \$900,000.00 for a municipal plant we must add another \$900,000.00—for if we build a municipal plant I take it we automatically put the N. B. Power Company out of business. This company now pays the city over \$44,000.00 per year in taxes, and this amount is five per cent. interest on \$900,000.00, and that money, if we forego it, has got to come from somewhere.

Let us get to the bottom of facts in this matter of hydro power, before we commit any irretrievable mistakes. (Unfortunately there are many facts that we should have before us now, but it will be impossible to get them for several years.)

The following guarantees must be given, and the following questions answered decisively, before we can come to a final decision on how best to distribute Musquash power:

Will the N. B. Power Commission guarantee to deliver now 1,500 h. p. every day of the year? (This is the amount at present needed for our lighting, power and street railway.)

Will the N. B. Power Commission guarantee to deliver an increasing amount, up to 3,500 h. p. (say at the end of ten years) every day of the year? (This is the probable growth of load in St. John, even if this growth is only one-half that of Ontario loads, according to Messrs. Mitchell's letter, and it is also about the growth assumed in my letter of March 3.)

Will the city of St. John do without an Electric Street Railway?

Will they be willing to buy the present Street Railway from the N. B. Power Company at a present value set by a Board of Appraisers? (If the city does this, the cost of the Street Railway must be added to the cost of the Municipal Plant, and we lose \$44,000.00 annually in taxes.)

Assume that the absolutely necessary guarantees, as cited above, have been made (although I regret to say they have not been forthcoming from the proper authorities)—we are reduced to three alternatives, as follows:

First—A Municipal Plant without steam auxiliary and without Street Railway. In this case we automatically put the N. B. Power Company out of business; we have our power and lighting rates much below those at present charged, we do without a Street Railway, and we forego the use of both power and lighting (for periods not stated) and when the shutdowns occur "they are borne by the customers with fortitude" (according to Messrs. Mitchell's letter). We also run the risk of having the plant managed like the Carleton ferry, only more so, for it is a larger proposition and there are more ways of wasting the people's money.

Second—Municipal Plant with Steam Auxiliary and Street Railway. In this the cheapest way out for the Municipality is to buy out the N. B. Power Company, not at any ridiculous figure but at a "second-hand" valuation, fixed by competent appraisers, in which the depreciation of the Power Company's plant, the need for improvement, etc., are figured in the price. In this I would not go as far as Mr. Flood and "pay a large half way" between what they (the Power Company) claim it is worth, and what it is actually worth to us, but I would pay only what it is worth to the city, and nothing more. In this case we get continuous service, and have a Street Railway, but also run the same risks as to management cited in the first case, and in either of these cases we ourselves pay the taxes formerly paid by the Power Company.

Third—The N. B. Power Company to distribute the Musquash Power. Now in this phase of the question I was before misunderstood, so I will try to make myself plain enough now. I believe, and many others share the same belief, that in the past the N. B. Power Company has been managed with a very short-sighted policy, that they have "watered" their stock, that they have antagonized the public, and have done all kinds of things that they should not have done. Well, now we are in a position to make them "toe the scratch," cut them down to the lowest interest on the present-day valuation of their investment, and let them make out as best they can while suffering for their past sins.

But the question we must put to ourselves is this: Is the community going to gain anything by forcing them out of business, and practically confiscating and wasting what is, after all, a large investment that need not be thrown away? It is partly true that the citizen now "holds the whip hand," but he must consider the question of the Street Railway, not to mention the question of the Gas plant, and, solely in his own interests, he must refrain from a spirit of vindictiveness, by which he stands rather to lose than to gain.

Maritime Religious Education Notes

Good Work Reported Throughout the Provinces Among the Boys and Girls.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Boys' Work Board of the Religious Education Council was held recently at Halifax. The meeting was very largely attended by a very much interested group of laymen and clergymen, several attending from outside points.

Mr. A. B. Wiswell was elected president. Mr. W. H. Hayes, vice-president. Plans were discussed for the annual Boys' Camp at Big Cove, and the holding of a Cape Breton Camp for the first time.

A policy for the year was outlined, providing for a more effective covering of the field.

At Truro on Friday evening last a most successful "Father and Son" Banquet was held in the First Presbyterian Church. All the arrangements were made by a committee of the boys from the two groups. Great credit is due these boys for the efficient way they carried out the whole affair.

Rev. W. S. Wright of Parraboro, N. B., was a visitor to the Maritime Office this week. He reports a splendid interest by the boys in Tuxis work.

Rev. Wm. Lawson of Little River, reports a newly organized Trail Ranger Camp in his church under the leadership of Mr. F. E. Godwin.

The meetings of the Executive Committee held this week in St. John were attended by a very representative group from the various sections of the Maritime Provinces. The reports presented showed a steady growth in all departments of work.

One could not help but be impressed with the fact that Religious Education is becoming a real factor in the Church life of the Maritime Provinces and is filling a great need in church activity.

A very great interest is being shown by a large number of groups in connection with the National Athletic Meet, to be held April 22-29 next.

Every Trail Rangers' Camp and Tuxis Scout club is, a duly registered group is eligible to compete in the group.

The Girls' Work Secretary of the M.R.E.C. has just completed a trip through the Annapolis Valley from which several interesting items are gleaned concerning new developments of the C.G.I.T. program in that section of Nova Scotia. During Miss Allison's visit the Intermediate C.G.I.T. Group at Digby entertained their mothers at a banquet and carried through a public meeting of demonstration of the programme in a splendid manner.

Bridgetown has just completed a Practical Training Course for leaders which was outstanding. To have a group of thirty-three leaders and mothers set aside two afternoons and evenings to the consideration of the aims and methods of Girls' Work, speaks well for the interest of the adults in the girl life of this town.

At the conclusion of the Training Course a rally was held of all the C.G.I.T. Groups, at which mock business meet-

ings were held. The girls of the various groups, dressed in business suits, carried on a very realistic and interesting business meeting.

Why should the city hurriedly enter into a project that will involve the taxpayer with an enormous burden for all time? Municipal ownership might be good, and commend itself to the citizens, and by carrying out the Mayor's suggestion, the city would be in a much better position two years hence to undertake that responsibility.

The Hydro Commission propose to get twelve per cent on the investment to provide a sinking fund, and pay the interest on the sum expended. It is proposed that the city shall pay this rate, and at the end of thirty or thirty-five years they would have paid for the whole undertaking, and not own it. Is this good business?

I listened with much interest to Mayor Schofield's address at the Imperial Theatre, recognizing him as a successful business man in whose judgment I could rely. He has had opportunities to investigate the whole proposition, and employ the best expert advice available. He cannot be accused of not being honest in his opinion. His solution of the problem is sound.

My advice is, "Go Slow," and not become involved in an enormous expenditure, that is not warranted by the information we now have. If after two years, as proposed by the Mayor in his plan, municipal ownership is desirable, it can be carried out to much greater advantage.

Yours etc.
W. H. THORNE.

A SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL.
To the Editor of The Standard:—
Dear Sir:—In recent issues of the local Press, we notice items stating that the I. O. O. F. is considering

plans for the erection of a monument in honor of our Boys, who sleep in Flanders Fields, and those who played so valiant a part in great war.

It must be felt by many of our citizens and members of organizations that the erection of any such memorial should not be restricted to the activity of any one organization.

It is indeed fitting that such a memorial should be provided in this our Loyalist City; as has been done already almost everywhere and town throughout our Dominion. Each citizen should have an equal interest in providing such, and the measures taken should be such as to give all a feeling of interest in the memorial erected.

This can only be accomplished by co-ordination of efforts and support. It might be noted in passing that already the I. O. O. F. have erected a fine monument at Fernhill Cemetery overlooking the Field of Honor, wherein rest a number of our ex-service men. The Order is also pledged to a National Educational War Memorial.

The writer would suggest that His Worship the Mayor, as our civic head, convene a meeting of all organizations that would so faithfully for the soldier during the world war, also citizens generally, so that a strong community committee be formed to carry out the project as a community work.

Such action would tend to give our City the most fitting memorial possible, accomplished by the deep-hearted interest and love of our citizens.

Yours truly,
AN INTERESTED CITIZEN.

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You are cordially invited to attend a free Demonstration of Baking

conducted by a practical and experienced Domestic Science expert, a member of the Educational Department of E. W. Gillett Co. Ltd., manufacturers of Magic Baking Powder, under whose auspices this demonstration is held.

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Haymarket Square 231 Prince Edward St. GROCERY, 73 Sydney St.
E. WETMORE, WM. PARKINSON
30 Stanley St. 113 Adelaide St.

ing was presented by some of the girls. The work done in this and other parts of the evening's programme showed what teen-age girls can accomplish when trained in the fullest way.

On April 2nd the Middleton C.G. I.T. held a Girls' Service in the Baptist Church. A Girls' Choir furnished special and effective music. Miss Allison addressed the gathering. Here many delightful joint evenings have been worked out by the Senior C.G. I.T. and Tuxis Boys.

LABOR TROUBLES ON TEA PLANTATIONS
The high wages paid to workers on the tea plantations in India and Ceylon during the war, and the present scarcity of the leaf, have led to a constantly increasing price for good tea. It is rumored that the cost of producing tea, which has advanced between 12 and 16 cents a pound during the last eighteen months, will soon make necessary a general increase in retail prices.

OLD JOKER.
One gentleman (in street car)—"Has anyone here dropped a roll of bills with a rubber elastic around it?"
"Yes, I have!" cried a dozen at once.
Old gentleman (calmly)—"Well, I've just picked up the elastic."—Widow.

FRANCE READY TO ASSIST AUSTRIA

Paris, April 7.—The Chamber of Deputies today adopted a bill appropriating 55,000,000 francs to be used toward reconstruction in Austria in conjunction with other powers. The bill passed, however, only after repeated demands by a number of deputies that Austria first provide properly for former Empress Zita and her children.

President Maxwell Was Entertained

Dominion President G. W. V. A. Was Guest at Pleasing Luncheon Given Yesterday

About twenty guests were present at a luncheon tendered at the Union Club yesterday by R. B. Maxwell, president of the Dominion Command, G. W. V. A. Mayor Schofield presided and expressed pleasure at the

visit of President Maxwell to St. John. Mr. Maxwell in reply expressed thanks to the Mayor for the work he had done for the veterans, and said that he was delighted to see the branch here in such good condition.

President Maxwell and G. Earle Logan addressed a meeting in Moncton last evening.

WM. ZIEGLER, JR., NOW PRESIDENT ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO.

Following the resignation of Willie L. Garey, as president of the Royal Baking Powder Company, William Ziegler, Jr., was unanimously elected to that office at a meeting of the Board of Directors on April 3. Mr. Ziegler, Jr., who is a large stockholder in the company, has long taken an active interest in its affairs.

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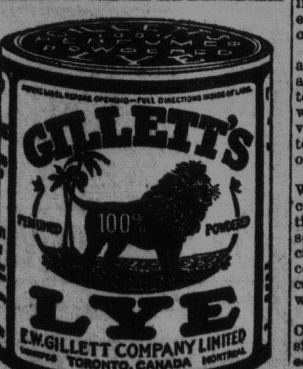
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