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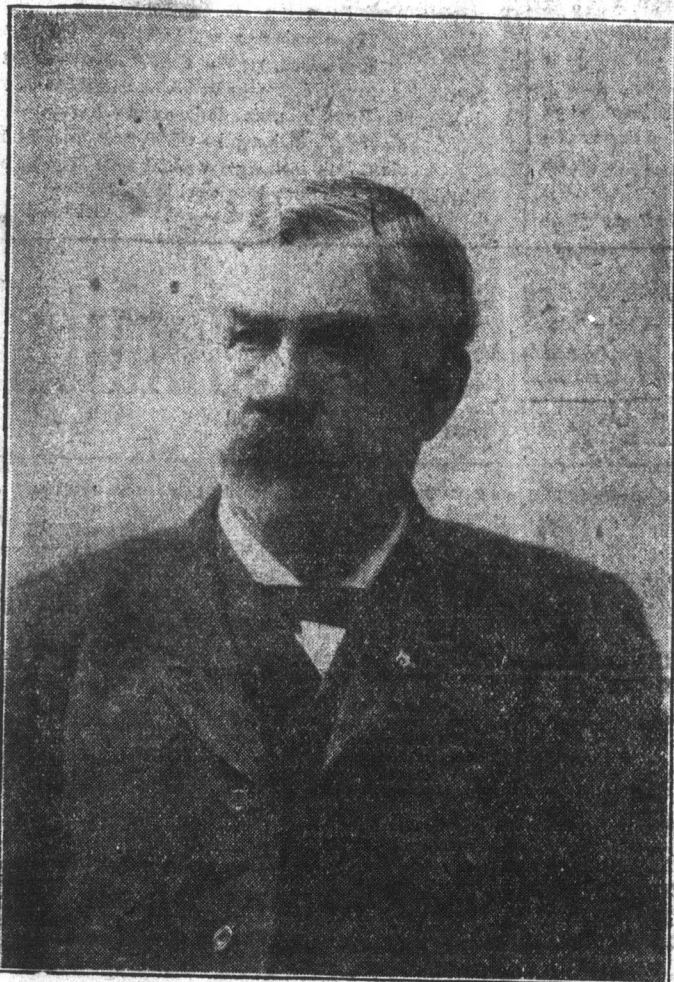
Auspicious Inaugural of Kent's Electric Railroad

MAGNIFICENT NEW ENTERPRISE ENTERS SUCCESSFUL CAREER

Delightful Weather and Enthusiastic Throngs Greet Opening of Regular Locomotion—An Inspiration Which Became a Reality—History of the Project from its Inception.

It is perhaps, particularly appropriate that this Great Home Journal should be one of the first to extend to the enterprising promoters, officers and directors of the Chatham, Wallaceburg & Lake Erie Railroad its heartiest congratulations on the successful inauguration of the completed system yesterday.

then Mayor, Mr. William E. McKeough, the suggestion which has borne fruit in the building of our road." Such was the interesting origin of the mammoth enterprise. On Monday, January 12, 1903, The Planet daily reported the splendid inaugural address of Mayor-elect McKeough, delivered to the aldermen at the in-



President George W. Kipp, "The Man Behind the Road."

ly directed my attention to the splendid possibilities of such an electric road," smilingly declared General Manager W. N. Warburton, the man to whose energy and enterprise today's success is so largely due, "came to me one evening nearly three years ago from The Planet. I was sitting in my home at St. Catharines reading my Planet, in the early part of January, 1903, when I saw there, in the report of the inaugural address of the

initial morning session of the new Council. The paragraph in its report of Mr. McKeough's address which attracted the attention of Mr. Warburton, reads prophetically and was as follows:— "All that of one mind, that an electric line through the county from Wallaceburg to Mitchell's Bay and thence to Chatham and through Raleigh to the Bay would greatly enhance the value of property in our

city, and be of financial advantage to its people, besides being a good investment for the proprietors of such a railway. When the Erie & Huron railway was first organized, many pessimists prophesied that it would never pay running expenses, but it turned out to be one of the best paying railways in Canada, and it was not long before foreign capitalists to build an electric railway through our county. I trust we shall be able to form a local company to undertake this much needed enterprise, which I have no doubt will prove as profitable an investment as the Erie & Huron railway was to its shareholders."

Mr. Warburton is essentially a man of action—prompt, vigorous and businesslike. No sooner had the inspiration come to him than he took steps to bring about its material consummation. A capable, clear-headed railroad man from the ground up, his long and valued association with the Erie & Huron had given him a special knowledge of the district, and he fully realized its possibilities. A visit to Chatham followed, a satisfactory inspection of the territory and a careful testing of the public pulse.

Then Mr. Warburton sought colleagues—and found them tried and true ones. Mayor McKeough, N. H. Stevens, William Ball, D. A. Gordon, George Stephens and others rallied around him and a Dominion charter for the road was secured. These gen-

tlemen, with H. L. Dunn, J. N. McKendry and Frank Dehton, of Toronto, formed the provisional board of directors.

The municipalities of Chatham, Dover and Wallaceburg gave earnest of their interest in the enterprise in the necessary rights of way and franchises. All that remained was to interest enough capital to build the road. This was done largely through the instrumentality of Ald. O'Keefe, who received the co-operation of the well-known oil magnate and banker, George W. Kipp, of Towanda, Pa.

In May of this year the company was formed with the following directors:—G. W. Kipp, Hon. M. E. Lilly, Hon. S. F. Robinson and R. E. Kizer, of Towanda; D. A. Gordon, of Wallaceburg, and N. H. Stevens and Ald. J. T. O'Keefe, of Chatham. The following officers were then elected:—

President—G. W. Kipp.
Vice-President—N. H. Stevens.
Secretary and Solicitor—Edwin Bell, L.L.D.
General Manager—W. N. Warburton.
Auditors—Ward Stanworth and J. W. McKendry.

The work of building and equipping the road was entrusted to Contractor and Engineer Ed. Whalen, and a better could not have been found. The immense contract was performed quickly and efficiently, and no smoother or better roadbed was ever constructed. Mr. Whalen has had some forty years of practical experience in this work and the results are such as pay in themselves the highest tribute to his ability.

Only a few days ago the road was completed and the power turned on from the splendid power house erected on the corner of King and Third Sts. The success of the preliminary tests has already been recorded in The Planet, and it only remained for yesterday's splendid formal opening to complete a most successful inaugural.

The day was ideal—mere like early May than the latter part of November—and the bright, warm sunlight tempted throngs of citizens to attend the auspicious opening. Three of the large and handsomely appointed cars were utilized for the occasion. General Manager Warburton himself took charge of the first car, while Motormen Putnam and Warner handled the remaining two. The starting point was the C. P. R. depot, the cars stopping at the Gunner, the Rankin and the power house en route.

It is estimated that the three cars carried just about 300 ladies and gentlemen, all being thronged. The first car contained 94 passengers, and the others were similarly laden. One car was filled with excursionists from Wallaceburg, the others containing the directors and their families and scores of Chathamites. Among the latter were: Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. O'Keefe, Mr. and Mrs. S. Robinson, and Miss Stephenson, Mr. and Mrs. Manson, Campbell, Mrs. Chas. Kellar, Mrs. W. N. Warburton, Mrs. Wm. Blight, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Sulman, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pike and Miss Hewart, Mrs. Mary McKeough, Mrs. A. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. J. Piggott, Dr. G. W. and Mrs. Cornell,

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Fielder and many others.

The cars started for the 'Burg about ten minutes apart, the first leaving about two o'clock. The run out was a delightful one. The road is magnificently built and the cars skim along without a jolt. The route runs through some of the finest farm lands in Western Ontario and much interest was taken in the view throughout the whole trip. Arriving at Wallaceburg the excursionists were received by D. A. Gordon, M. P., and escorted through Wallaceburg's two magnificent industries, the sugar beet factory and the glass works. Many of the visitors also availed themselves of an opportunity to take a drive through the thriving town.

The run home was a most enjoyable one, the cars arriving in the Chatham City about six o'clock.

A GOOD SERMON

Rev. Dr. Battisby gave a very able sermon at the evening service in St. Andrew's church on Sunday. His remarks were addressed chiefly to young people. In the course of his remarks he said that he has heard there are gambling places in Chatham where young clerks go and spend their evenings and nights. He made a strong appeal to the young men and his sermon was one which should prove fruitful in its results.

What's ten years on the shoulders of a man who thinks.

The greater our imagination the more trouble we have.

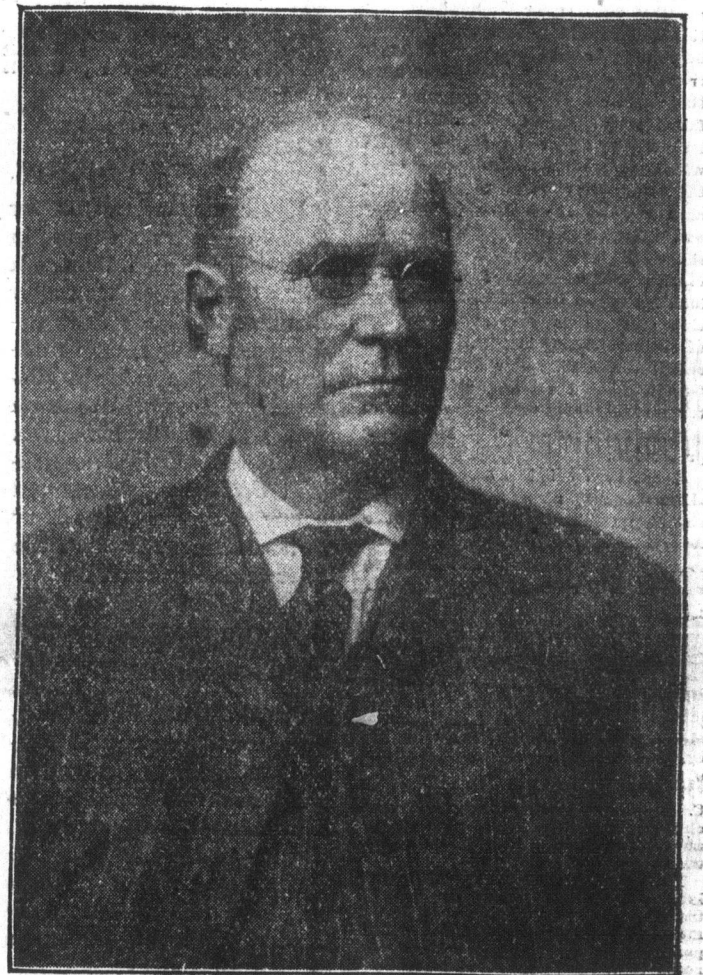
Too much haste has been known to ruin more than one good cause.

PRESIDENT KIPP WAS HOST AT DELIGHTFUL BANQUET

Chatham and Towanda Friends of the New Electric Railway were Royally Entertained at Hotel Sanita Last Night—Good Speeches and Music Enliven the Evening

The banquet tendered to the Chatham and Towanda friends of the C. W. & L. E. Electric Road, by the President of the Company, Geo. W. Kipp, was one of the most elaborate affairs ever held in the Maple City. It was given in the splendid banquet hall at Hotel Sanita last evening, and a more fitting place for such an event could not have been selected. Manager Kipp and Mrs.

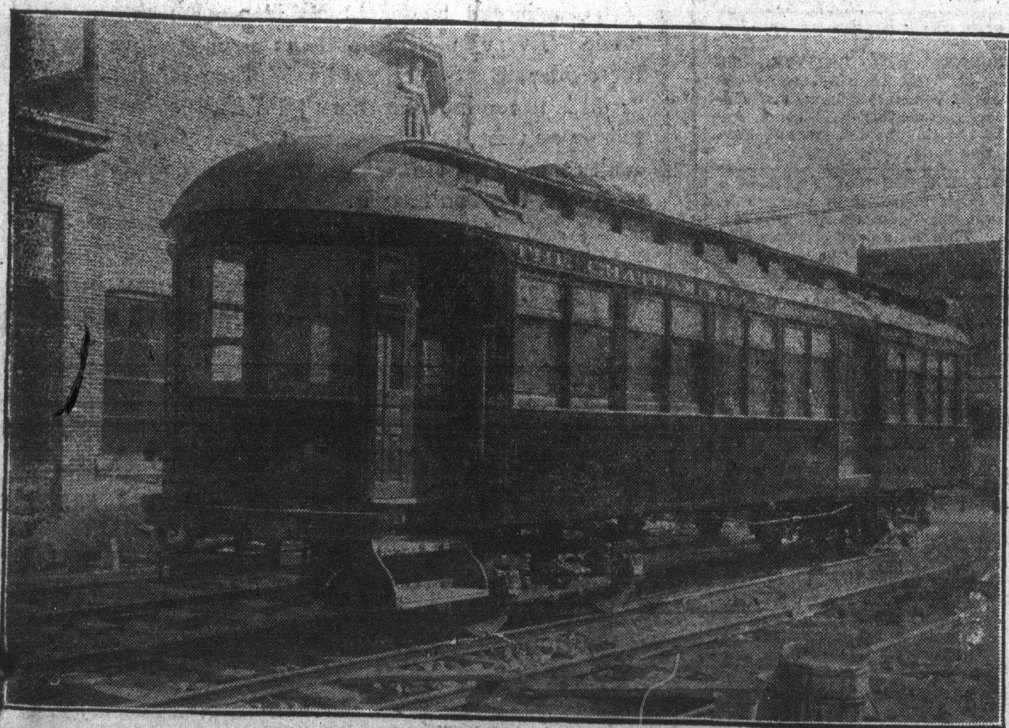
pany was in a perfect mood to enjoy it. While the guests were partaking of the magnificent spread piano music was furnished by Mr. John Smith, while at the end of each course selections were rendered by the Christ Church Male Quartet—Messrs. Angus, Smith, Smith and Wilson. They were heartily encored after each selection. One pleasant feature of the banquet was the presence of a large number of ladies—wives of the gen-



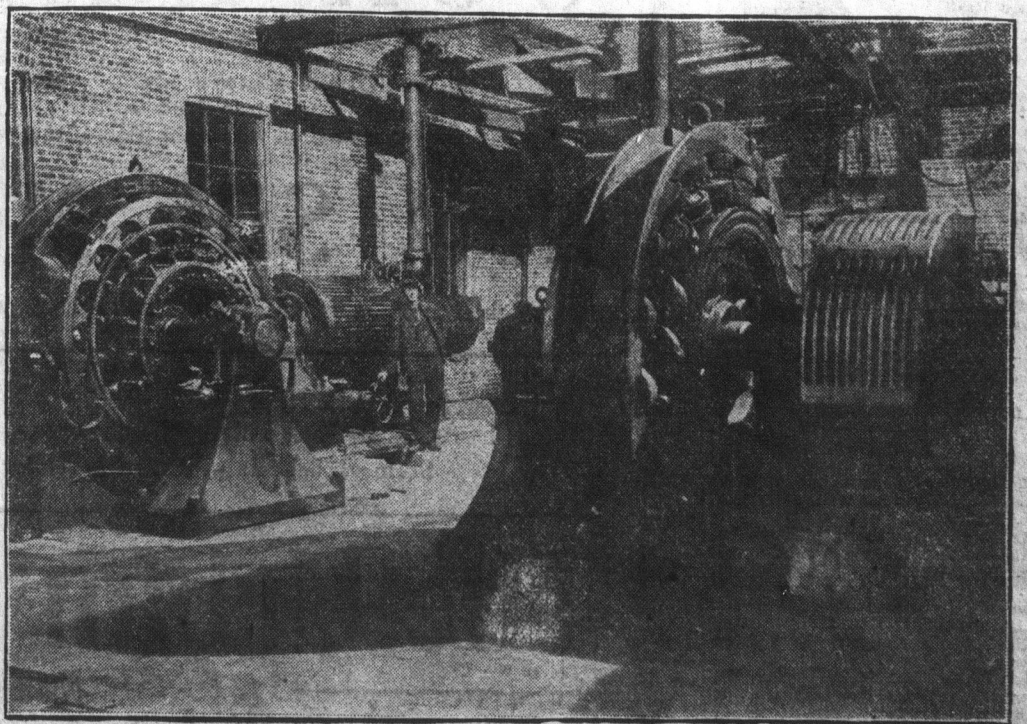
Engineer and Contractor Ed. Whalen, "The Man Who Built the Road."

Kelsey, of the Sanitarium, deserve great credit for the artistic manner in which the hall was decorated. The Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes were happily blended together and innumerable flags and drapes of bunting perfect of the scene. The room presented a beautiful appearance, and it is safe to say the decorations were perhaps the best ever prepared for a banquet in the Maple City. The hall was filled with guests and a most pleasant social evening was spent. The menu was everything that could be desired and the com-

Continued on Page Five.



FIRST CAR TO RUN BY ELECTRICITY IN KENT COUNTY



WHERE THE ENERGY IS SUPPLIED IN THE POWER HOUSE