

LONDON TO BE USED TO FORCE POWER SCHEME ARE MEMBERS OF WHITNEY CABINET FLUNKING?

Story That Local Contracts Are To Be Let To Be Used as Lever

LONDON ELECTRIC NOW OUT OF IT

Company Realizes That the Negotiations for Sale of Plant Are Finally Ended.

All negotiations between the city and the London Electric Company are off, and there will be no bylaw sent to the people to purchase the plant at any price.

In the meantime, the whole hydro-electric proposition is in the air, due to developments during the past few months, and the work of construction has been delayed for an indefinite period.

Hon. Adam Beck stands alone with Sir James Whitney for the hydro-electric scheme as already placed before the people.

Incidentally, London will be used as a lever to force the Government into backing up the scheme, it is alleged, on the ground that this city has spent a large sum of money for supplies.

Company is Out of It.

The first proposition to be considered is that the London Electric will not ask the city to pay \$400,000, or any other sum for their plant.

This was decided at a meeting of the directors held here this week, when the situation was canvassed from beginning to end.

They came to the conclusion that the city would not pay the price for the concern, a price which those who had invested their money in the business considered most fair. There was evidently a deep-rooted feeling amongst the Niagara power pushers against the purchase of the plant, and consequently it was decided to consider no further offers from the city for the purchase of their plant.

Producer Gas.

That being the case, the company have decided upon a cheaper plan than steam-generated power. It was stated today by a man in close touch with the company that figures for a producer gas plant were being considered, and that there was no question but that the company would install such a plant.

This has been considered at the directors' meeting, and will be further considered at a meeting to be held in the very near future.

According to the information received, the London Electric will be able to produce power at a much cheaper rate than the very best figures the city can offer by Niagara power.

Not Worrying.

"We are not worrying at all," said one of the directors this morning. "We have looked the situation over from every standpoint, and we have come to the conclusion that we have nothing to fear. We know that the city will not pay what we consider a reasonable price for our business. Since they will not pay it, we will not consider any other offer, and so negotiations are now at an end."

"There is no use worrying any further. We are going to remain on the ground, and we are convinced that we can deliver power at a rate to under-sell the best offer the city can make."

A Significant Delay.

There is a great delay in the construction work of the hydro-electric transmission line, and as a result there are many rumors of troubles in the Whitney cabinet.

These troubles have been brought to a climax by the events of the past spring and winter.

The first came when the plant of the Ontario Power Company was flooded out, and immense damage was done.

If that had happened when the line was in operation, great loss would have resulted, and power would have been practically out of business.

Heading the Signs.

Then followed the death of a farmer along the transmission line. This was not considered possible, but it happened, and already there has been a great deal of trouble stirred up among the farmers along the transmission line.

Such a thing is liable to occur again, as it is impossible to adequately protect these high tension lines from such an accident, it is said. The Electrical Development Company have the best equipped line in Canada, and it is impossible to keep it from breaks.

As a result a number of the rural members of the Whitney party have become quite agitated over the subject, and have written the Government concerning it.

There have been other troubles also, and consequently the opponents of Niagara power in the cabinet are having an inning. Sir James Whitney is backing Mr. Beck. It is alleged, but the other members are making it very interesting for them.

How About Construction.

Construction work has not been commenced. Some time ago it was reported that two large gangs would work out of Brantford and London to build the lines, but this has not been the case.

Mr. McGulgan has been prevented from going ahead with it, and a further delay of two months has just been announced.

Consequently, the date when power will be brought to the city is very indefinite, and it may be years before anything is done.

It is even hinted that the whole

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LONDON AND NIAGARA POWER.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, May 22.—London is to play a most important part in the hydro-electric scheme, according to the story in circulation here.

There is serious trouble. It is alleged, in the Whitney cabinet on this score. The recent breakdown in the transmission line to this city has occasioned multitudinous troubles to the users of power and light, and as a result, several members of the cabinet, who were never very much in favor of the plan, have developed a severe case of "cold feet," and are opposing the scheme, horse, foot and artillery. The entire proposition appears to be held up, and Mr. McGulgan is idle.

As to London's part in the transaction, it is stated, that Hon. Adam Beck has given the London Electric the go-by, and the city will erect a plant of its own. The supplies for that plant will be purchased within three weeks, and the city will be committed irrevocably to the scheme, at the same time compelling the cabinet, by reason of the money expended, to deliver power as promised by March 10 next.

It is stated that Mr. Beck and the Premier stand alone in their advocacy of the proposition. Sir James has accepted it as a matter of policy, and Mr. Beck must make good.

METHODIST MINISTER SUICIDES WHILE IN-DESPONDENT MOOD

Rev. Mr. Atkins, a Pastor of Harriston, Ont., Takes His Life by Hanging—Had Been Suffering From Despondency Since the Death of His Wife.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Harriston, Ont., May 22.—Rev. P. J. Atkins, Methodist minister, committed suicide last night by hanging. He had been very despondent since the death of his wife, but yesterday afternoon delivered an Empire Day address to the school children.

The Rev. Thomas J. Atkins began his ministry in 1887 in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and remained with it.

that body till the union. He has held charges at Fenwick, Port Rowan and St. William. In 1890 he went to Watford, and from there to Norwich in 1893. In 1896 he became pastor of the Charles Street Church, Norwich, and from there took the pastorate of the Gore Street Church, Hamilton. Before he moved to Harriston he was stationed at Tara. He is survived by several children.

WELLINGTON ST. REALTY BOOMS G. T. R. NEW DEPOT THE CAUSE

It Is Said It Is To Be Erected So as to Take in Both Sides of Wellington Street South of the Tracks—Land Values Have Taken a Tremendous Jump.

Since a large local contractor saw the plans of the Grand Trunk Railway real estate along Wellington street has taken a great jump in price. No less than \$200 a foot is asked for property in the section between Dundas and Horton streets, and some owners refuse to sell.

One man refused \$4,000 for a lot for which he paid \$1,000 a very few years ago. His price was \$200 a foot, and he got it. He would not be made more than twenty times what he paid for it.

All of this is on account of the fact that the Grand Trunk depot is to be

located, it is said, at Wellington street, covering that section south of the tracks on both sides of the street.

Saw the Plans.

It is stated that the contractor mentioned saw the plans, with the location, and as he held considerable property in that section, he at once raised the price.

Other landowners discovered the fact and as a result the rapid rise in values all along the line.

Few lots can be purchased at any price, and for the others the price is prohibitive.

PEOPLE ARE BEHIND ARTESIAN WELLS SCHEME

Real Estate Association Member Says There Should Be No Tagging of Beck Plan.

At their meeting last night the Real Estate Owners' Association appointed a committee to wait upon the water commissioners and urge them, when submitting the Beck scheme to the electorate, not to attach any other scheme to it.

"We think that Mr. Beck has gone to a lot of pains and trouble to try and evolve the very best scheme possible," one of the members told The Advertiser this afternoon. "We think the people are with him in the matter, and want a chance to support him and give him a fair show. The water commissioners are, we understand, likely to try and hitch some other kind of a scheme of their own with Mr. Beck's, and present a combination scheme to be voted on. We think that if they have any scheme it should be presented separately, and let Mr. Beck's be separate, too, and then the people can choose for themselves."

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—A LITTLE WARMER.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.
Toronto, May 21—3 p.m.—Minimum and maximum temperatures: London, 50-56; Dawson, 36-48; Victoria, 38-53; Vancouver, 40-56; Edmonton, 44-56; Battleford, 38-54; Prince Albert, 40-52; Moose Jaw, 42-52; Qu'Appelle, 38-53; Winnipeg, 40-52; Regina, 40-53; Pelly, 30-40; St. John's, 32-44; Montreal, 52-54; Quebec, 42-56; St. John, 42-54; Halifax, 52-54.

FORECASTS.
Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate winds; mostly fair; a few scattered showers, chiefly in the eastern portion; a little higher temperature.
Ottawa and St. Lawrence—A few scattered showers or thunderstorms, but mostly fair; not much change in temperature.
Gulf—Easterly winds; fair; not much change in temperature.
Lake Superior—Light winds; fine and a little warmer.
Maritime Provinces—Fine today. Sunday—Strong easterly winds, with rain. Monday—Fine and warm today; local showers or thunderstorms on Sunday. Saskatchewan and Alberta—Local showers and thunderstorms.

PROMINENT LONDONERS HOME FROM LONG TRIP

Hon. C. S. Hyman and Mr. James C. Duffield Arrived in the City Today.

Hon. C. S. Hyman and Mr. J. C. Duffield returned home this morning from a trip around the world. Both are looking the picture of health and feel extremely well after their long journey.

They sailed from England on the Mauretania, arriving in New York thirteen minutes ahead of the fastest time ever made across the Atlantic.

They sailed last January from San Francisco, going to Japan, China, India, through the Suez Canal, going thence to Cairo, Rome, London, and also to Paris.

"We had an excellent trip," said Mr. Duffield to The Advertiser. "Both of us feel extremely well and are in the very best of health."

"We stopped at many places, and saw many interesting things. It would take a long time to tell it all."

"We were particularly pleased with the trip from England. We came over on the Mauretania, and she broke all her previous records by thirteen minutes. She is really wonderful, and we enjoyed it every minute."

"We had a fine time," said Mr. Hyman. "There are many interesting things to tell, but time is too brief at the present moment. We enjoyed ourselves thoroughly."

SNAKES FOR IRELAND.

Winnipeg, May 21.—Employees of the postoffice today found a box of six snakes in the mails consigned to a party in Ireland from a homesteader at Prince Albert.

The reptiles were promptly returned to the sender.

St. Joseph's Graduates.

It has been decided to hold the graduating exercises of the class at St. Joseph's Hospital on June 30. The examinations will conclude in about two weeks. The young ladies who are writing are Misses K. C. McDonald, Alice Woodward, Marion Atmore, Mildred Friend, Martha O'Neill, Gertrude Connor, Kathleen Fallon, May Kelleher, Kathleen Durkin, Irene Simpson, Florence McKay and May Coughlin.



Mr. and Mrs. John Mayer leaving the church after the ceremony, with their bridesmaid, Miss Louise Butler. The bride was Miss Bessie Shoebottom.

Miss Shoebottom, of London, Ont., bride of man who is reputed to be worth many millions, and is the well-known sugar king.

New York, May 22.—There was a gathering of the Havemeyers yesterday afternoon in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for the marriage of John Mayer, of Morrisstown, and Miss Bessie Shoebottom, which took place at 3:30 o'clock. Mr. Mayer's first wife, you know, was a Havemeyer, one of the late Theodore A. Havemeyer's daughters, and yesterday's bride is a daughter of the late Captain William Baker Shoebottom, of London, Canada.

The wedding was as simple as possible, quite a family party, the guests at the ceremony being limited to relatives and a few intimate friends. It was performed by the Rev. Philemon Sturges, of Morrisstown, assisted by the rector, the Rev. Henry Sloane Coffin. It was followed by a small reception in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Allen Butler, No. 30 East Seventy-second street.

The bride wore a travelling frock of ashes of roses cloth, with a small hat in match, and carried a bouquet of lilies of the valley, was given away by her brother, Dr. William Shoebottom, of London, Ont. She had only one attendant, a maid of honor, Miss Louise Butler, whose frock was of grey blue cloth, and who wore a hat of the same color. The ushers were Mr. Burnham, of Morrisstown, and William Allen Butler. Upon their return from their honeymoon Mr. Mayer and his bride will make their home in Morrisstown.

SEVENTH REGIMENT LEAVE TONIGHT

Will Spend the Holiday in the Tunnel Town Under Canvas.

A REAL SOLDIERS' OUTING

Monday the Men Will Engage in a Sham Battle, and Will Startle the Natives.

All arrangements for the trip of the Seventh Regiment to Sarnia have been completed, and the men will parade at the Armouries at 6:30 this evening, and enroute at 7:30. The Grand Trunk have arranged for a very fast service, and have promised the men in Sarnia by 9 o'clock. Upon their arrival there they will take the street cars to Huron Beach, three miles out of Sarnia, where the camp will be pitched. The advance party in command of Major McCrimmon and Captain Coles, left yesterday afternoon, and when the men arrive this evening the tents will all be pitched and everything will be in readiness for them.

Practical Work.

"This trip is not so much for show as for practical work," Major Campbell told The Advertiser today. "On Monday morning we will engage in a sham battle, and have a rear guard and advance guard action. A number of manoeuvres will also be practiced."

The men will parade to church on Sunday morning, and in the afternoon they will be left to themselves. On Monday afternoon there will be a programme of sports and fancy drills. The bearer corps under command of Captain Kingsmill, and the signaller in command of Captain Arthur Little, will also accompany the regiment.

The St. Thomas Regiment, of St. Thomas, leave this evening for Alvinston, and will spend the holiday there in practical training, and the Twenty-Fourth Regiment, of Chatham, leaves for the shore of Lake Erie, where they will go into camp over the holiday.



"JOE" SMITH, Burglar, who was sentenced at Sarnia to seven years' imprisonment. He robbed several places in London, among which was the residence of Mr. Bates, of the East End. Mr. Bates will get his money back—about \$40.

BELL PEOPLE MUST PROTECT SUBSCRIBERS

If Lighting Wires Were Strung on Poles Telephone Service Might Be Impaired.

The City Electric wires will not be strung on the Bell Telephone Company wires.

At a recent meeting of the special power committee, Engineer Sifton was empowered to open negotiations with the company, in order to find out if arrangements could not be made whereby the City light wires might be strung on the Bell Company's poles.

In this manner a considerable sum of money would be saved the city.

The matter has been brought to the attention of the Bell people, but from what can be learned they have not taken kindly to the idea, and will insist that the wires be kept off their poles.

They claim that it would be very dangerous to phone users, as well as operators, for something might go wrong with the City wires, and there would be much trouble. It's simply a case of protecting the phone subscribers of London.

CITY GAS COMPANY IS READY NOW TO DISTRIBUTE NATURAL GAS

President J. C. Duffield Makes a Plain Statement in Regard to the Matter—It Looks as Though London Will Soon Enjoy This Boon.

The City Gas Company is prepared to deliver natural gas in London, just as soon as a proposition that would meet with the citizens' indorsement is presented.

That statement was made to The Advertiser by President Mr. J. C. Duffield this afternoon. He stated that as soon as his company are convinced that the quantity of gas was to be had, there would be no difficulty in arranging teams of distribution.

"We will talk business. We are willing at any time to talk business with any firm having sufficient gas to make such a proposition worth while to the city of London," said Mr. Duffield. "We would rather sell natural gas at 20 cents, than manufactured gas at 30 cents. People would take more of it, and in that way we would be in a much better position all round. So far as our company are concerned we were not anxious to go into any well proposition. We were willing, and are still willing to distribute gas to sell. The many should be supplied as well as the few, and with our mains through-out the city, we are in a position to supply the maximum number of customers in a very short time."

Will Get in Touch.

"I again state that we are ready to talk business with any person who has the gas. I understand that there is a representative of one of the companies in the city. I shall get in touch with him, and we will negotiate as to the quantity of gas. If he has the quantity, they say he has, there will be no doubt that it will come to London."

Mayor Saw Representative.

Mayor Stevely had a long conference with the New York man last evening, and from what can be learned, the proposition to bring gas from the Port Dover district will be carried out in the near future.

The firm he represents is a large financial and contracting firm. They will finance the proposition, and contract for the pipes and other material.

That Merger.

Nothing further has been heard from the capitalists negotiating for the merger of the Leamington, Romney, and other fields in Kent.

It was expected that they would get together in a short time and then come to the city with an offer. However, nothing has been said regarding it of late, but it is possible that negotiations have been dropped.

If that is the case there will be only one claimant for a franchise.

Were Three Applicants.

This matter has been up before the council for over a year now, but it looks as if it is nearer solution than at any time since then.

At that time there were many applicants for a franchise. The City, the and Western Pipe Line Co., Leamington Gas Company, the Romney Volcanic Gas Company, the Detroit capitalists, field operators, those considered, were abandoned and Western Company.

Interested yet, but is, it is alleged, selling out its holdings to the American firm now asking for franchise.

After the conference with the City Gas Company, an offer will be made to the city, probably within two weeks.

SAME OLD GAME OF GOING SLOW SAME OLD WATER FAMINE AGAIN

Commissioners Are in No Hurry to Take Advantage of the Artesian Wells Proposition Though They Are Willing to Let the People Vote on It in the Sweet By and Bye.

The water commissioners intend to stand pat on the proposition made to Hon. Adam Beck for his wells. This statement was made this afternoon by a man in close touch with the commission, but they themselves refused to talk the question over at all.

They will strongly oppose any attempt to take a vote right away on the question. They insist that July 25 is the earliest possible chance for such a vote.

They will agree to pay Mr. Beck interest on his investment, and if necessary make good any extra cost by the lapsing of the options on Aug. 1, but they want a late vote, and control of the wells in the interim.

Time Begin.

At the meeting of the commissioners yesterday, the first date set was in October, but after some consideration they decided that July would be the better time for it.

It is understood that the commis-

sioners are convinced that Mr. Beck will not accept their offer.

They feel satisfied that he will not agree to the time limit, and that he will also oppose any recommendation to turn the wells over to the city representatives.

If Mr. Beck refuses to allow the wells to be taken over on their terms, or if the commissioners refuse to accept Mr. Beck's offer, a deadlock will probably ensue.

Famine in Sight.

Some agreement will have to be made if the city is to be protected from a water famine this coming summer.

There is no question that there is great public sentiment in favor of the wells, and if put before the ratepayers there is no doubt it would carry by a large emporio shruddraadrilunpu p p. The commissioners admit that, but they state that in such a case, the people would be voting on a scheme of which they know nothing, and they think that the fullest possible information be obtained on the question.

HOLIDAY TRAFFIC VERY HEAVY TODAY

Many People Are Moving About on Visits for Twenty-Fourth.

Holiday traffic on all railroads is very heavy today, and it is said that people are travelling. Grand Trunk express No. 1 arrived from the east this morning with ten coaches crowded with passengers. The rear end of the train was just clear of Clarence street when it stopped, and the engine was just ahead of the west end of the Tachemba House. The other trains which came in were equally crowded, and conductors had a very busy time of it.

"We have had a splendid holiday business," was the response of all the ticket agents when asked by The Advertiser how business was.

The C. P. R., M. C. R. and Pere Marquette, and the Southwestern Traction Company, all report heavy holiday traffic.

FISH SPEARERS FINED.

Toronto, May 22.—Poachers have been busy on Pigeon Lake and River. A Toole, of Omamee, reports to the fishery department that one night recently he caught three men spearing fish with the aid of jacklights. He brought the men before the reeve, who fined them \$10 and costs. Later the lights and spears were confiscated. Later the same night the inspector saw two other men spearing fish. He went after them, but they jumped from their boat and swam ashore. The officers confiscated the boat, spears and lights.

—George Lutman, son of Mr. J. B. Lutman, of 857 Wellington street, sprained his ankle while playing in the school yard of St. George's school on Thursday afternoon, and will be laid up for some days.

Brandy Chocolate Case.

The case of Peter Mandas, the Greek confectioner, charged with selling chocolate drops containing brandy, will be heard before Magistrate Lavoy this afternoon. A hotelman against whom a charge of selling liquor after hours was laid by spotters will also appear.

COMMISSIONERS WILL CONSIDER TWO TRANSFERS

Meeting of the London Board Will Be Held Saturday Next.

The regular meeting of the license commissioners will be held on Saturday evening next. Applications have been received for the transfer of the license of the Duke of York Hotel from Frank McLean to John Young, and of the Clyde Hotel from W. Thompson to Angus Mahon. It is understood that both transfers will be made, as no objections are likely to be taken by the commission.

SWIMMING POOL OPENS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30

While Girls Will Have Their First Plunge on Friday, July 2.

Arrangements have been completed for the opening of the sulphur spring swimming pool for boys on Wednesday, June 30, and for girls on Friday, July 2. The arrangement with Mr. Yoe, the proprietor of the baths, stipulated that he change the water in the pool for each of these days and raise the temperature to 68 degrees. The generous gift of Mr. Geo. Gibson, jun., will meet the expenses of the bath for four weeks, and it is hoped that other sympathizers will be found to supplement the gift. The association would also like to establish two other baths in different parts of the city. Bathing is now prohibited within the confines of the city by a city bylaw, and yet no provision other than that undertaken by the association has been made to meet the natural inclination of the small boy to learn to swim. Much can be done in this direction to prevent the lamentable loss of life that has been a feature of every summer for years past. A citizen who has been acquainted with the situation along the river bank for 20 years claims that 100 lives have been lost in that time while bathing.