

Water Commissioners Discuss Gas Situation

Continued from Page One.

stockholders is a man from St. Catharines.

Mr. Stevens—Your idea should be to get the gas as cheaply as possible.

Mr. Sheldon—We wanted gas. We got it offered for 12 cents. That is now accepted.

Mr. S. Stone—Yes, for five years.

Mr. Coate—Why is it not a good contract?

Mr. Sheldon—I don't know.

Mr. Stevens—It may keep others out.

Mr. Coate—We have been here for years. The city knows it is making a good bargain.

Mr. Stevens—By accepting 12 cents gas when it can get it for 10 cents?

Mr. Coate—That is only a possibility.

Mr. Stevens—So is yours. Your gas may give out at any time.

Mr. Coate—We are delivering now.

Mr. Stevens—But you can't tell how long you will be delivering.

Mr. Coate—The city is protected all it can be. No person can deny that.

Mr. Stevens—Nine-tenths of the people of Chatham do.

Mr. Coate—There is not room for two companies in Chatham and you know it.

Mr. Stevens—You have no right to say that.

Mr. S. Stone—There is lots of room.

Mr. S. Stone was then given a chance to present his side of the question.

Mr. S. Stone—I got an option from the Maple City Oil and Gas Company on their gas, and then secured contracts. The people gave me the assurance that they would take the gas if it were brought in. I received a letter from Mr. Sheldon saying that if my company would pipe Grand avenue, the Commissioners would take the gas for one year, providing it would heat the boilers and produce steam at a less cost than they were paying at present for coal. The letter was signed with the stamp of the Water Commissioners, but it did not contain the signature of any person. Working on this letter, I assured my capitalists that I had the contract for one year. I have a letter from the Pittsburgh people, who are behind them, in view of the contract which I exhibited to them, that they are almost ready to sign up.

Mr. Sheldon, who had been viewing the letter which Mr. S. Stone produced—This letter which you claim is a contract, is not signed by me.

Mr. S. Stone—It is the same as a contract.

Mr. Sheldon—It is written by Mr. Weir, our Secretary.

Mr. S. Stone—You instructed him to write it.

Mr. Sheldon—I don't know about the letter. No doubt I ordered him to say that we would accept your gas at ten cents when it was brought in.

Mr. S. Stone—It is a funny thing that after writing that letter, you should accept the tender of another company.

Mr. Sheldon—I said that we would take the gas if you produced it. The letter is not signed.

Mr. S. Stone—You said that you would take the gas not less than two weeks ago.

Mr. Sheldon—I don't remember.

Mr. S. Stone—How was it that after you knew I was working on the proposition, my men were taken to your boilers not less than two weeks ago?

Mr. Sheldon—How did we know but you might be working on it for another year?

Mr. S. Stone—Before accepting another contract, you should have looked into it. There is a difference between 10 cents and 12 cents.

Mr. Sheldon—We will get gas at ten cents as soon as anyone else.

Mr. S. Stone—If we don't come in, the price won't be reduced.

Mr. Stevens—The Mayor did not know that there was another tender.

Mr. Sheldon—We all knew that. But there was nothing to be done.

Mr. S. Stone—If there was a saving of two cents, it would have been worth while to look into the matter before you gave the contract.

Mr. Sheldon—We want gas right now.

Mr. S. Stone—That is no argument. You have been using coal for some time now, and a matter of a few months would not be a great consideration in a matter of this kind. If anyone should encourage the competitive line, the city should.

Dr. Cornell—Does the advent of this new line depend wholly upon whether you get this contract or not?

Mr. S. Stone—I can't say. It is going through if I can put it through. I am not working for my health in this matter. It is a question with me if this will knock it on the head or not. I can't say.

The Mayor—I would not be anyone's injury if I could help it. I didn't know of this other proposition.

Mr. Sheldon—You heard it on the street that they were getting contracts.

The Mayor—I knew they were getting contracts, but I did not know the price. I made the motion to accept the Gas Company's tender, in order to save the city money.

Mr. Stevens—Do you still think it was all right?

The Mayor—I would far sooner had both companies there, when the matter might have been adjusted more satisfactorily to the public.

Mr. Stevens—The only thing to do is to rescind that motion and ask for tenders.

Mr. Sheldon (holding up the letter produced by Mr. S. Stone)—This is not my letter.

Mr. S. Stone—It is a letter writ-

A SPECIAL IN MARMALADE

was
told it
which gave it a flavor
that should not be there.
It is not at all bad, and
at the price should appeal to you.

Large Jar 15c

WWINE VINEGAR 1
30c a gallon
WHITE WINE VINEGAR
40c a gallon
PURE CIDER VINEGAR
35c a gallon
MALT VINEGAR
25c a bottle

Our English Breakfast
Tea—40c. a pound—
makes a delicious drink.

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ten with your authority, and you should be like a man and stand behind it.

Mr. Sheldon—I am as good a man as you!

Mr. S. Stone—I asked you to see the Commissioners and you said it would not be necessary. You gave me your word that you would take the gas.

Mr. Sheldon—I said as far as I was concerned.

Mr. S. Stone—It is not in the interests of the city to keep out a competitive line.

Mr. Sheldon—You have no contract with them.

Mr. S. Stone—I had your word.

Mr. Sheldon (with some show of feeling)—Now, see here, my word is as good as yours. I am not going to stand for your throwing out those dirty slurs. That contract we made is just as good a business proposition as any one you ever made.

Mr. S. Stone—We have got to get the contracts before we can bring the line in.

Mr. Sheldon—You have nothing to produce. I was perfectly willing that the former motion should be rescinded, but since you have thrown out those dirty slurs, I am only one of the commission. Now go ahead and get the motion rescinded. This is the first time that I ever saw the letter you show here.

Mr. S. Stone—I did not get the letter from the Post Office. It was handed to me in your own business office.

Mr. Sheldon—It must have been left there for you by Mr. Weir. I don't remember having ever seen it before. From the way you talk you would think that I have done something.

Mr. S. Stone—You have done something. You have done a lot. You wouldn't sign a contract with me, and yet you signed one the same as ours with the Chatham Gas Company.

Mr. Sheldon—You haven't got the gas.

Mr. Stevens—We have the gas, only we have a little farther to pipe it.

Mr. Sheldon—We talked the matter all over and did not dream of doing anything underhanded.

The Mayor—I did what I thought was best.

Mr. Stevens to the Mayor—You were not pushed.

Mr. Coate then presented his side of the question.

Mr. Coate thought that the Chatham Gas Company were worthy of consideration. Mr. S. Stone hasn't even a franchise yet to pipe the streets with his gas. He (Stone) states that he intends to enter the large manufacturers only. It is doubtful if he could get a franchise without undertaking to supply the citizens. The manufacturing end, forms the cream of the business, and it would not be fair to the Chatham Gas Company if they came in and got it, without having to handle the other end, too. The Chatham Gas Company has contracts, with the Manser Campbell Company, Gray & Sons, Wolverine Brass Works, Parks, Canning Factory, and all of these contracts are the same as that entered into by the Commissioners. If at the end of the three years, the Maple City Gas Company offers gas at reduced prices, the Chatham Gas Company would sell it for one cent. Either company would have to go out of business, and then the company which remained would boost the price up again, probably to 15 cents. Now the Chatham Gas Company was willing to charge only 12 cents, which is a reasonable figure, and will reduce it if they see their way clear to do so.

Mr. Stevens—We feel that gas should be sold as cheaply as we can sell it. Why does not Mr. Coate's company reduce their price to 10 cents now?

Mr. Coate—And then your company acting on present principles would reduce your price to eight cents.

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Dr. Cornell to Mr. S. Stone—Will you sign a contract to deliver gas in two or three months?

Mr. S. Stone—I will sign a contract to deliver it within three months.

Mr. Sheldon—Where will the city lose?

Mr. S. Stone—There will be a lot of harm done if the new line does not come in.

Mr. Sheldon—We didn't turn you down.

Mr. S. Stone—You did turn us down.

Mr. Stevens—The Mayor has a good chance now to move that his motion be rescinded, and thus answer to the citizens.

The Mayor—And if Mr. S. Stone fails in his contract, we would be at the mercy of Mr. Coate, and as it is we have a good bargain with him.

Mr. S. Stone—I don't think you showed the proper courtesy to me.

Mr. Sheldon—If that letter had been drawn to my attention, you would have been notified. I don't like to have it said that we are blocking this new line to Chatham.

The Mayor—I can't see any way out.

Mr. Stevens—You might rescind your former motion and leave the matter open until you see what can be done.

The suggestion was not acted upon, however, and an adjournment was moved and the whole question remains exactly as it did before the meeting yesterday was opened.

Those present at the meeting were Mr. H. Stevens, Spencer Stone, P. S. Coate, Mayor Stone, and Commissioners Sheldon and Cornell.

TO-NIGHT

Park St. Epworth League, S. S. Hall, at 8.

P. S. C. E., First Presbyterian Church, at 8.

Victoria Ave. Epworth League, S. S. Hall, at 8.

K. O. T. M., No. 8, in their rooms, Oddfellows' Temple, at 8.

Peninsular Lodge, No. 2, A. O. U. W., in their hall opposite the Rankin House.

Liberal-Conservative meeting in J. M. Pike's office at 8 o'clock. Everybody come.

LOCAL

Briscoe's bicycle livery and repairs.

All \$3.50 Summer Pants \$2.00. The 2 T's.

Band Concerts, Eriau, Friday nights only.

The dates of Ridgeway Fair are Sept. 23, 24 and 25.

Be sure and attend the sale of the New York Cloak Store Saturday.

Miss Clara Lell, of Detroit, returned home to-day after a two weeks visit in this city.

Saturday, all our 50c., 75c. and \$1 Neckwear 35c. or 3 for \$1. The 2 T's.

Mrs. W. H. Taylor and daughter Hazel are visiting friends in Windsor and Detroit.

"Gaff Linkum," the book of the year. Only a few copies left at Sullivan's.

There are going to be some big snaps in Ladies' Wear at the New York Cloak Store, Saturday.

Split bamboo fishing rods at half price. Geo. Stephens, D. H. Douglas.

Someone will get a bargain in Silk Underskirts at the New York Cloak Store.

Miss Stella Thorndyke, who has been visiting Miss Slade, of Barthe street, will return to her home in Cleveland to-morrow.

One case of Ladies' Jackets, which was shipped from the Toronto Factory this week, go with the rest of the bargains at New York Cloak Store.

Miss Pink Field, Wellington St. West, left yesterday for St. Clair Falls, where she will spend a two weeks vacation, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Bebe, of Detroit.

Mrs. Albert Snook, of Detroit, who is visiting friends in Chatham, left this morning for the East, where she will spend a week with Mrs. Ed. Snook.

"The Ark" will be opened for Saturday's business with a good line of Big Bargains, so come early. On Monday the store will be closed to complete stock taking.

Miss Effie Eberts, who is now in Toronto attending the millinery wholesale, has accepted a position as head milliner with a St. Mary's firm. Miss Eberts will commence her new duties next month.

Farm Laborers' Excursion to the Northwest, Aug. 27th; fare \$12.00. Take the Grand Trunk Ry. "Eastern Flyer," the fastest and best equipped train in America, leaving Chatham 5.15 p.m., making direct connection at Toronto with through service for Winnipeg. Apply to W. E. Ripin, C. P. A., 115 King St.

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And Prices are Melting
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POILE'S
Summary Jewelry
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mary Dismissal...

POILE,
The Jeweller That is Different
Issuer of Marriage Licenses.

An outfit, including H. S. & M. \$25.00 Suits, \$12.50. The 2 T's half-yearly sale.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Mounteer, of this city, spent yesterday in Newbury at the old boys reunion.

The First Presbyterian Church Quartette will not sing at Eriau to-night, as advertised in last evening's issue.

John B. Sletton's \$4.00 soft and stiff Hats to-morrow \$2.00, at The 2 T's.

Lost, last night, a young brown Spaniel, had a long tail. A reward will be given for his return at the Grand Trunk depot ticket office.

Beautiful shades in enamel for interior decoration at dissolution sale prices. Geo. Stephens, D. H. Douglas, Phone 6.

Miss Etta Goodman and Miss L. Barker, of Bridgeport, Conn., who have been visiting friends here, are spending a few days with Blenheim friends.

Mrs. J. W. Plewes has returned from London, with her little daughter Doris, who has recovered from an attack of diphtheria.

Saturday, any Tie in the store for 35c., or 3 for \$1.00. The 2 T's half-yearly sale.

Arrangements are being made to have the crack Windsor baseball team play a picked team here next Wednesday. The Chatham boys also contemplate having a game with Walkerville later on. Windsor is playing in Dresden to-day.

The firemen were called out at half-past eight last evening to Lister's Cramery, corner of King and Adelaide streets, where a small fire was in progress in the engine room. The blaze was extinguished before any damage resulted, and Mr. Lister afterwards treated the firemen to ice cream.

Dr. and Mrs. Baskerville, who have been visiting with Mrs. A. Park at Beverly Lodge, Eriau, returned to town to-day. The doctor leaves for his home in Mt. Pleasant, Mich., this afternoon, while Mrs. Baskerville, accompanied by her sisters, the Messes Annie and Lottie Thomson, and little niece, Evelyn Park, go to Muskoka on a two weeks visit.

AN AUGUST CLEAR-UP AT THE GORDON STORE

Already the early arrivals of Ladies Fall Coats and Fine Furs demand more room. To clear out Summer Stock we shall give very special price inducements in Muslins, Lawns and Ready-Mades.

White Dress Skirts

White Linen Dress Skirts, embroidered and pleated, to clear \$3.00.

Indian Head Dress Skirts

Pleated and strap-trimmed, \$1.75

White Linen Dress Skirts

Neatly trimmed & pleated, \$2.25.

Superior \$6 Plain Linen Dress Skirts—9 gore, special \$4.00.

White Dresses

Very stylish White Dresses trimmed with embroidery, insertion, etc., \$3.50, \$4, \$5 and \$6.

House Dresses

Fine fast color percale dresses, very neat patterns, trimmed with embroidery, \$1.48.

Fine Gingham Dresses

Trimmed with insertions and lace, very tastily made, \$3.00.

Underwear

Manufacturer's Sale of Ladies' White Muslin Underwear.

Dress Goods Ends

300 choice Dress Goods Ends, from 2 to 5 yards, just what you require for girls' school dresses or ladies' separate skirts, every remnant marked down to one half the regular price or less than that.

Shirt Waists

Wash Silk and Fine Muslin Shirt Waists at price cut in two.

Our 50c men's & boys' regatta & outing shirts are prime values. Harvest smocks & overalls, all sizes 50c up. Our 75c Men's and Boys' Regatta and Outing Shirts are well worth one dollar.

Use Standard Patterns **WILLIAM GORDON** Standard are the Best

Millinery Apprentices Wanted. Apply Wm. Foreman & Co. If you need anything at "The Ark" you can get it at special prices to-morrow. Monday the store will be closed to complete stock-taking.

The infant son of Edwin and Mary Wing, Raleigh St., died just after midnight last night, after an illness of ten days. The little fellow was particularly bright and winsome, and his death comes as a severe blow to the parents, who but a few months ago buried the child's grandfather. The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2.30. Dr. Daniels, of Park St. Methodist Church, will officiate.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper

Geo. A. Ford, of Lang, Saskatchewan, is the guest of Miss May Peate.

Any straw, brown Derby of light felt hat in the store for \$1.00. The 2 T's.

Mrs. J. T. Payne, of Indianapolis, is visiting her mother, Mrs. (Rev.) Thomas, Stanley Ave.

Mrs. Wm. Ball and daughter Ethel, of Victoria avenue, returned home last night, after a six weeks' visit with friends at Beverton. Miss Edith Ball, who accompanied them, is spending a few weeks at Toronto.

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper

MAC McLEOD

—HAS A—

NICE RANGE OF

Negligee Shirts,

With and Without Collars.

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CLOTHES TO YOUR ORDER.

OPPOSITE RANKIN.

OPEN EVENINGS

Minard's Liniment cures Distemper

CLOSED OUT THE New York Cloak Store Stock TO BE SOLD AT A BIG SACRIFICE

Owing to the continued illness of Mr. Shapero this stock had to be disposed of at once and we were fortunate to secure it at

**A LOW RATE ON THE DOLLAR
BETTER THAN BANKRUPT STOCK**

This store only commenced business on Sept. 15th of last year so the entire stock consists of this season's designs, several cases of this fall's new goods were already in stock.

THE STOCK CONSISTS OF

**Ladies' Suits, Silk Waists, White Muslin Waists,
Silk Underskirts, Ready-to-Wear Cloth Skirts, Belts,
Collars, Neckwear, Underwear, Hosiery, Gloves, etc.**

No reserve, every article must be sold. We can only secure the premises for a limited time. Sale commences,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH

All goods Marked in Plain Figures. All Sales Cash and One Price only. Remember the place, next door to Turner's Drug Store.

C. AUSTIN & CO.

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