

THE TORONTO WORLD

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THE RECENT FIRES.

A practical electrical engineer has informed The World that on many occasions he has been able to produce a brilliant light by connecting an incandescent globe with gas pipes and water pipes in different parts of the city. His theory is that the electricity by which these lights can be produced is induced into the pipes by reason of the latter's proximity to the underground electric wires. If this is a fact, it establishes one of the theories that has been advanced in connection with the recent fires, viz., that the electric currents that provide light and power throughout the streets of Toronto are not effectively isolated, but are leaking at many points and are a source of constant danger in whatever districts they are found. While we remain in ignorance of the cause which have destroyed over two million dollars' worth of property, we cannot omit to pursue our investigation in any region where it is possible to locate these causes. It is, therefore, the duty of the council to institute an investigation of the theory not only in regard to the theory of the leakage of electric current generally, but into any other matters that may lead to the discovery of the origin of the recent fire as well as of the other two that preceded it.

THE BUSINESS WORLD.

Mr. Ralph W. Chamberlain, the hardware merchant of Berlin, has been proposed for membership of Toronto Board of Trade.

The settlements yesterday were heavy at the banks. Paper was pretty well provided for by the various merchants, but extensions asked for by retailers are numerous.

The earnings of the Canadian Pacific for the fourth week of February are \$770,000, a decrease of \$15,000. This is an improvement, the decrease for the first, second and third weeks being \$25,000, \$25,000 and \$25,000.

Those who looked for a break in Assurance stocks yesterday in consequence of the heavy fire losses reported at the close of the week, were disappointed. The market closed at 143 1/2 bid with 149 asked, the latter being the name of Saturday's closing. The British closed at 110 1/2 bid, a decline of only 3/4.

The system of insurance is a good one, but the rates are high. It is not surprising that the net loss of the American fire insurance companies in the West was \$80,000, and that of the Western less than \$10,000.

Mr. Robert Simpson has taken a short lease of the premises in Yonge-street, opposite the Globe building, formerly occupied by James Eaton & Co., and afterwards by C. S. McDonald & Co. of Georgetown, for ten years, at a rental of \$8000 per annum and taxes. The latter firm resolved some weeks ago not to go to Toronto, and negotiations have been going on since. A settlement has been reached by Mr. Simpson, represented by George A. Case. A settlement has been reached by Mr. Simpson, represented by George A. Case. A settlement has been reached by Mr. Simpson, represented by George A. Case.

CIVIC ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

Council decides to put it to the vote of the ratepayers.

Ald. Scott's motion to amend the bylaw so that the sum to be inserted in the bylaw as to the cost of the electric plant be altered from \$210,000 to \$277,000.

Ald. Leslie wished more information before formulating the bylaw. He said that he had been in the city last week. He thought consideration might be deferred for a couple of weeks.

Ald. McMurrich was not in person for further delay, and said the ratepayers had sufficient information.

Ald. Leslie moved the last speaker should declare plainly whether he favored civic ownership or not.

Ald. Davies also supported the reference to the will of the ratepayers, entering once more into figures to show the great gain to the people. He said that the unfairness of the high charges of the Consumers' Gas Company.

The corporation should be independent of all electric and gas companies. He favored Ald. Scott's amendment. He said that there was not much difference in estimating the cost of installing a civic plant. He said that the cost of a civic plant was in the varying estimates of the cost per lamp. He said that he was in favor of a great reduction in price per lamp.

Ald. Sheppard favored the remission of the question to the people.

Ald. McMurrich read the letter of De Witt and Dancy, whose offer of \$500 per lamp, was not in the question. He said that the more the question was looked at, the more difficult it appeared to know the merits of the question as to cost per lamp.

Ald. Burns thought the amount proposed to be placed in the bylaw by Ald. Scott for installment of a plant was more than sufficient.

Ald. Davies moved the question to the decision of the ratepayers.

Ald. Oliver thought the ratepayers had as much intelligence as aldermen in deciding the question.

The 11 o'clock rule was suspended and the debate went on.

Ald. Hallam favored delay and additional data. "I am in favor of civic control, but not for going it blind."

Trades Review says:

It is some considerable time since we pointed out that the threat of successful competition in steel from the United States was not a mere "bogey" but was likely in course of time to become a stern reality. We have good reason to know that the reality now comes nearer every day. The paper which was recently published by the Manufacturers' Chamber of Commerce by Jeremiah Head pointed out in unmistakable terms the danger to the United States in the manufacture of pig iron. It was shown conclusively by Mr. Head that the United States is producing and sold for about 55 cents per ton less than it costs in Cleveland, the cheapest center in the United States. It is the theory of the United States that we have not as yet been flooded with this cheap American pig in European markets, but it is not at all improbable that this event will happen by and by.

Meanwhile, however, certain other branches of the iron and steel industries have been successfully attacked by the American rivalry under conditions which with an amount of success that may well cause us a good deal of disquietude. We have the most ample evidence of the fact that the cost of steel billets at the works in Pittsburgh is cheaper than at works in Glasgow.

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All Other Equipments Necessary To Be Provided.

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The committee members discussed the offer, and it was decided that the city should accept the offer. The estimated cost of the engines was \$10,000.

The committee also discussed the matter of purchasing a fire engine for the city of Toronto. It was decided that the city should purchase a fire engine for the city of Toronto.

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FIREFIGHT WALLS AND PARTY ROOFS.

Ald. Davies was of opinion that the city should have fireproof walls and party roofs. He said that the city should have fireproof walls and party roofs.

The committee members discussed the matter, and it was decided that the city should have fireproof walls and party roofs. The estimated cost of the walls and roofs was \$10,000.

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DEPUTATION FROM TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATION.

Mr. DeWitt presented a petition signed by 3000 ratepayers in favor of the resolution for closing licensed houses at 9 o'clock.

The committee members discussed the petition, and it was decided that the city should close licensed houses at 9 o'clock.

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EARLY CLOSING OF SALOONS.

Mr. DeWitt presented a petition signed by 3000 ratepayers in favor of the resolution for closing licensed houses at 9 o'clock.

The committee members discussed the petition, and it was decided that the city should close licensed houses at 9 o'clock.

The committee also discussed the matter of purchasing a fire engine for the city of Toronto. It was decided that the city should purchase a fire engine for the city of Toronto.

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