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Donald MacFadyen Manager Belleville Branch

COAL SITUATION IN BELLEVILLE IS SERIOUS; LOCAL DEALERS CONFER WITH THE CIVIC AUTHORITIES

Some Assistance Expected From Montreal As a Result of Mayor Platt's Appeal--Coal Merchants Tell Special Coal Committee and Controller Wills the Amount of Their Stocks--Not Two Days' Supply in the City, Nearly All Soft Coal.

MAYOR PLATT TELEPHONES OTTAWA AND MONTREAL

City Council Discusses Problem of Securing Fuel--Many Suggestions Offered--Cases of Destitution Cited by Controller F. F. Wills.

The fuel problem was never so serious as it is in Belleville today. Heroic measures are being taken to relieve distress and suffering from the cold, but the full significance of the situation was apparent to anyone who attended the conference of the Municipal Coal Committee, Fuel Controller Wills and the Belleville coal merchants in the City Hall yesterday afternoon.

Then Belleville had actually less than two days' supply of coal and that nearly all soft. An effort has been made to secure fuel from a Montreal firm and a carload or two may be expected in a day or two.

The conference was attended by Mayor Platt, Ald. Robinson, Ald.

would not be necessary. But when dealers themselves are facing a serious problem, a controller may take control of the stock of the dealers and the distribution.

In reference to his statement made before the Municipal Board at Toronto Mr. Wills said he wanted to be fair to Mr. W. N. Belair of the Schuster Company. "I find he has had a great loss by waste in crushing coal. Of course this was not considered in my report. I owe this to be fair to Mr. Belair and the Schuster Company."

Mr. Belair said he was glad Mr. Wills had made this correction, as the figures quoted in Toronto had been a source of annoyance to the company.

"The gravest situation is that there is scarcely any coal in the city. We have after today's delivery, 9 tons of pea coal and 4 tons of canned coal. We have about 30 tons of soft coal. We have invoices for four cars. I am assured that the big lump coal will come along quickly."

Mr. Wills said he had been told some people were holding ten or fifteen tons in their cellars. A citizen said he would insist that this be requisitioned.

There are a number of cases where people are destitute of coal. These were cited by Mr. Wills. If the worst should come to the worst then there are public places in Belleville like amusement places, dance halls, billiard and pool rooms, which might be closed. Stores might close early. Churches have been closed for some weeks.

Col. Allen: "At the present time we have not a pound of soft or hard coal. I have a car between here and Toronto. The situation as I see it is drastic. The fuel controller should get hold of what coal there is in town. If he can state to the Department at Ottawa that we have only a few days' coal, he might be able to get some relief."

"I have lost the supply I had been keeping for my customers. The dealers have been willing to buy coal at any price, but if they raise prices they are criticized."

Mr. F. S. Anderson declared that his hard coal was practically all gone. "We have in the neighborhood of 200 tons of soft coal," he stated.

"We have about 14 cars between here and the mines."

"What are you asking?" Ald. Robinson interrogated.

"Hard coal?"

"Yes."

Mr. Anderson said his company had never refused anybody some coal of some kind, regardless of whose customers they have been.

"We don't like to be annoyed by the fuel controller coming into our office asking for some kind of coal for an applicant. We are not charging any more than the regulations, and I believe a little less than the 50 cent margin. Personally, I do not see any necessity of a local controller under the present working system. Really there is no fuel control."

Mr. Anderson did not like Mr. Wills' forbidding selling to farmers at the lower office. "We have many farmers as customers who have no other source of fuel but coal."

Controller Wills replied: "I have no need to run around to that man's office or anyone else's. Complaints come into the city clerk's office that coal has been refused," and he act-

ed accordingly.

Mr. Dan Gallagher said his stock was very low. "I see in Tweed they have lots of wood." The Reeves of the surrounding municipalities took steps to get four carloads.

Capt. Downey said the Downey Company has about 35 tons of soft coal. "We have never refused people coal of some kind. I imagine the same is true of every dealer."

Mr. Belair: "There has not been a single refusal at our office of some kind of coal." A man living in the outskirts agreed to take half a ton of pea coal and when the coal was brought, refused it. "We should be protected from such treatment."

Mr. Wills said he never made a statement that dealers refused coal. People may put up false pleas. "I have to investigate them."

Ald. Robinson: "About three or four weeks ago, I went to three dealers and I was told they had no coal for any but their own customers."

Col. Allen: "Was not that a business proposition at that time? We were trying to conserve coal for our customers."

Mr. Lynch said he had only 25 tons of soft coal. He had tried to get wood. This he was selling at \$9.50 and \$12.50. The action of the Council did not warrant a man looking around for coal very much.

Mayor Platt: "I have a telegram from the mayor of Galt stating that he has bought 1,000 tons of coal. London is selling to its citizens at \$9.50 per ton."

Col. Allen: "What good is it if you cannot get delivery?"

Mayor Platt: "The mayor said it was coming in."

Ald. Robinson read a despatch stating that London had purchased 10,000 tons.

Col. Allen: "Coal yards are no good unless you have coal."

Ald. Robinson: "We would have a coal yard for next summer."

Mr. F. S. Anderson: "Mr. Robinson, is it your idea that coal dealers don't want coal?"

Ald. Robinson: "Oh, no, such a thought never occupied my mind."

Mr. Anderson: "We have had within a thousand tons from April 1st, 1917, to now, as we did in the whole of last year."

Mr. Wills: "The problem is what are we going to do now?"

Ald. Robinson: "I think you will have to look into people's cellars."

Mr. Wills: "I think it will have to be done."

Mayor Platt: "Or close some public buildings."

Ald. Robinson: "Do both."

Mr. Wills: "A hundred tons of coal would scarcely help much. The immediate relief is what we want."

Col. Allen: "There is not a day and a half's supply at the present time. Take any coal you can get."

Ald. Robinson: "The first thing you should do is to go to find who have coal stored in their cellars."

Mr. Belair: "Do you consider these regulations apply from Nov. 1st onwards?"

Mr. Wills thought they applied to those who had purchased coal prior to November 1st.

Ald. Robinson: "Yes, I think the regulations apply to anyone."

Mr. Wills: "I believe removing anyone's coal should be the last resort."

Ald. Robinson: "I think it should be the first."

Col. Allen: "Why not order coal. The dealers will handle it. You set your price and we'll handle it. The citizens of Belleville should not freeze when there are 60,000 tons of coal at the Grand Trunk depot. Better start there than in people's cellars."

Finally it was decided that the mayor should endeavor to see if the fuel controller's Department at Ottawa would not help out the situation by sending a few cars this way.

Mayor Platt called up by phone the deputy controller at Ottawa, who said he could not do anything at present but referred him to Mr. Fred McCourt, of Montreal, president of the Coal and Coke Association.

Mr. McCourt said he would send Belleville a car at once, if not two, first thing on Tuesday morning if possible. He was going to New York and said he would try and see what he could do for the city there. The mayor also phoned the G.T.R. superintendent, Mr. McMillan, asking if the railroad could help the city out of difficulty. Mr. McMillan said the railway had hardly any for themselves.

This situation the mayor placed before the Council last night. "We have less than two days' supply and no doubt people are tonight without coal."

Ald. Donahue: "I see that some owners are buying wood."

Ald. St. Charles: "Let's get some men and cut down some of our shade trees."

Ald. Robinson did not agree with this as he did not think the wood would burn. He thought some of the mills out north along the C.O.R. had plenty of hardwood slabs. A representative should be sent north to look out for wood.

Mayor Platt: "We can shut up

some of our schools, places of amusement, poolrooms and so forth. We cannot let the people freeze."

Ald. Parks: "Suppose the Council send a committee out to the country and ask farmers to sell one or two hundred loads." He noted places where there were woods with plenty of dry trees.

Ald. Hanna, who was up north some time ago, said he knew of unlimited quantities of cut hard wood. It would cost \$5.50 or \$9 per cord delivered here. The difficulty was to get transportation.

"That's the whole trouble," said Ald. Whelan. "If not for that you could get coal."

Ald. Curry said Reeve Jud Gunter was getting \$7.00 for green wood which he was shipping. Ald. Parks' plan was impracticable as you could not hire a farmer or citizen to go out and chop the standing timber.

Ald. Trevorton thought no farmer would allow anyone to go into his woods and chop timber.

Ald. Donahue: "If you are going to do anything in the wood business you have to buy the timber standing and go at it as if you meant business."

Mayor Platt quoted Ottawa as having got permission to go up into Algonquin Park to have wood cut. "You want to start now. It is up to the Fuel Committee to write to the minister of crown lands to see if Belleville could have access to such timber limits."

WESTERN AMELIASBURG

Mr. and Mrs. Smith Brown spent Monday and Tuesday, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vandervoort, Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Aylea and Mr. and Mrs. Stillman, Mastin and family visited at H. Rathbun's on Monday evening.

Mrs. Wm. Stoneburg returned home on Friday after visiting her parents at Rednersville.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Snider and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bonter took dinner at H. Rathbun's on Wednesday.

Mrs. Ross Chase entertained company on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt and family of Brampton returned home on Monday after visiting Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Aylhart.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kemp and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Kemp spent Friday at Smith Brown's.

Lulu Rathbun returned home on Saturday after visiting at Hillon and Wooler.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brown also Mr. and Mrs. Smith Brown, visited at Wm. McDougall's on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Aylea entertained company on Tuesday evening.

Miss Nora Rathbun of the O.B.C. staff of teachers, Belleville spent the week-end at her home. Carrying Place.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Rathbun, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Bellamy and Mr. and Mrs. D. Snider took tea at Wm. Aylea's on Saturday evening.

Red Cross meeting was well attended at Mrs. Wm. Kemp's on Wednesday. Next meeting at Mrs. C. Snider's on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Rathbun and Mrs. Adelaide Lont took dinner at Mr. J. H. Brown's on Wednesday.

AMELIASBURG S. S. NO. 13

Mr. and Mrs. George Aylea spent Friday in Conesoon.

A goodly number from the neighborhood braved the storm on Saturday and attended Trenton market.

The sick of the vicinity are all improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Way spent Sunday with their daughter, Mrs. S. Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Williamson visited at C. N. Adams' on Monday.

Even though the roads were well high impassable, quite a number assembled at the house to attend the funeral service of Miss Sarah A. Blakely on Wednesday last. Rev. Mr. Campbell conducted the service.

Miss Lucy Blakely has gone to Belleville to spend the winter with her nephew, A. P. Blakely.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Locie and Mr. and Mrs. E. Blakely spent Saturday evening at Edgar Aylea's.

Mr. Jas. Dempsey entertained a number of friends one evening recently.

Mr. A. Dempsey is under the doctor's care, but is slowly improving.

Messrs. C. N. Adams and R. E. Dempsey are the milk drawers engaged to take the milk to Highland Cheese and Butter Factory for the ensuing year.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Aylea spent an evening recently with Mr. and Mrs. W. Locie.

McAVOY - MALVEA

This morning at seven o'clock at St. Michael's church a quiet wedding was celebrated by Rev. Father Kilteen, when Miss May Malvea, daughter of the late James Malvea and of Mrs. Malvea, 67 Cedar street, was united in marriage to Mr. Claire

McAvoy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McAvoy, of Campbellford. The bride was dressed in a blue crepe, meteor suit trimmed with georgette crepe, carried a white prayer book and wore a large black picture hat. The bridesmaid, Miss Malvea, of Campbellford, wore a navy blue suit with georgette crepe waist and a large picture hat. Mr. Bert McAvoy, of Toronto, brother of the groom, was best man.

The nuptial mass was attended by immediate friends of the happy young couple. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. McAvoy left on the G.T.R. train for Toronto and spent their honeymoon. They will make their home in Belleville, the groom being engaged with the Wilson Foundry.

Michael Surevo is under arrest in New York, on the charge of feeding his two months old baby alcohol, compounds and peroxide of hydrogen, and in addition to have beaten it almost to unconsciousness.



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alike, but a full range of 89c
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Black Tights \$1.25, \$1.50

CASHMERE HOSE

Black Cashmere Hose at 25 cents
Black Cashmere Hose at 50c, 60c, 65c, 75c, \$1.
Tan Cashmere Hose at \$1.50
Tan Hose at 50c, and 65c
Children's Hose at 25c to 75c.

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