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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1922

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THE CASE FOR HYDRO

Sir Adam Beck does not mince words in his refutation of the assertions and conclusions reached in the Murray report on the respective merits and costs of publicly and privately owned and operated electric utilities. The Murray report was prepared at the request of the National Electric Light Association, and made comparisons which were not favorable to publicly owned hydro as in Ontario. This report was hailed with delight by all champions of private corporation control. It was quoted in St. John as a reason why the Musquash current should be handed over to the New Brunswick Power Company. Mr. Murray is an admitted opponent of government ownership, and he was reporting to people who wanted a case against public ownership made out. We have had a somewhat similar experience in St. John. It was not to be expected that Sir Adam Beck would permit the case for publicly owned hydro to be misrepresented or misjudged, and his reply has now been issued. Referring to Mr. Murray, Sir Adam objects to: "His garbling of documentary data; "His general misrepresentation respecting the operations of the hydro commission; "His unwarranted statements relating to the concentration of industries, or to the throttling of initiative; "His puerile dealing with economic subjects; "His unprofessional treatment of important technical data."

Commenting on the Beck reply, the Toronto Globe says that "from the beginning the Murray report is described as an attempt to discredit the success of the municipally owned hydro-electric power and light undertaking operated for Ontario municipalities." The reply itself says:

"Inasmuch as the 'Murray' report has been shown to be permeated by misrepresentations and unjust statements, it is, after all, seen to be one more of those impotent attempts which, from time to time, have been made to discredit the outstanding achievements of the co-operating hydro-electric municipalities in the province of Ontario."

One by one the statements in the Murray report are refuted in detail, and an unanswerable case made out for the publicly owned hydro system of Ontario. This is very important, because all over this continent for the corporation interests are combining to discredit and oppose public ownership of public utilities. They realize what public ownership of hydro means, and see their profits vanishing. Whether in the United States, Ontario or New Brunswick, they are in active opposition to the policy that would give the people service at cost. In St. John at the present time an attempt is being made to play upon the fears of the taxpayers and persuade them that in a public ownership policy in regard to light and power they are taking dangerous risks. Ontario has not found it so. Nor will St. John or the province at large.

NOT WORTH \$3,909,000

If the city of St. John agreed to a deal which would guarantee the interest on the first and second preferred stock of the New Brunswick Power Company, those securities would go to par. Any man holding stock guaranteeing five or six per cent interest would not want to sell at less than par, except in a case where he was forced to realize in order to get money. This means that if the city wanted to buy out the property at any time it would have to increase the city debt by \$3,909,000. In the meantime it would have spent another half million or so of its own money to put the plant in repair. Is that good business? It is worth a good deal over a million dollars to the city to let the New Brunswick Power Company have its way, when the city has the whip hand and by competition can force a shrinkage of value of the property to reasonable proportions? We are warned of the terrible things that a company may do to us if we have the temerity to compete. There are hints of injunctions, law suits and what not. Is it likely that a company, the value of whose investment depends upon public patronage, would deliberately set itself to the task of antagonizing its patrons? The course the city should pursue is plain. There is no justification for a public sale. That would thereby be passing the buck and evading a duty that is clear because it was made clear by the civic elections. Such a course should not be pursued in the face of a recall which will materially change the personnel of the city council.

The widow, son and cousin of Theodore Roosevelt, who are his executors, have discovered \$50,000 additional assets since an accounting was made seven months ago. They have notified both federal and state authorities, in order that taxes may be paid thereon. His executors have pursued such a course as Colonel Roosevelt would have wished. There is here a lesson the tax-dodgers might well take to heart.

A million dollars or more is as good to the city of St. John as to the New Brunswick Power Company.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE

British Journalism will not be quite the same without the striking figure of Lord Northcliffe. If his influence had somewhat waned in recent years he was none the less the most remarkable example of individual success in Journalism the recent history of Britain presents. He was one of five sons of the late Alfred Harmsworth, barrister of the Middle Temple, three of whom entered Journalism, and two of whom, Lord Northcliffe and Lord Rothermere, rose to the peerage. The career of these brothers was sensational in the rapidity of their rise to influence and power, in Journalism and in public life. Lord Northcliffe was a man of remarkable executive capacity, a tireless worker and a man stirred by lofty ambitions. He became a force to be reckoned with by governments. Under the guidance of the Harmsworth brothers London Journalism entered upon a new phase, and if there were those who regarded their methods as too sensational for the steady going British press, there was no doubt about the influence they exerted on the public mind. The course pursued by Lord Northcliffe during the last few years did not, however, add to his strength in the country, which has so loyally followed the leadership of Mr. Lloyd George. His lordship had won an international fame, and the great Journals whose policy he directed will keenly feel the loss of that great personality which dominated them for so many years. Lord Northcliffe understood and appreciated the aspirations of the Dominion overseas. He was a broad imperialist and in that sense served the Empire well. If he was not always right he was always forceful and had a large following. The story of his life would be a book of absorbing interest, both as a narrative of remarkable personal achievement and as a record of great events, involving the careers of the foremost men of the last quarter of a century in English public life.

MR. ARTHUR GRIFFITH

Friends of Ireland everywhere join in the feeling and expression of profound regret at the passing of Mr. Arthur Griffith, the steadfast, silent man whose wise counsel has done so much to make possible the Irish Free State. De Vries and others might pose and seek publicity, but Griffith cared only for his work and its success, and such honors as came to him came unsought. He was a powerful influence for sane conduct of Irish affairs and his death is a great loss to Ireland. There are other able leaders, and the task will be taken up by other hands, but the fame of Griffith will not pass away. His character and high purpose will be an inspiration to his colleagues and to others in Irish public life, and the work of pacification will go on to success. It has been the fate of Ireland to suffer from untoward events at critical moments in her history, and the passing of Mr. Griffith adds another to the list. It cannot be doubted, however, that his mantle will fall upon strong shoulders and his dream of an Irish Free State will not pass away. All through the recent troubled years his steadfast purpose and the quiet dignity of his conduct commanded the respect of all but the bitter extremists on both sides. Irish history will accord him a place of high honor in the nation's annals, and when peace has come a happier Ireland will be his monument.

The Ontario minister of crown lands has got an order-in-council to issue permits to municipalities to cut fuel on crown lands. They will pay fifty cents per cord for permission to cut hardwood and twenty-five cents for soft wood, and it is said that even these fees may be waived. There is abundance of birch, beech and maple north of Perry Sound. The Toronto Globe urges the authorities of that city to engage an expert to act in behalf of its citizens, and be ready to get a supply of wood if the necessity should arise next winter. Ontario depends very largely on American coal as fuel, and would be hard hit if the strikes continued.

Business conditions in New Brunswick are improving. Wholesale merchants report a larger movement of goods than at this time last year. The gain is not large, but sufficient to indicate improvement. The large crops, the certainty that more logs will be cut next fall and winter, and the success that has marked the work of the fishermen on all coasts of the province, are unmistakable proofs of a larger buying capacity and gradually increasing demand for merchandise.

Tomorrow will be tag-day for the Health Centre. The very poorest citizens will feel like contributing a mite toward a cause of such great significance to the public health of the city and province. This is an exceptional appeal because of the far reaching effect of a Health Centre upon the welfare of the whole community.

This will be a fruitful week in civic politics in St. John. Less than four months has caused a remarkable change.

FIFTEEN MINUTES OF RADIO EACH DAY

By Edward N. Davis

Formerly Technical Electrical Expert For U. S. Government

Lesson No. 76.

METHODS OF CHARGING STORAGE BATTERIES.

Many radio enthusiasts having electricity in the house for lighting purposes would prefer to charge their storage battery themselves rather than go to the trouble of removing the battery to a service station.

Lighting circuits are usually at a potential of about 110 volts while the voltage for charging a six-volt storage battery should be only slightly greater than the voltage of the battery. It is therefore necessary to reduce the voltage from 110 volts to a voltage of proper value to charge the battery at the specified rate.

Lighting circuits are fed from either direct current or alternating current sources. Alternating current which reverses its direction in the wires in a way which would alternately charge and discharge the battery cannot be employed without rectifying the current in such a way as to cause it to flow in one direction only. Rectification is accomplished by means of valves which allow the current to flow in one direction but not in the other direction. Two common types of rectifiers are employed in battery charging devices. One makes use of a polarized relay which closes during one half the cycle while the alternating current is flowing in one direction but opens when the current attempts to flow in the other direction. Another type of rectifier makes use of the valve action of a vacuum tube.

The voltage of alternating current lighting circuits may be reduced to a voltage suitable for charging storage batteries by means of a step-down transformer. The current is then rectified in one of the ways described and then flows into the battery.

The voltage of direct current lighting circuits may be reduced to a voltage suitable for charging storage batteries by inserting resistance coils in the line. Charging low voltage storage batteries from a 110-volt D. C. lighting circuit is a very uneconomical proposition since about only one-tenth of the energy consumed is delivered to the battery, the rest being given off in light and heat.

Numerous types and makes of devices have recently appeared on the market for charging batteries from A. C. sources. After the first cost of such a device the battery can be fully charged in from ten to twenty hours at a cost of but a few cents for current.

Another method, employed in service stations in charging large numbers of storage batteries makes use of a motor generator set driven by a D. C. or A. C. motor of suitable size and voltage direct coupled to a low voltage high current D. C. generator.

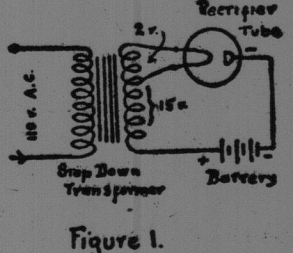


Figure 1.

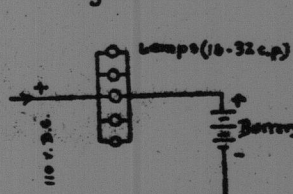


Figure 2.

Figure 1 shows the circuit for charging a battery of six volts from a 110 volt A. C. source employing a tube rectifier. Figure 2 shows the circuit for charging a six-volt storage battery from a 110-volt D. C. source using a number of lamps to reduce the charging current.

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THE MOON LADY.

Sing a song of sundown,
I sat nodding on a stile
And the moon came through.

The moon, she was a lady
With floating silver hair,
Garments all of gossamer
And pearl chains to wear.

She made a sign of silence,
Lips with finger pressed
For all the little wood-things
Were cuddled on her breast.

Field-mouse and chipmunk,
Bird and butterfly,
She never said a word because
Each asleep did lie.

I got up on tippy-toe
And let down the bars;
And the lady moon went hrough,
Out to join the stars.

—Edna Valentine Trapnell.

LIGHTER VEIN.

One of Two Things.
"There stands the saddest looking man I ever saw."

"He certainly looks the picture of grief. I wonder what's happened to him. Either he's had a terrible loss or he's played rotten golf today."—Detroit Free Press.

The Fate of an Amateur.
"Flubdub has studied both law and medicine."

"How does he stand?"
"Figure it out for yourself. The lawyers call him 'Doc,' and the doctors call him 'Judge.'"—Kansas City Journal.

The Versatile Statesman.
"How's your brother who used to be so prominent in New York state as a Republican?"

"He's doing well in Texas as a Democrat."—Kansas City Journal.

YESTERDAY IN CITY CHURCHES

Several distinguished visiting preachers were heard in the city pulpits yesterday and they delivered impressive messages. Rev. Percy R. Hayward, Ph. D., of Toronto, general secretary for Canada of the Religious Education Council, conducted the services in the Ludlow street Baptist church and large congregations were present to give him a cordial welcome. Rev. William Y. Chapman, D.D., of Newark (N. J.), occupied the pulpit of St. David's church and Rev. Frank O. Erb, of Philadelphia, was the preacher at the Central Baptist church. In the Church of the Holy Trinity, Rev. George B. MacDonald, pastor of the West End church, Halifax, conducted the services.

Rev. Dr. Percy R. Hayward, general secretary for Canada of the Religious Education Council and formerly pastor of the Fairville Baptist church, was in the city over the week end and was warmly greeted by his many friends. He was staying with Mr. Mrs. John Sime and left this morning for Digby on his way to Wallace to attend the leaders' training camp there. Dr. Hayward conducted the services in the Ludlow street Baptist church yesterday. He is a native of New Brunswick, having been born near Hartland and was a graduate of the University of New Brunswick.

What Cheap Power Does

An Experience in St. Catherine's as Related by Hilton Belyea, St. John's Great Rower.

Hilton Belyea is a hydro enthusiast, just as most of the other citizens of St. John are. The great sculler is a bit of a business man himself, as he runs a hockey rink on the West Side and he has found that his bill for lighting every month last winter was mighty large—too large to suit a business man. So, when Mr. Belyea was in St. Catherine's for the Canadian Henley, near the great Niagara hydro development, he made some inquiries himself.

Needing a shave, he went to a St. Catherine's favorite barber shop, which is under ground and where the lights are kept burning throughout the day and often, well into the night. He remarked to the barber that his bill must be a tidy sum every month. The barber was so surprised that he stopped shaving. "Wait until I am done and I'll show you how much I am soaked," was his reply.

After the tonsorial operation had been completed successfully, the barber produced the receipts which Mr. Belyea brought home with him. They tell a story that will make people wonder why they stand for monopoly prices.

The bills are issued from the office of the public utilities commission of the city and were for commercial lighting. "For the month of May, 1922," said Mr. Belyea, "the barber used 168 kilowatt-hours and his bill amounted exactly \$1.51. A ten per cent discount was taken advantage of and what the barber paid for an almost continuous service for his lights was \$1.36 for the month. For the month of April his bill was \$1.43. He produced receipts from last year and all told the same story. For domestic purposes the rate is about the same. For commercial use the rates are:—For the first 30 kilowatt hours the rate is four cents per k.w.h.; for the next 70 hours, the rate is 1.5 cents per k.w.h., and for all else used it is .15 cents per k.w.h. For October, 1921, Barber Stull's bill was \$1.45. He used 247 kilowatt hours that month. His place of business is at 102 St. Paul street.

Compare this with St. John rates! The veteran sculler expressed himself strongly in favor of hydro, and added that he hoped when the plant was in operation that his bills would be as low as the St. Catherine's barber's.

MOTHER.
She's just our little gleam of heaven;
Just our little bit of joy.
Oh how many turn to Mother;
Even the child with its broken toy.

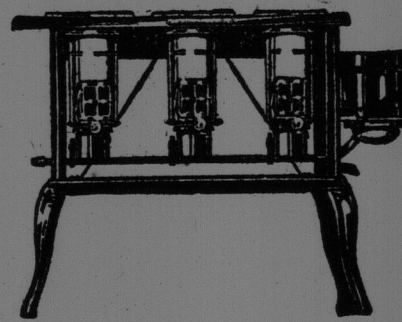
Yet many forget dear Mother,
And leave her, old and gray,
To die in the miserable poor-house,
Just across the way.

The sunshine left my life forever;
When Mother left this world of care.
But she's better off in heaven,
'Way up with the angels fair.

—By Florence Veronica Daesey, 377 Union street, St. John, N. B., aged twelve years.

The Colwell Fuel Company of West St. John has been awarded the contract for supplying coal to the Dominion government buildings in the city.

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