F. H. BUTLER,
STOCK BROKER.
Stocks, Bonds, Grain and Provisions bought and sold for cash or on margins. Send for vest pocket manual. Long distance 'phone 1,278. OFFICES—Masonic Temple, London.

LATEST MARKETS

STOCK MARKETS.

H. C. Becher, broker, Bank of Commerce building, received the following by private wire from Bartlett, Frazier & Carrington today:

New York, Feb. 15—Noon.—The market has been very dull during the forenoon session, and trading has been entirely professional, with fluctuations correspondingly narrow. The tone has been relatively good, and the active stocks steady or fairly strong. There is so very little activity that there is little warranting specific comment. A few stocks show a fractional decline from the highest prices, but there is no sign of weakness, and, in fact, little sign of anything, because of the dullness. The opening was tame and the fluctuations from Saturday's closing was small. Brooklyn Rapid Transit pool injected little activity, and Copper also scored an advance, and it is liberally tipped for a rise. Bullish tips on New York Central were not effective. Some good buying of Pennsylvania was noticed. The prospect for the afternoon is for a continuance of present conditions. Sales to noon were 81,600 shares.

TORONTO.

	Toronto, Feb. 15 Ask.	Off
Montreal	..	246
Ontario	..	125
Toronto	..	227½
Commerce	..	150
Imperial	216	212
Dominion	227	225
Hamilton	219	..
Nova Scotia	..	262
Ottawa	215	..
Traders	..	135½
British America	100	..
Western Assurance	96	..
Imperial Life	..	149
Consumers Gas	212	..
Ontario and Qu'Appelle Land	..	94
Canada Northwest Land, pref	..	96
Can. Pacific Railway Stock	117	116½
Toronto Electric Light	..	131
General Electric	145	139
London Electric	100	..
Commercial Cable	193	191¾
Dominion Telegraph	..	117
Richelieu and Ontario Nav. Co.	83	80¼
Niagara Navigation	..	112
St. L. and C. Navigation	112	..
Toronto Street Railway	99	97½
Twin City Railway, new	90	89½
Winnipeg St. Railway	175	160
Sao Paulo Tramway	93	90½
Dominion Steel, com	..	8
Dominion Coal, com	60	59
Nova Scotia Steel	..	75
Canada Salt	117	..
Crow's Nest Coal	350	..
British Canadian L. and I	..	85
Canada Landed and Nat. Inv	..	103
Canada Permanent	123	121
Canada Savings and Loan	..	119
Central Canada Loan	..	156
Dominion Savings and Invest	..	70
Hamilton Provident	..	119
Huron & Erie L. & S. Co.	..	173
Landed Banking and Loan	..	119
Manitoba Loan	..	95
Toronto Mortgage	..	86
London Loan	120	113
Ontario Loan and Deb.	..	121
Toronto Savings and Loan	..	130

SALES: Dominion, 20 at 225⅞; Cable, 25 at 191⅞; Toronto Railway, 2 at 98¼; Sao Paulo, 2 at 89, 25 at 90; C. P. R., 100 at 116¾, 50 at 117, 50 at 116⅞, 50 at 116⅞; Twin City, 25 at 90; Coal, 5 at 59⅝, 25 at 59½; Canada Permanent, 48 at 123.

MONTREAL.

	Montreal Feb. 15 Ask.	Off.
Canadian Pacific	117	116⅞
Winnipeg Electric	200	..
Montreal Street Railway	207¼	203⅞
Toronto Railway	99	98½
Halifax Railway	90¼	87
St. John Railway	117¼	100
Twin City	90	89¾
Richelieu & Ontario	85	81
Commercial Cable	152¾	152
Montreal Telegraph	162	158
Bell Telephone	160	153
Dominion Iron and Steel, com	8½	8
Dominion Iron and Steel, pref	28	24½
Montreal H. L. and P.	71¼	70⅞
Nova Scotia steel, com	76½	75
Detroit Railway	63	62¼
Montreal Cotton	120	..
Dominion Cotton	40	34
Montreal Street Bonds	105	103
Dominion Coal, com	61	59¼
Dominion Coal, pref.	..	108
Montreal Street Bonds, new	199¾	199
Bank of Montreal	250	..
Molsons Bank	198	195½
Merchants	154	151
Ogilvie Flour	154	150
Ogilvie Flour, pref	122	118
Ogilvie bonds	..	112
Union Bank	135	..
Dominion I. and S. Bonds	55	..
Canada Colored Cotton	98	..
Toledo Railway	21	20

SALES: C. P. R., 25 at 116¾, 50 at 116⅞; Power, 225 at 71, 1 at 71¼, 10 at 71; Iron, common, 150 at 8½, 50 at 8¼; Coal, common, 4 at 60; R. and O., 30 at 81; Twin City, 20 at 89¼; Toronto Railway, 25 at 98¼; Bank of Commerce, 5 at 150¾.

G. R. Pennington, Stock Broker and Promotor
Stocks, Bonds, Grain and Provisions bought and sold for cash or on margins. Send for our Red Book, giving full instructions. Correspondence and accounts solicited. Long distance 'phone 180. Office—Ontario Loan and Debenture building, corner Market and Market Lane (third floor), London, Ont.

CORN! CORN!
Wheat, oats, etc. Market advices from Bartlett, Frazier & Carrington, members of all leading stock and grain exchanges. Long distance 'phone 213.
H. C. BECHER,
Bond and Stock Broker, 412 Richmond St.

NEW YORK.

Reported by F. H. Butler, stock broker, Masonic Temple, for The Advertiser.

New York, Feb 15	Open.	High.	Low.	2 p m
Amal. Copper	47¾	48¼	47¾	48
American Sugar Co.	124½	124¾	124¼	12 ½
American Locomotive	21¾	22	21¾	22
Atcheson, com	67¾	68	67⅝	67¾
Atcheson, pref	89¼	89¼	89¼	89¼
B. & O	77¼	77⅞	77¼	77⅞
Brooklyn Tran	43	43⅝	43	43⅝
C. P. R	116½	117¼	116½	116¾
Chic. Great Western	15¼	15¼	15¼	15⅛
Col. Fuel and Iron	32½	33¼	32½	32¾
Delaware and Hudson	159¼	160	159½	160
Erie	25¾	25¾	25⅜	25¼
Erie Pfd	64½	64½	64¼	64⅝
Illinois Central	127½	..	..	..
Louisville and Nashville	103¼	..	..	..
Manhattan	142⅛	142⅝	142½	142¾
Mexican Central	10½	10½	10	10
M. P.	89¼	89⅝	89¼	8 ½
N. Y Cent al	116⅞	116	115⅞	114⅞
Norfolk and W	58	..	..	..
Ont. and West	21⅛	21⅛	20⅞	21
Pennsylvania	114⅛	114⅝	114¼	114¼
People's Gas	100¾	101	100¾	100⅞
Reading	42	42¼	42	42⅛
Rock Island	22⅛	..	..	..
Southern Railway	20¼	..	..	..
Southern Ry. Pfd	81	81⅛	81	81⅛
Southern Pacific	46⅝	46¾	46⅜	46½
St. Paul	140	140½	140	140½
Texas	22⅞	..	..	..
Tennessee Coal & Iron	37	37¼	37	37¼
Union Pacific	77¾	78¼	77¾	77⅞
U. S. Leather	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
U. S. Steel, com	11⅝	11⅞	11⅝	11⅞
U. S. Steel, pref	57¼	57¾	57¼	57⅝
Wabash, com	18¼	..	..	..
Wabash, pref	35⅞	..	..	..

ENGLISH MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL.

Liverpool, Feb. 15.—Wheat—Spot nominal. Futures firm; March, 6s 7d; May, 6s 6¾d; July nominal.

Corn—Spot firm; American mixed, new, 4s 2½d; American mixed, old, 4s 6½d. Futures steady; March, 4s 2¾d; May, 4s 3⅞d.

Peas—Canadian steady, 5s 5d.

Flour—St. Louis fancy winter dull, 8s 3d.

Hops (at London)—Pacific coast firm, £6 10s to £7 15s.

Beef—Firm; extra India mess, 66s 3d.

Pork—Steady; prime mess western, 66s 3d.

Hams—Short cut, 14 to 16 lbs, strong, 45s 6d.

Bacon—Cumberland cut, 26 to 30 lbs, 37s 6d; long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs, firm, 38s 6d; long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs, firm, 38s; short clear backs, 16 to 20 lbs, firm, 37s; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs, quiet, 43s 6d; shoulders, square, 11 to 13 lbs, firm, 35s.

Lard—Firm; prime western, in tierces, 38s 3d; American refined, in pails, 37s 9d.

Butter—Nominal.

Cheese—Dull; American finest white, 50s; do, colored, 52s.

Tallow—Prime city dull, 24s 3d.

Turpentine Spirits—Steady, 48s 6d.

Rosin—Common firm, 7s 10½d.

Petroleum—Refined firm, 7¾d.

Linseed Oil—Quiet.

The imports of wheat into Liverpool last week were 41,000 quarters from Atlantic ports and 45,000 from other ports.

The imports of corn from Atlantic ports last week were 41,400 quarters.

WILLIAM ABBOTT,
Bond, Grain and Stock Broker.
Correspondent W. F. Dever & Co., New York, Boston and Chicago. Stocks bought and sold on margin and for cash. 113 Masonic Temple. Long distance 'phone 1,113.

FLAXSEED.

CHICAGO.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Flaxseed—Northwest, $1 18; southwest, $1 11½.

OIL MARKETS.

PITTSBURG.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 13.—Oil opened and closed at $1 80.

OIL CITY.

Oil City, Pa., Feb. 13.—Credit balances, $1 80; certificates, no bid; shipments, 120,111 barrels.

LONDON.

London, Feb. 13.—Petroleum, American refined, 7 11-16d; spirits, 9¼d.

ANTWERP.

Antwerp, Feb. 13.—Petroleum, 21 francs 50 centimes.

BREMEN.

Bremen, Feb. 13.—Petroleum, 6 marks 35 pfennings.

LOCAL MARKETS.

London, Monday, Feb. 15.

The cold weather again interfered with business at the market this morning.

About a dozen loads of hay were on the stand, and sales were made at $8 to $8 50 per ton; the demand was not brisk.

What wheat was offered sold at $1 36 per cental.

A couple of loads of oats went at 32c per cental.

A carload of live hogs were shipped from here today; Mr. D. McIntyre was the purchaser, paying $4 50 per 100 pounds for selects.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

OLD COUNTRY PRICES.

London, Feb. 13.—Live cattle steady, at 10½c to 11½c per lb for American steers, dressed weight; Canadian steers, 10c to 11c per lb; refrigerator beef, 7¾c to 8c per lb; sheep, 11c to 11½c per lb; lambs, 14c to 14½c, dressed weight.

AMERICAN MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 15—Noon.—Flour—Receipts, 32,551 bbls; sales, 4,600 pkgs; firm; Minnesota patents, $4 60 to $4 85; winter straights, $4 40 to $4 65; winter extras, $3 25 to $3 60; winter low grades, $3 05 to $3 40. Buckwheat flour—Dull, $2 to $2 15. Rye flour—Firm; fair to good, $3 50 to $3 75; choice to fancy, $3 75 to $4. Wheat—Receipts, 39,000 bu; sales, 1,200,000 bu; wheat was firm and higher this morning on the better cables, good foreign buying, lighter world's shipments, war news, cold weather in the southwest and an anticipated decrease in the visible supply; May, 98¼c to 98¾c; July, 94 3-16c to 94⅝; September, 87½c to 88¼c. Rye—Firm; state and Jersey, 66c to 68c; No. 2 western, 72c f.o.b. afloat. Corn—Receipts, 151,575 bu; sales, 23,000 bu; corn was also firm on light world's shipments, cables, firmness at Chicago, and with wheat; May, 60c to 60⅝c. Oats—Receipts, 78,000 bu. Sugar—Raw steady; fair refining, 2 27-32c; centrifugal, 96 test, 3 11-32c; molasses sugar, 2 19-32c; refined steady; crushed, $5 15; powdered, $4 55; granulated, $4 45. Coffee—Nominal. Lead—Easy, $4 45 to $4 50. Wool—Firm; domestic fleece, 8c to 32c. Hops—Firm; state, common to choice, 1903 crop, 30c to 38c; 1902 crop, 24c to 28c; olds, 10c to 15c; Pacific coast, 1903 crop, 27c to 35c; 1902 crop, 24c to 27c; olds, 10c to 15c.

HAY MARKET.

TORONTO.

Toronto, Feb. 15.—Baled Hay—In moderate demand and the market is steady; cars on the track here are quoted at $9 per ton.

Baled Straw—The offerings are light, the demand is not large, and the market is quiet; cars on the track here are quoted at $5 to $5 50 per ton.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

TORONTO.

Toronto, Feb. 15.—Wheat—The offerings continue light, there is a good demand and the market is firm, at 87c to 88c for No. 2 red and white, east and west; goose is steady, at 75c to 76c for No. 2, east; spring is steady, at 83c for No. 2, east; Manitoba wheat is quiet; No. 1 northern is quoted at 94c, No. 2 northern at 91c and No. 3 northern at 88c, at Georgian Bay ports, and 6c more grinding in transit. Flour—Firm; cars of 90 per cent winter wheat patents are quoted at $3 25 bid in buyers' bags, east, and holders are asking $3 35 to $3 40; choice brands are held 15c to 20c higher than the prices quoted; Manitoba flour is firm, at $4 80 to $4 90 for cars of Hungarian patents, $4 50 to $4 60 for second patents, and $4 40 to $4 50 for strong bakers, bags included, on the track at Toronto. Millfeed—Firmer, at $17 to $17 50 for cars of shorts and $16 to $16 25 for bran in bulk, east or west; Manitoba millfeed is firm, at $21 for cars of shorts and $19 for bran, sacks included, on the track, Toronto freights. Barley—Steady, at 44c for No. 2, 42c for No. 3 extra, and 40c for No. 3, east or west. Buckwheat—Steady, at 42c for No. 2, east or west. Rye—Steady, at 55c for No. 2, east or west. Corn—In fair demand and steady, at 43c for Canada yellow, west; American is steady, at 53c for No. 2 yellow, 52½c for No. 3 yellow, and 51½c for No. 3 mixed, in car lots on the track at Toronto. Oats—In fair demand and rather easier than they were last week; the demand for milling is less, owing to the fire in the large mill in the east; No. 1 white are quoted at 32c, No. 2 white at 31½c east, and No. 2 white are quoted at 31c to 31½c west. Rolled oats—Steady, at $4 10 for cars of bags and $4 35 for barrels on the track, Toronto, and 40c more for broken lots. Peas—Steady, at 63c for No. 2 west and 64c east. Butter—The receipts of dairy rolls continue fairly liberal, all kinds being in fair supply; there is a good demand for choice lots of dairy large and pound rolls and for creamery; prices are steady; creamery prints, 20c to 22c; solids, 15½c; dairy pound rolls, choice, 15c to 17c; large rolls, 15c to 16c; tubs, good to choice, 15c to 17c; medium, 13c to 14c; poor, 10c to 12c. Eggs—The offerings of new-laid are a little larger, the demand is fair, but the high prices has checked the consumption to some extent; prices are firm, at 33c to 35c; for new-laid, and 22c to 23c for fresh-gathered, cold storage. Cheese—Market is rather easier; selects are quoted at 4¾c and heavy and light weights at 4½c per lb. Dressed hogs—Steady; cars on the track here are quoted by local packers easier, at $6 bid for choice weight and $5 85 for others; farmers' lots, delivered here, are quoted at $6 to $7 for light and $6 to $6 00 for heavy.

CHICAGO EXCHANGE.

Reported by F. H. Butler, stock broker, Masonic Temple, for The Advertiser.

Chicago, Feb 15	Open	High	Low	Close
Wheat May	96¾	98	96¼	97⅞
July	89	90¾	89	90¾
Sept	85	86½	85	86⅜
Corn May	55	56⅛	55	56
July	52¼	53⅝	52¼	53⅝
Sept	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oats May	44¼	45	44	45⅛
July	35¾	36	35⅝	35¾
Sept	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pork May	14 97	15 05	14 90	15 00
July	14 [illegible]	14 95	14 [illegible]	14 [illegible]
Lard May	7 [illegible]6	7 85	7 67	7 7
July	7 62	7 85	7 82	7 8
Ribs May	7 10	7 [illegible]	7 10	7 [illegible]
July	7 25	7 [illegible]0	7 22	7 30

DAIRY MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Butter—Firm; creameries, 16c to 23c; dairies, 13½c to 22c. Cheese—Steady to firm, 10c to 10½c.

LONDON.

London, Feb. 12.—The demand for cheese is moderate; finest Canadian is quoted at 50s to 52s, and fine at 49s to 50s. So very little Canadian butter is on the market that there are no quotations.

NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 13.—Butter—Firm; receipts, 5,311 pkgs; western factory, current make, firsts, 14½c; do, seconds, 13½c to 14c. Cheese—Quiet and unchanged; receipts, 2,248 boxes. Eggs—Firm; receipts, 6,248 cases; state, Pennsylvania and nearby, fancy selected white, 36c to 38c; do, average best, 34c; do, seconds to firsts, 32c to 33c; western and Kentucky, firsts, 31½c; do, seconds, 31c; do, southern, 31c to 32c; dirties, 29c to 30c; checks, 26c to 27c.

NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 15.—Butter—Firm; receipts, 5,324 pkgs; creamery extras, per lb, 26c; do, firsts, 22c to 25½c; do, seconds, 16c to 21c; do, thirds, 15c to 16c; do, held extras, 21c to 22c; do, firsts, 17c to 20c; do, seconds, 15c to 16c; do, thirds, 14c to 14½c; state dairy tubs, firsts, 19c to 21c; do, seconds, 15c to 18c; do, thirds, 14c; western imitation creamery, extras, 18c; do, firsts, 15c to 17c; do, seconds, 14c to 14½c; renovated, extras, 17½c; do, firsts, 15½c to 16½c; do, seconds, 14c to 14½c; do, thirds, 12c to 13c; western factory, current make, firsts, 14½c; do, seconds, 13c to 14c; do, thirds, 12c to 13c; do, held, 13c to 15c; packing stock, current make, No. 1, 14c; do, No. 2, 13c to 13½c; do, No. 3, 12c to 12½c; do, held, 15c; rolls, fresh, 14½c. Cheese—Steady; receipts, 1,911 boxes; state full cream, fall made, fancy, 12c; do, choice, 11c to 11½c; do, late do, late made, small, good to prime, 10½c; do, common to fair, 9c to 10c; do, fall-made, large fancy, 12c; do, choice, 11c to 11½c; do, late made, large, good to prime, 10½c; do, common to fair, 9c to 10c; do, light skims, choice, 8c; do, prime, 6½c to 6¾c.

SHOULD BE CROWDED TONIGHT.

Tonight the London reopens with a vaudeville bill equal to anything ever presented in this country, and chosen with the greatest of care. In its great variety it will appeal to every person who might attend this the first week. Every act is worthy of notice, and should please the most fastidious. The programme embraces twenty high-class vaudeville artists, headed by Coutrue and Gillette, and as a feature the Wilsons, two high-priced attractions, as extras, have been secured. The Sully Family and Potter and Hartwell, with eight star vaudeville acts. Coutrue and Gillette are a pair of nimble Persian acrobats, who do some very clean work. This act was a feature at Shea's, Toronto. The Beardsby Sisters, refined duettists, direct from Keith's, never fail to please. Briggs and Jordan, two colored comedians, guarantee a laugh in every line. The Smith Family, three in number, refined musical artists, are bound to please. The Wilsons, two skillful aerial artists, do some daring work on suspended ladders. The performance finishes with some of the latest pictures on the kinetograph. Two extra high-priced attractions that have been engaged are Potter and Hartwell, eccentric entertainers, who will put the audience in good humor by their comedy monologue. The Sully Family, four in number, put on a refined comedy sketch act that comes most highly recommended from the larger American houses. Tonight the London should be crowded, also for the balance of the week. The prices have been put within the reach of all. The seats for the entire week are now on sale.

Mr. George F. Hall, a well-known and favorite American comedian, appeared at the Grand on Saturday evening in a comedy-drama by Maurice J. Fielding, entitled, "A Ragged Hero." Mr. Fielding undoubtedly took Lincoln J. Carter's successes for a model, when he produced this play, for it is a cheap imitation of the Carter idea. There is not much in the play to commend it to theatergoers, and each scene and situation having been worn threadbare years ago. Mr. Hall appeared in the title role, but to poor advantage. He was suffering from a bad attack of rheumatism coupled with a severe cold, and was further handicapped by a very poor part. Nevertheless, he was accorded a warm welcome, as he was remembered by many in the audience as having been the proving spirit in plays which were worthy in all respects.

"A Ragged Hero" was to have played to a matinee in the afternoon, but the accident on the Grand Trunk at Patton's siding, blocked the line, and prevented the company reaching London until nearly 6 o'clock. As a result, probably 1,000 people were handed back their money by Treasurer Stewart.

JAPANESE MISSIONS.

Toronto, Feb. 15. — Rev. Norman Tucker, secretary of Anglican missions, stated Saturday that the largest mission of the Anglican Church in Canada was the Japanese mission. There are a dozen mission stations there, the principal being Nagoya and Tokio. From $12,000 to $15,000 is annually spent there in supporting the Gospel. There are missions, too, in Korea, at Chemulpo and Seoul. This year the Anglican Church has increased the sum asked for mission purposes by 22 per cent.

TORONTO LACKS WATER.

Toronto, Feb. 15. — The water in Rosehill reservoir still continues to fall, and Saturday there was but eight feet recorded instead of twenty, which is considered by the city engineer to be the desired level. The shutting off of running taps as a result of the inspection by the department has resulted very seriously for many householders, as a hundred cases of frozen pipes were on file in the waterworks office on Saturday.

MORGAN'S JAP.

San Francisco, Feb. 15. — George D. Morgan, a nephew of J. Pierpont Morgan, has just arrived here from the Orient on the steamer China. He is accompanied by his wife, a Japanese lady. Mr. Morgan, who has lived in Japan for five years past, was married at Yokohama on Jan. 21. He and his wife are en route for New York.

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Midnight Marauders Visit Down-Town Establishments

Were Undisturbed—They Entered Cole's Turning Shop and Thomson's Oatmeal Mills.

Two more burglaries have been added to the long list of those which have occurred in this city within the last few months. Saturday night the Dominion oatmeal mills of Walter Thomson & Son, Limited, Talbot street, adjoining the Grand Trunk tracks, were entered and the turning shop of Mr. A. Cole, corner of Wellington street, was also broken into.

Possibly the thieves went first to the turning shop, as there were marks indicating that tools had been used at the premises of the Thomson Company.

Fortunately in neither case did the burglars get any money nor anything of considerable value. The mill people practically lost nothing, while from the turning shop only a few tools were taken. At the latter place there were two thieves, for the footprints of two men were noticed on the snow. Mr. Cole went into the shop yesterday, as he lives next door, and noticed that the blinds on the window had been pulled down. An investigation showed that a drawer, which had been locked, was pried open, but some tools were left in the drawer. They did manage, however, to take away a valuable pair of compasses, and a dozen carving tools, which were new. Still they left several good tools, and it is supposed that the burglars were disturbed before they completed their haul. This supposition is made stronger by the fact that outside in the shop, on the turner's table 23 tools were laid out on a paper, all ready to be taken away. The turner, however lost about 14 tools.

At the oatmeal mills, the burglars were not even as fortunate as they were at the turning shop. They broke open the front door, and found the office door fastened with a Yale lock. They then broke the window and got in. The cash drawer was forced open, but there they found nothing, as no money had been in it Saturday night. A dozen lead pencils and an old office coat were all that was missed. Several drawers were rummaged, and papers of all kinds were lying about on Sunday morning, when one of the firm went to the office.

The Thomson Company's safe was not touched. It is situated near the front, and either the burglars were amateurs or were afraid that the explosion—if they blew open the safe—would make too much noise, and that situated as the mill is, (next to the Grand Trunk tracks), the nightwatchman would hear it.

The detectives have been asked to search for the guilty parties. This makes the tenth burglary here within a very few months, without any clue being had to the thieves. The other eight places burglarized were hotels.

Toronto 'Phone Company's Offer Interests London

Aldermen May Invite Offer Before Granting a Franchise.

No. 1 committee of the city council meets this afternoon at 4 o'clock to deal with the offers for a franchise which have been received from the Bell Telephone Company and the Canadian Telegraph and Telephone Company. It is hardly likely that any action will be taken on either offer, however as the proposition made to the city of Toronto by the Stark Telephone, Light and Power System, of that city, has set the aldermen thinking very seriously.

The Stark Company is incorporated under the laws of the Province of Ontario, and have just purchased the property and plant of the Humber Power and Light Company, Limited, and are now engaged in reconstructing it to supply light, power and telephone at Toronto Junction.

INTERESTING OFFER.

The company makes the following offer: To give to the citizens telephone service at the price of $6 a year and 1 cent per outgoing call for telephones in private houses, with a limit of $15 per annum. That is, when the amount of calls taken by the subscriber, together with the $6, shall together amount to $15 in any year, no further charge for that year shall be made. The rate for business houses to be $6 and 1 cent per outgoing call, with a $35 limit. When the company has reached 10,000 subscribers the limit for private houses to be increased to $20 and for business houses $40.

The company to supply current for electric lighting from mains at the rate of 10 cents per thousand Watts per hour, with 20 per cent off all accounts current for lighting when paid by the 15th of each month.

The company to supply current power to constant users wherever a motor is installed at the maximum rate of 4 cents per thousand Watts per hour.

FREE FIRE ALARMS.

The company will supply to the city from its mains wherever constructed a fire alarm system properly connected free of charge to the city.

The company also to give to the city free use of wires and wiring for a police patrol system and when such system shall be connected with the mains of the company to keep the said mains in efficient working condition for the purpose of such service, the municipal corporations to supply its own police patrol boxes and to make connection with the wires of the company.

The company proposes that the terms of this offer shall be applicable to all service supplied by the company within 15 miles radius from the city hall in the city of Toronto, no extra charge to be made within that limit. The system will include the long distance type of telephone instrument.

Contracts have already been secured within the city of Toronto for the supply of upwards of 4,000 subscribers, and the company will proceed at once to install its system and make connections with these if the necessary rights are granted by the corporation.

The offer is signed and sealed by Alex. Stark, managing director, and W. N. Doolan, secretary.

OTHER OFFERS DISCOUNTED.

If the city of London could secure a similar offer from the Stark Company, it would, of course, discount all offers from a franchise London has as yet received. Several of the aldermen are in favor of going slow in the matter of tying the city's hands by a telephone agreement, and favor writing to the Stark people to ascertain if the company is ready to do business outside of London. At present the Bell rate is $45 for business 'phones with long distance equipment, and $20 a year for residence 'phones. Thus it is seen that the maximum figures quoted by the Stark Company to Toronto are much below the rates Londoners now pay for 'phones.

As far as the lighting of the city is concerned, the council's hands are tied until 1908, when the present street lighting contract expires.

THEIR OPINION IS DIVIDED

Aldermen Don't Favor Tearing Down Market House.

Petition Makes Fierce Onslaught Upon It—Council Meeting Tonight.

The city council meets this evening, and it is expected that pavement matters will pretty well monopolize the attention of the aldermen. Among the bylaws to come up will be one for an asphalt block pavement on Wellington street, from Dundas to the G. T. R. It is also the intention to amend the fire bylaw so as to give the fire chief greater powers in disciplining his men. The meeting should prove an interesting one, though not of necessity a lengthy one.

The aldermen are divided as to the advisability of tearing down the market house, as is being asked in a petition which is being circulated. In the petition the statement is made that the rents range from $2 to $4 a stall; that half of the stalls are used for the storing of goods, and that the place is an accommodation to no one but the butchers and others who are tenants. The bylaw which prohibits the sale of hay and straw on the market also comes in for severe condemnation in the petition. It is declared to be a step backward and inimical to London's interests and progress. It is pointed out that each year the city pays out much money to keep the market house in repair, and that when the small rents and the free water supplied the butchers are considered, the old place is a white elephant on the city's hands.

In short the petition makes a most extreme onslaught on Covent Garden and its use to the community. It is expected it will be presented to the council tonight.

Mayor Beck has received a circular from Mr. P. W. Ellis, one of the Niagara power commission, in which the total cost of the inquiry into power and transmission matters is placed at $14,825, or about $15,000 at the outside. Of this sum the engineer's report alone is to cost $10,000.

The water commissioners meet this afternoon to prepare their estimates for the year. It is said that one of the matters which will also come up for discussion will be the water supplied to the railways. It is alleged that the city allows the railway companies to use water which it costs the city $9,000 to pump for about $6,000 a year. The matter will likely be threshed out today.

Hear Herbert Witherspoon and Pittsburg orchestra tomorrow night.

OFFERED TO A. STUART, K.C.

Solicitorship of Ontario Treasury Vacant.

Position Tendered to One of London's Leading Lawyers.

The position of solicitor to the Ontario treasury department has been offered to Mr. Alex. Stewart, K. C., of this city.

The vacancy was created some time ago by the resignation of Mr. Frank Ford, and the offer to Mr. Stuart came some days since from Premier Ross. The salary attached to the position is $2,200 a year, and should Mr. Stuart accept the appointment he would be compelled to remove to Toronto and devote his entire time to it.

Mr. Stuart was asked today if he would accept, and his reply was that he was not yet prepared to give an answer.

Mr. Stuart is among the most prominent of London's legal lights, and he is also widely-known through the western part of the county. His removal from the city would be regretted by the members of the bar.

RAILROADS ESCAPE EASILY

The L. E. and D. R. R. Alone Had Serious Trouble.

Grand Trunk Branch Lines Drifted, but Not Enough to Stop Traffic.

The cold snap of yesterday and today, accompanied as it was, by a fall of snow, made the railway men fearful lest they should have a repetition of the rough times they experienced for so many weeks this winter. With the cold alone to fight, the average railroader has no very strong protest to offer, but when it is accompanied by snow and wind, it has its terrors.

The snowfall of Sunday, however, was light, and the roads, for the most part, were very fortunate. At points on the Grand Trunk's Stratford and Bruce lines the snow managed to get packed into cuts for some depths, but not sufficiently deep to tie up the traffic. On the main line, too, affairs were in a very satisfactory state today, the trains running pretty well on time.

The C. P. R. trains were a trifle late both from the west and the east, but this was attributed to the connections at Toronto and Windsor, and not to the severe weather.

The Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway was the most unfortunate of the roads reaching London. Those cuts between Glansworth and Westminster stations were just as deep as when the snowstorms were a daily occurrence earlier in the winter, and the snow packed into them just as tightly as before. The result was that when the trains from St. Thomas and London reached these places they had to give it up as a bad job. Not a train got through from either St. Thomas or London, until about 3 o'clock this afternoon, when a passenger train pulled out of the city station.

BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS

Matter Discussed by the Ministerial Association Today.

Deputation Re Bible Centenary Celebration Assured Support.

An interesting session of the Ministerial Association was held this morning in the Y. M. C. A., among those present being Revs. Mackay, Allen, Rollins, Clarke, D. S. Hamilton, R. D. Hamilton, Hague, Walker, Stuart, Cox, Coulter, Culp, Principal Waller and Dr. McCrae.

In the unavoidable absence of the president, Dean Davis, the chair was taken by Dr. McCrae.

Principal Waller and Rev. J. G. Bishop appeared as a deputation from the western branch of the Bible Society, in the interests of the great centenary which is to be celebrated in all the churches of the country on Sunday, March 6. After the deputation had been heard, a resolution was passed assuring them of the interest the association took in the Bible Society's centenary, and promising to help along the project in every way.

The paper for the day was read by Principal Waller, and was on the subject of "Religion and Its Relation to Education." The paper led to a long and interesting discussion, the question of the Bible in the schools coming in for grave consideration.

At the close, all present adjourned to a local cafe, where luncheon was partaken of.

CONDENSED LOCAL NEWS

—Judge Elliott is at Dorchester this afternoon conducting division court.

—Mr. Henry Otis, secretary and general auditor of the Detroit Lumber Company, and wife, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Allan, 433 William street.

—Mr. W. E. Costello, assistant superintendent of the Grand Trunk at Battle Creek, Mich., formerly of this city, spent Saturday and Sunday here.

—A meeting of the St. John's A. C. Baseball Club has been called for tonight at the club house on Oxford street. The appointment of a manager is among the matters to come before the meeting.

—Miss Mabel Wright and a class of the Maitland Street Baptist Church on Saturday entertained the little ones of the Children's Aid Shelter. Oranges, candies and nuts were served liberally and all spent a very pleasant time.

SOLOIST RESIGNS.

Miss Lillywhite has resigned her position as soprano soloist of the First Presbyterian Church, a position she has filled for some time. Mrs. (Dr.) Kingsmill has consented to fill the vacancy until permanent arrangements are made for a successor to Miss Lillywhite.

HOCKEY GAME FRIDAY NIGHT.

The St. John's O. H. A. Club are arranging for a game on Friday night with the Simcoe or Woodstock intermediates at Princess Rink. Harry Peel is to be in the game—for the first time here for four years.

DEATH AT HOSPITAL.

Mr. Thomas Fitzpatrick, a well-known citizen, died yesterday at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was 75 years of age. The funeral will take place tomorrow from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Louis H. Graves, 240 Hyman street.

FUNERAL OF MR. LAWRIE.

The funeral of the late John Lawrie, whose death took place at Chicago on Thursday, was held this afternoon. Rev. W. J. Clark conducted services at the residence of the deceased's brother, Mr. Joseph T. Lawrie, 476 Colborne street, city, at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

SOUTH LONDON LIBERALS.

The South London Liberal Club intend opening their new rooms in the Trebilcock building on Wednesday night, when all Liberals are invited to be present. Addresses will be made by Messrs. Hon. C. S. Hyman, J. M. McEvoy, Hume Cronyn, John Macpherson, T. J. Murphy and others. A good social time is also expected in addition to the enjoyment of some good speeches.

THE LATE AMOS W. DAVIS.

Over 79 years ago Mr. Amos W. Davis was born in Westminster Township, and for the greater part of his life he lived on the farm. Some time ago he retired to 53 Askin street, this city, where his death took place yesterday. He was a member of the Methodist Church, and a highly-respected citizen. A wife and two children survive him. The funeral will be held Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock, and after service at the house, it will proceed to Scotsville Cemetery, where interment will be made.

VERY NEAR