

Merchants To Change Clocks

Under Daylight Saving Time Here Tomorrow—Only 12 Opponents at Meeting Last Night

To end the confusion and general inconvenience to employers and employees from two systems of reckoning time practically all the wholesale and retail business houses of the city will adopt daylight time tomorrow morning and thus fall into line with the railroads, postoffice, express companies and newspaper offices. As the result of a preliminary meeting of prominent merchants at the board of trade rooms yesterday a petition favoring summer time was placed in circulation and signed by nearly all the merchants in the central part of the city. The agreement was ratified last evening at a largely attended mass meeting of merchants and others held in the Red Triangle rooms. The question of asking the mayor and city council to make the daylight system

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general in the city was considered, but it was finally decided not to petition the mayor and commissioners. As a result of last night's meeting most of the confusion will be impossible and after today it is expected affairs will settle down to normal. The meeting was called to order by A. O. Skinner and on motion of R. B. Emerson,

F. W. Daniel was elected chairman, A. N. McLean was chosen secretary. Mr. Daniel, in explaining the object of the meeting, said that Mr. Allison had called on the mayor and asked him if he would consider a petition in favor of daylight saving time. The mayor said that from past experience, such as when the project was turned down two

years ago, he did not think the council could take the matter up without a plebiscite. Yesterday a number of King street merchants met at the board of trade rooms and it was the unanimous opinion that the two times were causing confusion in the transfer of freight, shipment of goods and getting the employees in and out. It was decided to circulate papers favoring daylight time for adoption Wednesday morning. The papers were largely signed and the meeting would be called upon to ratify the agreement.

Mr. Emerson, who said he was in accord with the daylight plan, moved that the meeting adopt as a resolution the agreement signed. Even if the mayor and council did not adopt the new time he thought the business men should.

F. A. Dykeman suggested that the city be petitioned to enact daylight time. Peter Clinch thought that the business men would be just where they started if the city refused.

Mr. Daniel suggested that the business men should adopt the daylight time and petition the city as well. Mr. Skinner said he understood that the city council had no power to change the time and can only do so by passing a new law.

M. Smith suggested that a committee be appointed to prepare suitable resolutions. He considered the agreement offered as defective and that it did not cover the situation.

G. R. Ewing, Mr. Dykeman and Mr. Emerson were appointed a committee and submitted resolutions favoring daylight time tomorrow and that the city be petitioned to make it general.

Mr. Alcorn, speaking as a workman, opposed daylight time and moved an amendment that the mayor and commissioners be requested to order a plebiscite on the subject. He declared that the entire subject was out of order at the meeting as Atlantic time was the legal time here, and that the railroad was to blame for the existing confusion.

Mr. Daniel told of the necessity of the railroads changing the time system in order to make close connections with the lines in the United States. F. E. Sharpe said that Atlantic time was twenty-four minutes ahead of the sun. In Kings county, he said, there were gallons of oil burned yesterday morning, and nobody knew what confusion was caused in the country districts by the trains adopting the new time, which was an hour and twenty-four minutes ahead of the sun. He thought that a clause should be placed in the resolution regretting that the railroads had made the change.

Mr. Alcorn said that he knew of many workmen opposed to daylight time, and he thought these men had the same rights as the merchants. He pressed his amendment favoring a plebiscite, and Mr. Richardson seconded it.

W. E. Golding suggested that the laboring men could go to work at 8 and knock off at 4. Laboring men should get away from the idea that anyone wants to put anything over on them, said Mr. Skinner. It would be much better for St. John if they should abandon this idea. The merchants of St. John were anxious to get away early but did not want to inflict hardship on any one.

D. Magee said that the merchants did not wish to be antagonistic to workmen and mechanics. Mr. Dykeman held that to petition for a plebiscite would be giving the movement the endorsement of the business body and it would take some time to get the matter before the people. He found that most employees preferred early hours rather than working until 6 p. m. Canada was the only country out of eight or ten who refused to continue daylight time.

Chairman Daniel pointed out that a legislative act gives the municipalities the privilege of using what time they please. Secretary Drummie, of the Retail Merchants' branch, favored the plan to let the stores fix their own time system and not bother with the city council. The meeting should ratify the agreement and stop there.

Mr. Ritchie did not see the necessity of the resolution, as a signed agreement was sufficient. Mr. Alcorn's amendment was defeated, twelve voting for it. Mr. Dykeman favored asking the city to grant daylight saving. The meeting would be in vain if it did not petition the council.

Mr. Ritchie, rising to a point of order, contended that Mr. Dykeman was out of order, as it had already been decided not to petition the city.

Resolution Adopted. By practically a unanimous vote the following resolution was then adopted: "Resolved that we citizens here assembled view with satisfaction the agreement arrived at by the merchants of the city to adopt daylight saving hours to conform to the adopted hours of the railroads, post office and other public institutions."

The agreement signed by the merchants follows: "We, the undersigned, for the benefit of our employees and others and to comply with the action already taken by the railroads, post office, express companies, newspapers, etc., agree to adopt daylight saving time, commencing Wednesday morning, April 2."

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SIR CHARLES FITZPATRICK RETURNS THAT \$5,000.

Ottawa, March 31—Sir Thomas White intimated in the house that Sir Charles FitzPatrick had sent him a cheque for \$5,000 in payment of two years expenses given him for traveling costs to Great Britain when he did not attend the sittings of the privy council.

FIRE AT PEACE RIVER.

Peace River, Alta., March 31—A fire broke out at 3 o'clock this morning, completely destroying three of the business places in Main street. The establishments burned out include the Peace River Drug Store, McNamara Hotel and Cafe of the Hickey Block, including the office of Revillon Treves Fur Trading Company, and the P. Burns meat market. The fire was caused by a stove in the restaurant adjoining McNamara's Hotel. The loss will exceed \$30,000.

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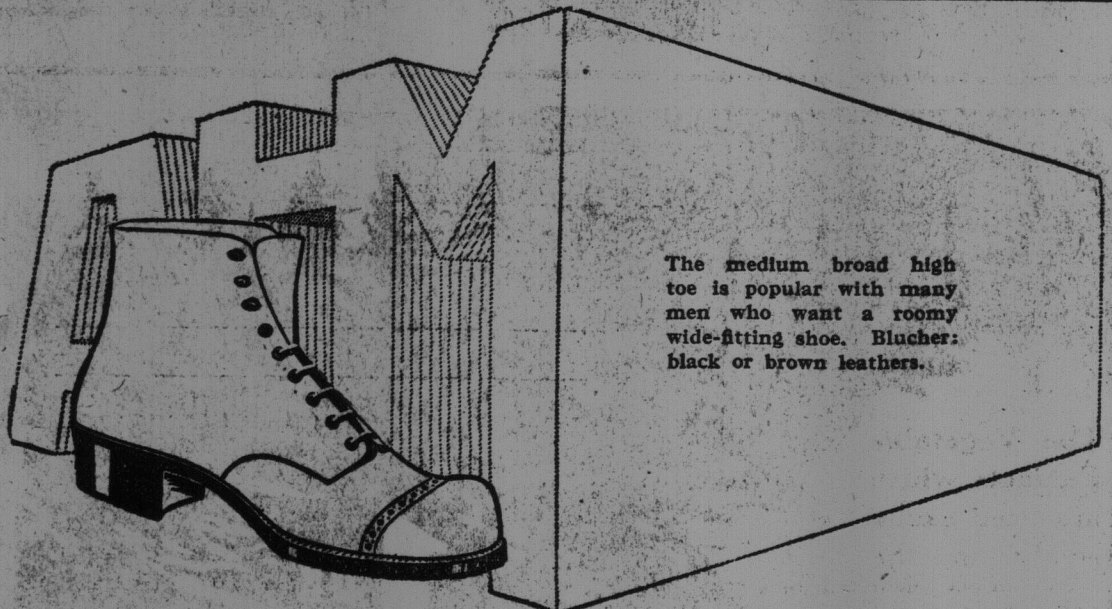
New York, March 31—Job E. Hedges, recently appointed by Federal Judge Mayer as temporary receiver of the New York Railway Company, was named by him today as permanent receiver. In making the appointment, Judge Mayer said a thorough investigation of the company which operates nearly all the surface cars in Manhattan would be instituted, and predicted that should an increase in fares prove necessary "the public, which is fair and reasonable, would support such remedy." At the time the company was placed in a receiver's hands, Theodore H. Shonts, its president, asserted an eight-cent fare, with three cents charge for transfers, was necessary to make the lines pay.

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