

Have You Ever Thought of This? — That a Cup of



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Niagara District Hydro-Radials to Ask for a Report

(Continued from page three)

and report will not cost the municipalities anything and need not be acted upon unless they want to. Certainly the local municipalities cannot hope to get the same benefits from a railroad operated as part of a national system as they would be operated by local municipalities as would be the case should the Hydro take over the N. S. and T. R.

Mayor Foley of Thorold spoke of the big business coming out of Thorold. The N. S. and T. R. had not seen fit to do anything to take charge of this increased carrying business from Thorold so if the Hydro shows enterprise in the matter Thorold would welcome it with open arms.

Leslie McMann of Thorold, wished to know if the Hydro doesn't get the N. S. and T. R. will its lines be duplicated through this district. He spoke of the inflated freight rates prevailing. Will these rates be continued or perhaps they may be increased. The freight rates today are simply awful, he said. The future must be considered. He hoped the report would be the freight rates today and what were four years ago.

Reeve W. G. Sutton of Port Dalhousie said his town is anxious to get the report.

Mayor Lovelace and Ald. Rose moved that municipalities served by

the N. S. and T. R. ask a report and survey from the Hydro Commission on the whole situation.

Mayor Hastings of Merriton said it was time the Niagara District towns got busy and woke up to the possibilities of the power passing their doors, to their own benefit. He said Merriton was behind any enterprise looking to this object.

Manager Yates spoke of what Mr. Gaby of the Hydro had told him and Mr. Burgoyne as to the Chippawa-Queenston development. A year from next fall about 125,000 h.p. will be available from it and the following Spring there will be another 125,000 h.p. available. The forebay at Queenston is capable of a million h.p. and as soon as this present development is completed it will be in order to proceed with more development. This will, Mr. Gaby said, serve a population of 8,000,000 people. From two to three million h.p. is expected to be developed on the St. Lawrence.

Mr. Yates replied to the criticism about power passing the doors of the Niagara District municipalities. In the beginning just twelve municipalities all west of Hamilton but Toronto, went sponsor for the millions of cost of developing the Hydro in its first stages. Niagara District came in later. He advised Niagara District coming in this time on the ground floor in the new development.

"Let's get in—first come, first served," advised Mr. Yates.

In reply to Ald. Dixon of Niagara Falls, Mr. Yates said the proposed million h.p. will be developed by ex-

tra water from the Niagara River under treaty with the U. S.

The Chairman said Mr. Gaby said St. Catharines extensions would be made almost immediately.

Secretary Hannigan of the Hydro who had just arrived said now that the war was over, the question is will the Hydro proceed with an enterprise it had got well started with. He pointed out on the map that all municipalities between Toronto to Hamilton, St. Catharines, Welland, Port Colborne and Fort Erie had passed bylaws for the Hydro radials. Further lines were projected.

Outlining the history of the Hydro enterprises Mr. Hannigan declared that in 350 municipalities from Fort William to Ottawa and Niagara Falls to North Bay the Hydro has submitted estimates and carried out the work and not one has exceeded the estimated cost. Today 96 and a half millions in Hydro enterprises are in

the hand of the people of Ontario. Lines have been surveyed for over 2500 miles of hydro radials in Ontario at the request of 300 municipalities. The best systems of electric railways have been investigated with an eye to the best service at the lowest cost, information which no individual municipality could possibly have procured.

The people of Ontario have become convinced that the Hydro has been a boon in the way of cheap lighting, and in power. The coal it has saved in the number of years is a big item in the power situation. Whether the people decide to take over the N. S. and T. R. is for them to say but there should be no hesitation in asking for a report on it, Mr. Hannigan said. If it does not seem a paying investment, the Hydro and not one has exceeded the estimated cost. Today 96 and a half millions in Hydro enterprises are in

for a vote is taken by any municipality.

Ald. Dixon repeated his question about the Hydro radials paying taxes.

Mr. Hannigan said that would be a question to be decided between the Government and the municipalities. The Hydro now pays taxes on land. The Hydro would take over railroads subject to the tax questions being settled later.

Mayor Stephens of Niagara Falls said the tax question was an exceedingly vital one with that city. A present the Hydro is fighting the paying of about \$60,000 taxes a year to the city. If the Hydro succeeds it will be a body blow to the city.

The Chairman said the tax question will be dealt with in the report the Hydro will present.

Mayor Lovelace's resolution was carried, after which the meeting adjourned.

Canada's estimated population is now about 8,500,000.

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