

REQUEST HYDRO-ELECTRIC COM. TO SECURE FIGURES ON COST OF ELECTRIFICATION OF L. H. & B.

Delegates at Meeting This Morning Want Estimates of the Probable Earnings and Much Other Matter Relative to Road-Trip Over L. and P. S. This Afternoon.

The proposed electrification of the London, Huron and Bruce Railway was the subject of discussion at a large meeting of delegates and members of the special committee held in the city council chamber on Wednesday forenoon, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"That the hydro-electric power commission of Ontario be requested to approach the Dominion Government with a view to acquiring, leasing or securing running rights over what is known as the London, Huron and Bruce Railway, on behalf of the municipalities through which it passes."

"That the commission be also requested to supply the municipalities interested with a report showing that the estimated cost of the line, equipped with a satisfactory service, together with an estimate of the probable future earnings, operating costs, etc., as provided by the railway act."

"That copies of this resolution be sent to the secretary of said commission and to the department of railways and canals, Ottawa, respectively, as well as a request to the council of the various municipalities interested, asking them to take similar action."

Mayor Little, in welcoming the delegates, said he appreciated the fine response which had been made by the various municipalities interested in accepting the invitation of the special committee to come and discuss the problem.

Ald. J. C. Wilson was voted to the chair and briefly supplemented the mayor's remarks. He then called upon Prof. L. A. Wood, vice-chairman of the London railway commission, to address the meeting.

Professor Wood said that as an advocate of the electrification of the London and Port Stanley Railway he was able to say how far that project had been successful. The electrified road began operating on July 1, 1914, owing to the outbreak of the war, other roads operated by steam had found their working most unprofitable. Not so the London and Port Stanley Railway, however. During the six years' operation it had not only met all demands on its funds, but had a handsome surplus.

"I do not say that the electrification of the London, Huron and Bruce will be a profitable investment; that remains to be seen. We must first secure the reports of competent engineers on the matter, and the condition of the road-bed, bridges, etc., will have to be ascertained, but I do say that it can be operated at half the cost of steam if electricity is used."

In the case of the London and Port Stanley the engineer had estimated the annual revenue at \$200,000; last year it was \$300,000. These figures spoke for themselves. The district covered by the London, Huron and Bruce was in poor soil, but to lack of transportation. He asked them to compare the price of land along the line of the London and Port Stanley with what the land was worth along the Huron and Bruce.

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BILL TO FORBID GIVES COSTS ON ELEC. OF L. H. & B. OF L. H. & B.

Prof. L. A. Wood Gives Figures to Delegates.

WOULD AFFECT VIRTUALLY EVERY ONE OF MEMBERS OF CABINET.

PENALTY IS PROVIDED

Liberal Member to Introduce Legislation to Curtail Common Practice.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—With the purpose of further preserving the independence of parliament, Andrew McMaster, of Brant, has placed on the order paper a public bill which provides that no minister of the crown shall at the same time be a director in any company other than charitable, religious, educational or scientific.

The bill provides a period of fifteen days for retirement following election to the ministry and the penalty for failure to do so within the specified time is forfeiture of the office of minister in parliament. As some members of the cabinet are directors in the Railway Commission, which is a body of organization coming under the jurisdiction of the board, fifty days is given to get rid of such connections. One of the courts of appeal from the Railway Commission is the cabinet. It would therefore seem natural that the same rule should apply to the members of the latter body.

HOLD DIRECTORATES.

There are few members of the cabinet who would not be affected by the bill should it pass. Some of them are directors of one or more, in the following: Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of public works, is described as director of the Nova Scotia Car Works, Eastern Trust Company and Halifax Electric Tramways. Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, minister of marine, is a director of the Sherwin Williams Paint Company and other concerns. Premier Melchior himself is described as being a director of the London Finance Company, Limited, "and several other companies." Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, is a director of the Montreal City and District Savings Bank, and so on and so forth.

THE WEATHER

TOMORROW—FAIR AND COLDER.

Forecast: Fair and cold. Light snowfalls and flurries, and becoming colder. Fair and for the most part moderately cold.

The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Stations	High	Low	Weather
Toronto	46	35	Cloudy
Windsor	46	35	Cloudy
Winnipeg	10	-10	Cloudy
Port Arthur	10	-10	Cloudy
Sault Ste. Marie	36	22	Cloudy
Parry Sound	34	28	Snow
Toronto	46	35	Cloudy
Kingston	32	20	Snow
Windsor	46	35	Cloudy
Winnipeg	10	-10	Cloudy
Port Arthur	10	-10	Cloudy
Sault Ste. Marie	36	22	Cloudy
Parry Sound	34	28	Snow
Toronto	46	35	Cloudy
Kingston	32	20	Snow
Windsor	46	35	Cloudy
Winnipeg	10	-10	Cloudy
Port Arthur	10	-10	Cloudy
Sault Ste. Marie	36	22	Cloudy
Parry Sound	34	28	Snow

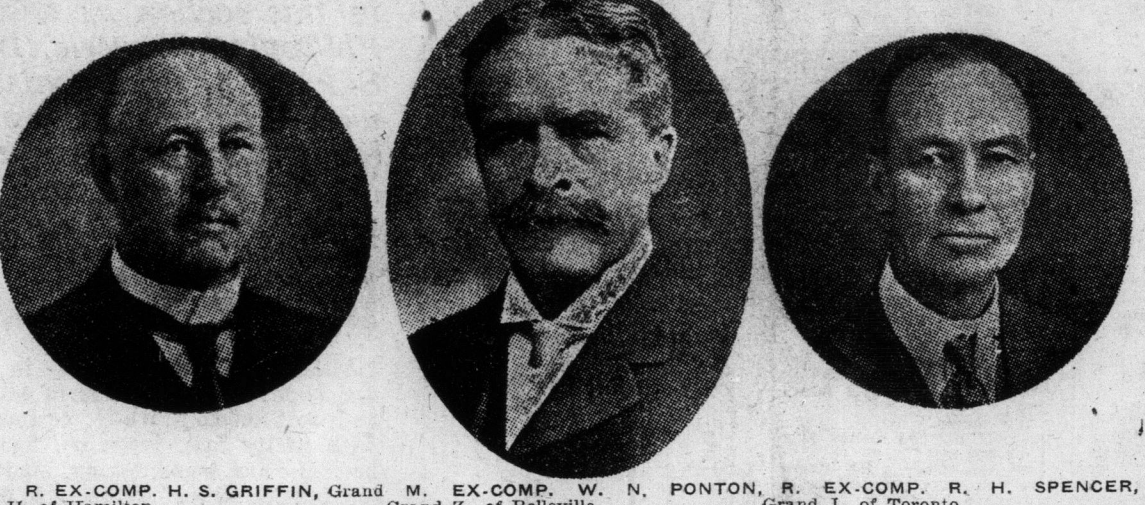
Mean temperature zero.

Weather Notes.

A depression now centred over the Georgian Bay is bringing in a heavy pressure is highest in the Middle Pacific States.

Snow has fallen over the greater portion of Ontario. Elsewhere the weather has been fair.

Officials of Royal Arch Masons Who Are Attending Session Here



TWO CHARGED WITH MURDER OF VETERINARY

Wilfrid Meharg and Edward Dickenson Arraigned at Hamilton.

BOTH PLEAD NOT GUILTY

Prisoners Hear for Preliminary Hearing Before Magistrate.

PARLIAMENT SUMMARY

OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—In the Commons: A spirited debate took place over the close of the night session when H. H. Stevens (Vancouver) was speaking. William P. Mackenzie King, and the Speaker intervened. Mr. Stevens challenged the leader of the Opposition and the Liberals generally to resign and seek a test in a general election. Hon. C. J. Doherty, C. A. F. Fulton and Dr. F. T. Doherty were among the other speakers.

Several important amendments to the regulations governing elections in the Mackenzie River oil fields were approved by cabinet yesterday declared freight rates a menace to the wheat growing industry.

Speaker Borden of the Senate and Speaker Rhodes of the House of Commons were sworn in as privy councillors.

The debate was adjourned by C. R. Harrison (Niagara) at 10:30 p.m.

In the Senate: Senator Groaty and Hon. P. E. Blondin continued the debate on the throne speech.

Senator Lynch-Staunton gave notice of a bill to amend the gold and silver marking act.

Senator Power asked permission of the chamber to disassociate the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment from his criticism of the government's administration.

Senator Turf adjourned the debate at 10 o'clock.

PARLIAMENT TODAY.

Amendments to election act governing lists for the Ontario prohibition referendum will be up for second reading.

House will resume sittings at 2 o'clock. No night sitting.

SENATE TODAY:

Chamber will resume sittings at 2 o'clock, and continue debate on the throne speech. There will be no night sitting.

PARLIAMENT SUMMARY

OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—The House of Commons today passed a bill to amend the law relating to the election of members of the House of Commons. The bill was introduced by Mr. H. H. Stevens (Vancouver) and was passed by a majority of 100.

The bill provides that the members of the House of Commons shall be elected by the people of the several provinces and territories, and that the members shall be elected for a term of five years.

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A. F. OF L. PLAN TO COMBAT OPEN SHOPS

Conference at Washington Is Called by Samuel Gompers.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN IS STILL SUFFERING AS RESULT OF BAD FALL

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—Canadian Press.—Sir Robert Borden is still confined to his bed suffering from the effects of a heavy fall which he sustained while walking through the Hall of Fame to the parliamentary library.

EXPECTING COMPANY?

No need to worry how to amuse them. Just call at The Advertiser Contest Office for a supply of charts on the puzzle, and here a little contest of your own, with rules to fit the occasion. Any number can join. By offering prizes to those getting the best result in a given length of time you will find you have planned a pleasant evening for your friends. The charts will cost you nothing except your trouble to write or ask for them at the Contest Office, 110 Dundas street.

WITNESS DECLARES HE SAW MRS. TRUMBLE WITH PISTOL IN HER HAND FEW SECONDS AFTER SHOT WAS FIRED

STAR WITNESS IN SPRACKLIN TRIAL EXPIRES

Ernest Deslippe Is Victim of Pneumonia Attack.

SICK ONLY FEW DAYS

Was Man Found Outside the Chappell House by Spracklin.

Windsor, Feb. 23.—Canadian Press.—One of the most important pieces of evidence yet taken in the Spracklin case was that of Jack Bannan, who was at the Chappell House on the night of the shooting. Questioned by Crown Prosecutor Grier this morning, Bannan repeated his evidence at the inquest, then saw Mrs. Trumble, did Mrs. Trumble have a gun in her hand?

"Yes, sir," said the witness, "I saw Mrs. Trumble have a gun in her hand."

As soon as the answer was given, there was a demonstration among the members of the audience in the courtroom, many of the spectators indulging in handclapping. "Will Mr. Deslippe be called to the stand?" asked the sheriff. He placed under arrest the disturbers, who were immediately ordered to be removed from the courtroom. There was no response. Officers were then placed about the room with instructions to arrest for contempt of court anyone who indulged in further demonstrations.

There was considerable speculation in the courtroom as to the evidence which Bannan would give. It was believed that he would provide a most valuable witness for the defence, but his admission that he saw Mrs. Trumble with a gun in her hand was a great surprise.

The evidence Bannan gave under questioning of Crown Prosecutor Grier did not vary in any way from that given at the inquest. He stated that he was at the Chappell House on the morning of the shooting, and was removed to Hotel Dieu on Sunday, passing away early this morning. He stated that he saw Mrs. Trumble with a gun in her hand, and that he saw her shoot at the man who was standing in the doorway.

Following the Trumble shooting Deslippe was placed under arrest, charged with assault and robbery. The case ran along in the Windsor police court all winter, and was only disposed of about three weeks ago, when the charge against him was dismissed.

He was born in Colchester, Ont., and after moving to Windsor engaged in the painting business. The family residence is at 17 Elm street. On Saturday last he was taken seriously ill, and was removed to Hotel Dieu on Sunday, passing away early this morning. He was 44 years of age, and was a member of the Chappell House.

DEATH OF DESLIPPE WAS UNEXPECTED

Windsor, Feb. 23.—Canadian Press.—The death of Ernest Deslippe was entirely unexpected, as during the opening moments of the trial it was thought that he might appear in court to give evidence regarding the events which immediately preceded the entrance of Spracklin's officers to the Chappell House on the morning of the slaying.

R. L. Bracklin, counsel for the defence, stated that he had no material effect on the progress of the trial, and that he was not called to the stand. He was found outside the Chappell House on the morning of the shooting, and was removed to Hotel Dieu on Sunday, passing away early this morning. He was 44 years of age, and was a member of the Chappell House.

BOLSHIEVITS TO OPEL CAMPAIGN AGAINST RAPS

Russian Soviet Forces Concentrating in Eastern Siberia.

GIRL DEFENDING MOTHER KILLS HER FATHER

Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 23.—Elizabeth Babel Lance, 15 years of age, stabbed her father to death early today, during a quarrel between her parents. A charge of murder has been lodged against the girl, who is being held as a material witness.

According to the girl, the police say, her father was drinking heavily. She tried to get him to stop, but he told her to "go away."

MONTENEGRINS DECLARE HOLY WAR ON SERBS

London, Feb. 23.—A wireless message from Berlin today says that according to Swiss reports the Montenegrins have declared a holy war against the Serbs. Two Serbian regiments have occupied Cetinje, Montenegro, and the situation is grave, the message says.

CELEBRATING 70TH BIRTHDAY.

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 23.—Mrs. Mary Ann Potter of Dwight, Illinois, is celebrating her 70th birthday anniversary today. She was born in New York State in 1851, and came to Illinois in 1854.

The court remarked that supreme court judges had contended that a man should not be convicted on suspicion, and therefore discharged the prisoner, with a warning.

Teak Milk Money.

A juvenile, charged with stealing money from milk bottles on doorsteps of Bloomington avenue residents was this morning remanded for a week. It was said that a policeman found that the lad had looked into several bottles, but found only teak. At one place he took some money, so the officer took charge of him.

For breaking city bylaws Fred Bantling, R. M. Morrison, W. Rosenblum, N. Arnell and W. Hughes were assessed \$2 each.