Natural Product May Bring Down High Gas Rates

Special Gas Committee Will Open Negotiations With City Gas Company With Idea of Supplying Londoners With Cheaper Fuel.

Following a consultation with officials of the Progressive Gas and Oil Company, who hold natural gas wells about four miles east of the city near Crumlin, members of the special gas committee, representing the city council and the chamber of commerce, decided to place the company's proposition before the City Gas Company, with a view to having natural gas distributed in the latter's mains, thus lowering the price of gas in this city.

It is likely that should the City Gas Company, which at present is prohibited from distriubting natural gas in city mains, refuse to entertain the proposition, the Progressive Gas and Oil Company will be allowed to open negotiations with the city to distribute its product in certain city districts. The company, with a contract signed, agrees to pipe the gas to London and install a distributing centre in selected local districts if the gas company refuses to distribute.

500,000 Feet Daily.

The report of E. S. Estlin, late gas commissioner of Ontario, who tested the wells recently, was read by Ald. W. A. Wilson, who presided at the meeting. This report stated that 500,000 cubic feet of gas daily are available from the wells, which is one-half the amount at present consumed by Londoners.

However, officials of the Progressive Gas and Oil Company pointed out at the consultaition that natural gas is almost double the strength of the artificial product, burning with nine-tenths air, in contrast to one-tenth air consumed by artificial gas. Representatives of the company quoted a price to the committee, conditional that it be regarded as confidential.

Want To Sell It.

"We have the gas for sale, and you have the control as far as the city is concerned," President George L. Goodrow of the Hamilton Company informed the committee. "We want to sell our gas."

"London being the most natural market for our gas, we came to you first," said Victor A. Sinclair, solicitor of the committee. "We drilled our first well in 1916."

"This 500,000 gallons daily is double the strength of artificial gas, and therefore is double that capacity," declared Ald. W. A. Wilson.

"We have a commodity which we wish to turn into revenue," said the president. "The city has no money to expend on it."

"The City Gas Company has no right to distribute natural gas until the franchise is amended," advised Solicitor Sinclair.

"They can get that right if they will give the citizens any benefit," opined the chairman.

"It is a good thing for somebody, but the question is will the wells stand up?" asked J. J. Foote, representing the local chamber of commerce.

Would Cost $13,000.

"It will cost $13,000 to bring it into London, and we want a contract before piping," said President Goodrow.

"What we want to know is a definite price on it," said Ald. Wenige.

"We cannot tell you what the City Gas Company will charge to distribute it," declared Solicitor Sinclair.

Ald. Wenige: "We are starting at the wrong end. Both gas companies should get together and give the city their price. Then if we wish to give them the right to distribute natural gas we can and know where we are getting."

"Will you give us the right to distribute natural gas in the city?" asked the solicitor. "The City Gas Company has not the exclusive right in London."

Reliable Report.

"This report of Mr. Estlin's is a very good one and reliable, but will the wells stand up for an open test for a certain length of time?" repeated J. J. Foote. "A test will prove it to the citizens and everybody now skeptical."

President Goodrow informed the committee that one well is now supplying 75,000 to 100,000 cubic feet daily with good pressure. He contended that the city had nothing to lose.

"It is up to us to do the best we can to drive a bargain and reduce the price of gas here," replied Ald. W. A. Wilson.

Pointing out that the City Gas Company can only charge the present price of $1.25 per thousand feet until January 1, 1922. Ald. J. C. Wilson said. "The price will go up or down then. The only solution to me is that it is up to the council to make arrangements to get the gas.

"If the City Gas Company will not allow the gas to be distributed by their mains there are other means. If natural gas is no good we can wash our hands of it. The company guarantees no amount of gas whatever. What we want to know is your price and amount to be supplied."

Will Hold Conference.

Ald. Wenige then moved that the City Gas Company officials be consulted by member of the committee with a view to making arrangements for reception of the natural gas, if such action is decided. Officials of the Hamilton company, on this motion being passed, pointed out that the supply would be measured and charged at the city limits.

President Goodrow stated that 10,000 acres of land for drilling purposes have been leased near Crumlin and that many offers had been received for the natural gas. However, he said, London is the natural field in which this gas should be consumed.

Members of the gas committee present at the consultation were Ald. W. A. Wilson, Ald. Cameron Wilson, Ald. G. A. Wenige and J. J. Foote, representing the chamber of commerce. The Progressive Gas and Oil Company of Hamilton was represented by President Geo. L. Goodrow, Secretary-Treasurer F. L. Snively, Solicitor Victor A. Sinclair and J. F. Green.

C. P. R. EMPLOYEES OF DIVISION PICNIC AT SPRINGBANK PARK

Transportation and Refreshments Provided For 3,000 by Company.

From every point within a radius of more than 100 miles of this city the employees of the C. P. R., their wives, families and many friends gathered in Springbank Park on Thursday to celebrate the annual picnic of the London division of that road. While perhaps the crowd was not as large as that of last year, the outing as a whole was much more successful, for the long list of sports was run off with a smoothness that spoke of a splendid organization, and then, too, the weatherman was in his kindliest mood.

Many Special Trains.

It is estimated that fully 3,000 people had gathered in the green open place in front of the pavilion while the afternoon was still young. Two trains from the east, both carrying extra equipment, brought many hundreds to the city from points between this city and Toronto, the eastern limit of this division, and from north to Goderich and south to Port Burwell. The trains, arriving within a few minutes of each other, were met by special street cars, which bore the picnickers direct to the park.

The employees from the west did not arrive until 1:15 in the afternoon. No. 634, from Detroit was loaded to capacity when it pulled into the local station. It, too, was met by a special car, which made a fast run to Springbank.

Free Transportation.

Every employee of the road who could possibly be spared from his duties attended the outing. Free transportation was supplied to all the employees and their families who resided at points outside of the city. The generosity of the company did not stop there, however, for on the grounds the employees were given refreshment tickets, which were accepted as cash at all booths.

Officials Present.

Several officials of the company were present, arriving during the morning. Among them were General Superintendent H. C. Grout of Toronto, who attended last year's outing, and W. B. Howard, the district passenger agent, also of Toronto. The visitors were accompanied to the ground by Superintendent R. McKillop of the local division. Unfortunately, Mr. Grout was forced to leave early.

The outing was marked by an unusual feature. After the luncheon had been served and just before dusk, dancing on the green was held. To the sweet music from a splendid orchestra couples waltzed on the grass. The experiment proved delightfully popular.

Boxing Bouts.

Since the championship fight between Carpentier and Dempsey was fought in Jersey City a few weeks ago boxing bouts have become a favorite pastime at outings. Two splendid bouts were staged during the afternoon, while hundreds of fans pressed close to the ring. The first bout was announced "Carpentier and Dempsey, four rounds." H. Hunter appeared as Carpentier and T. Hunter was Dempsey. Dempsey had the edge on Carpentier and drew first blood, but Carpentier, true to his namesake, was game. The fight went almost four rounds, when someone cried, "Officer, do your duty!" and then everyone gasped as a policeman stepped into the ring and gruffly said, "Come with me!" They went.

The interference of the arm of the law, however, did not prevent the second bout, which was a hard-fought, slugging battle, with R. V. Allgrove as Herman, the new champion, doing most of the slugging. On the receiving end was Bert Parker as Jimmy Wilde. The fight lasted two rounds.

Baby Show.

Before the long list of sports was run a baby show was held. Among a large number of entries Bernard Hall was picked as the finest boy of one year or younger. The finest baby girl of the same age was the little daughter of Mrs. Huntley of this city. Little curly headed Audrey Pike of 972 Princess avenue was chosen as the most beautiful baby on the grounds. The prizes for the babies were donated by Mr. Wright, the company's storekeeper.

Officials' Race.

The races were all well run and closely contested by a large number of entries. The official race stirred up much interest. It was a handicap, with Superintendent McKillop getting most of it. Mr. McKillop's splendid running of last year was remembered, and so he was started yards behind the others, but nevertheless he secured third place. P. Coakley, roadmaster, was first, and W. Shipman, locomotive foreman at Goderich, was second. The married ladies' chicken race was highly amusing.

Baseball Game.

Immediately after the sports a baseball game between two teams composed of women was played. The results were censored.

The following are the winners of the different sporting events:

Girls' race, 10 years—Charlotte Grassick, Isabel Underwood, Mary Grassick.

Boys' race, 10 years—J. Saunders, A. Mills, Gerald Phelan.

Girls' race, 15 years—Lauretta Brush, Elma Hudson, Sarah Merryfield.

Boys, 15 years and under—H. Tambling, H. Martin, M. McDermott.

Girls, 15 years and over—Elma Hudson, Lauretta Brush, Ethel Shuttleworth.

Boys, 15 years and over—P. Gorman, T. McCullough, H. Dealy.

Married ladies' chicken race — Mrs. Houston, Mrs. Osborne, Mrs. Fitzgerald.

ald, Mrs. Johns, Mrs. Heaver, Mrs. Young.

Married men's race—S. E. Woodman, W. Joyce, H. Allen.

Pensioners' race — D. Stoddard, H. McCallum, F. Malin.

Married ladies' race—Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. McGillvray, Mrs. Williard.

Officials' race—P. Coakley, W. Shipman, R. McKillop.

Fat men's race—W. Fitzgerald, H. Baldwin, J. E. Steele.

Old men's race—C. T. Ridalls, W. Shipman, J. Crawford.

Married ladies—Mrs. W. Fox, Mrs. Near, Mrs. Mills.

Maried men—J. Mansell, J. Farling, J. Lecky.

Committeemen's race—A. Wiley, J. Millikin, J. Mills.

BLACK RUST RUINING SASKATCHEWAN WHEAT

REGINA, Sask., July 28.—Definite announcement that black rust has invaded some areas in the southeastern Saskatchewan fields is made today by field men in the employ of the provincial department of agriculture. Some fields, it is stated, that promised a 40-bushel to the acre yield, will be a total loss.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

End of Month Sale

MANY SALES OF HOLIDAY APPAREL SATURDAY

Those who waited shall be rewarded Saturday, or perhaps you did not think of having the joy of a new dress or summer pattern hat for the holiday and the balance of the season. In either case if you see the hats and dresses on sale tomorrow at prices below half, you will have one or both, just as sure as you look at them. Saturday's list is the best of the season so far. A new dress and pattern hat Saturday for less than the regular price of either one.

VOILE DRESSES SATURDAY, $7.95

This shipment, a clearance from one of our favorite manufacturers, arrived just in time for the last day of the month sale. All are new and fresh from their boxes, fifty dresses of fine voile and in the best of colors for late in the season wear; copen and sand, navy and white, black and white, purple and blue, grey and rose, copen and white, etc.; all made and trimmed in the very newest fashion and in a range of sizes from 18 to 44. All one price Saturday **$7.95**

Final Clearing Saturday of Summer Pattern Hats, $7.95

This is not half their value, and perhaps you have had your envious eye on one of these very models.

Smart Summer Hats of organdy, georgette, mohair, Leghorn, taffeta, ribbon and Milan straw, including pattern hats as well as models from our own workrooms; trimmed with French flowers, malines, embroideries, ribbons, etc. Hats suitable for everyone, in white and all new summer colorings. Saturday less than half $7.95

Month-End Specials, Linen Section

Space here will not allow an attempt to detail the many specials on the counters for Saturday's selling, the final pricing of all odd lots, which include so many useful numbers, at one-third to one-half for new prices.

TWO PIECES ONLY, MERCERIZED TABLE DAMASK, 98c YARD.

Your choice Saturday, either bleached or unbleached, 60-inch Heavy Mercerized Damask, at ..... 98c yard

ALL PURE LINEN CRASHES REDUCED.

You can now buy the finest quality Irish and Scotch Crashes at prices very much reduced; all odd numbers in all pure linen, 17-inch and 22-inch; priced now from one-third to one-half formerly. Early Saturday for your share, as quantities are limited .. .. 39c and 49c per yard

2X2 YARDS, MERCERIZED DAMASK CLOTHS, $2.79.

You'll appreciate the value in this special, and agree the price is at least one-third less than usual for so fine a quality; round designs, 2x2 yards. Saturday .... $2.79 each

HUCKABACK BEDROOM TOWELS ABOUT HALF PRICE.

28 dozen only to clear of this very fine quality Cotton Huckaback Bedroom Towel; laundered finish, free from filling; extra size, 22x44. Hotels, boarding-houses, hospitals, inquire for this number; the value is exceptional. Mail orders filled .... 39c each, $4.50 dozen

27-INCH DOUBLE DAMASK TABLE NAPKINS, 49c EACH.

Yes, these are all pure linen double damask; some are slightly imperfect; others have merely oil-stains; in the extra large size. Saturday ..... 49c each

AT TOILET COUNTER

Egyptian Henna Shampoo Powder ..... 3 for 25c
Cocoanut Oil Shampoo Powder ..... 2 for 25c
Lifebuoy Soap ... 3 for 25c
Opera Soap ..... 3 for 25c
Vinolia Castile Soap, large bar ..... 22c bar

SATURDAY SALES IN BASEMENT.

Large size Cedar Oil Mops	$1.75
Small size Cedar Oil Mops	$1.25
Liquid Wax Oil Polish	40c and 60c
Cedar Oil	30c and 50c
Liquid Veneer Polish	30c and 60c
Old English	75c
C. B. Wax	65c
Johnston Bros.' Wax	85c
Skirt Boards	$1.25, $1.50 and $1.75
Clothes Bars	$1.19
Stepladders	$2.00, $2.25 and $2.50

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR TEA OR COFFEE?

S. & I. Blend Tea, as served in our restaurant and lunch counter	55c per lb., 30c ½-lb.
Coffee	65c and 35c

QUALITY FIRST.

Neilson's Chocolates

Saturday, 45c pound. Half-pound, 25c.

Pineapple, Fruit, Strawberry and Vanilla French Creams, Milk Bordeaux, Swiss Creams, Peppermint Wafers, Butterscotch Caramels and Milk Fig Fruit Centers.

Chocolate Bars .. 8 for 25c
Pineapple and Cherry Whips, Nut Fruit and Cream Bars.

Ladies' Silk Hose Real Value Offering

$2.00—OUR POPULAR LEADER, $2.00 PAIR

We specialize three makers—Holeproof, Venus and Radium—at this popular price, and every one the best possible for $2 pair. Satisfactory selling has proven true all claims made for quality in pure silk hose. Made in plain and ribbed tops; all sizes, in black, white and colors ..... $2.00 pair

LADIES' BLACK AND WHITE PURE SILK HOSE, $1.50 PAIR.

A splendid stocking in pure silk make; all sizes; black and white only .... $1.50 pair

BLACK FIBRE SILK HOSE, $1.00 PAIR.

A very satisfactory wearing Fibre Silk Stocking, to sell at a very moderate price.

See These Watches $3.25 TO $9.25.

PLAIN DIAL MODELS.

The famous Maple Leaf, keeps accurate time $3.25
The Junior, a smaller nickel case $5.50

RADIOLITE MODELS.

The Maple Leaf Radiolite tells time in the dark, $4.00
With Ivory Stand for dresser $4.25
Midget Wrist Radiolite, $6.75
The Waterbury Radiolite, luminous dial, with solid nickel case $7.75

JEWELED MODELS.

The Waterbury, jeweled balance $7.00
The Reliance, nickel bascine case, 7-jeweled, flat model $9.25

At the Jewelry Department —Main Aisle.

Manufacturers' Samples Wash Silk and Crepe De Chine Lingerie

These will be cleared Saturday at less than factory prices. Below are the lines and price ranges briefly listed. A great variety in each group, and a varied price range for your selection. A wonderful opportunity to procure silk for nearly the price of muslin. Make your selection here early Saturday morning.

Ladies' Gowns, made of crepe de chine, habutai silk. Sale prices Saturday ..... $3.50 to $9.50

Ladies' Envelope Chemise, made of crepe de chine, wash satin and habutai silk. Sale prices Saturday ..... $1.95 to $5.59

Ladies' Bloomers, made of habutai silk, crepe de chine and wash satin. Sale prices Saturday...$1.95 to $5.95

Camisoles, made of crepe de chine, wash satin and habutai silk. Sale prices Saturday ..... 98c to $3.49

SPECIAL SHEETS

8-4, double-bed size, well made, good clear bleach; you will find this a useful sheet, especially for children's beds, camping or the summer cottage; a big value ..... $2.75 pair

CLEARING PRICES ON HOLIDAY APPAREL FOR MEN AND BOYS

Preparatory to the incoming fall goods, many lines of summer apparel are marked at prices which will clear them out quickly. This means real worth while savings to you—new apparel for your August vacation at unusually low prices. Be here Saturday and take advantage of these specials.

CLEARING BALANCE OF PALM BEACH SUITS $13.95

TOMORROW, 9 A.M.—Lustres, Airepores, Palm Beaches, sizes 36 to 46, greens, greys (dark and light), navys, cream and sand shades. The entire balance of these splendid Summer Suits. Many are of genuine Palm Beach cloth. Smart models for men of all types. These have been marked to clear them out quickly tomorrow at 9 a.m. **$13.95**

STRAW HATS

Fancy Braids, Half Price, $2.25

Narrow and Medium rims, high bands, half price tomorrow, $2.25

Sennit Straws Boater Shape, $1.95

Here is an opportunity to finish the season with a new straw hat at an unusually low price. Clearing tomorrow $1.95

Genuine Panamas, $2.49

Less Than Half Regular Price.

Genuine Panama Hats, natural shade, in fedora shapes. These will go with a rush tomorrow, ..$2.49

Balance of Toyo Panamas, 98c

Two dozen only to clear 98c each

SALE OF SHIRTS, One-Third to One-Half Off
$2.45, 3 for $7.00

Woven Madras, Percales, Repp Cords, etc. Clearing of broken lines, 14 to 17. Sale price $2.45

SILK SHIRTS, $5.95

Neat stripes in many colors—blue, mauve, green, etc., including Broadcloth Silks. These are guaranteed for three months. Sizes 14 to 16½. Sale price $5.95

BOYS' ATHLETIC COMBINATIONS, 69c

Ages 3 to 15 years. Fine naincheck, cut athletic style. Sale price 69c

Flannel Trousers, $8.45

English Imported Cream Flannel Trousers, splendidly tailored and of exceptionally fine quality. Clearing tomorrow. Sale price..... ..... $8.45 pair

Summer Pyjamas, $2.95.

Fine quality, durable, in neat striped effects. Sizes 36 to 46. Sale price $2.95

Boys' Cotton Jerseys, 50c

Green and cardinal, navy and cardinal, plain navy, etc. All sizes 50c

BOYS' COTTON BATHING SUITS, 69c

Navy and cardinal, one-piece style. Clearing 69c

Sale Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, 29c Each

50 dozen Linen Handkerchiefs, imported direct from Ireland, gentleman's size, hemstitched. To the present time handkerchiefs of this quality have been sold at more than twice this price. Be here early ..... 29c each

500 YARDS PURE PONGEE RAW SILK FOR 75c YARD SATURDAY

Not a large quantity to sell at this very low price. Early buyers will be repaid, as the saving is considerable on this very fine shirting and dress quality Pongee Silk. Very silky in finish and a rich linen color, 33 to 34 inches wide. Saturday special 75c yard

White Satin for Skirts Only $3.00 Yard.

Just one piece of beautiful heavy white satin, for washable skirts. Full 36 inches wide, $3.00 yard

White Chiffon Taffeta Silk Is Here

Very scarce these days. There's such a demand for White Taffeta Hats. We were fortunate to secure a piece of extra chiffon quality, yard wide ..... $2.50 and $3.50 yard

Ladies' Dainty Neckwear For the Holiday

A shipment of Dainty Fresh Neckwear, in newest styles, just opened, comprising nets, organdies, valenciennes and guipure lace effects. See the Centre Aisle, Main Floor.

Organdie Vestees

Styles that are entirely new, made up of fine organdy, some with dainty embroidery work, some frilled, others hemstitched. A variety of patterns for your selection. Price ..... $2.00 to $5.00

Valenciennes Lace Vestings

One of the most popular of Vestings of rows of fine valenciennes lace. Price ..... $5.00 yard
Also Bandings to match.

Organdie Bandings

There's a big demand for these bandings, because some prefer to make up their own collar and cuff sets; several patterns in the lot. Prices .. $1.00 to $1.75 yard

Organdie and Fine Net Sets.

A collection of smart sets at popular prices; some in fine organdy; others in fine net with valenciennes or guipure lace trim; white and ecru colors. Prices, $1.00 to $3.00

SMALLMAN & INGRAM LIMITED