

The St. John Standard

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HYDRO.

Now that the possibility of the City undertaking the sale and distribution of the Musquash current begins to take on more of the nature of a probability, our esteemed friend The Globe is beginning to advise that caution be observed by the City authorities with regard to entering into any binding agreement with the Power Commission. This is precisely what The Standard has been urging all along, but to all appearances our urgings have fallen on deaf ears.

We have, as we have several times before stated, no concern whatever with the future welfare or prospects of the N. B. Power Company, but it does seem to us to be the height of folly for the City to go to the cost and trouble of establishing a second distribution system when there is one already in existence and capable of doing all the work needed.

Premier Lloyd George's diplomatic talent has been taxed to the utmost by the sharp antagonism between the French and Russian delegations at Genoa, and the question of claims and counter-claims cannot, like the question of armaments, be barred from discussion on the ground that it is not included in the agenda.

A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE. Premier Foster in 1920 (Official Report): "This Commission will come into competition with people who have in good faith invested their money in the development of power proposals in this Province."

More plausible is the report that Mr. Lloyd George has urged Tchitcherine to recognize Russia's pre-war debts and war debts, and liability for foreign property nationalized by the Soviets, in return for a promise that the Allies would receive and consider the counter-claims made against them by Russia for damage done in the civil wars which they instigated and supported.

The proposed Finance Commission was unable to agree on its report. It was a gentleman who has had quite extensive opportunities for acquiring an inside knowledge of N. B. Electric Power Commission affairs, told us a short time ago that the grant and work like in connection with the Valley Railway construction was trifling when compared with conditions surrounding the Musquash development.

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and adjourned at once, but Lloyd George seems to have been spurred to fresh efforts to find a formula that would satisfy all concerned. The great difference between the two sets of claims is that one is for the most part definite because based on money lent, while the other is indefinite because based on damages alleged.

Lloyd George appears to be seeking quick results by yielding "in principle" to the Russian claims, while insisting on postponing definite promises till the Russians have accepted the much more definite claims of the Allies.

Mr. Herbert Phillips last evening made a most valiant attempt to prove that no increase in civic taxation would follow if the City undertook to go into competition with the N. B. Power Company and build a transmission line of its own to distribute the Musquash current.

In the Kirby-Phillips report the cost of distribution is given as \$322,500 per year, including the cost of the current at 1.2 per k.w.h. at the receiving station, Fairville. Included in this total are the following items: sinking fund, \$13,500; depreciation fund, \$25,000; taxes, \$25,000; cost of current, \$120,000.

Spreading over a four year period, he proposed to drop the first three items altogether, and accept the offer of the New Brunswick Power Commission to supply energy at 3 cents or \$80,000 per year, a saving of \$40,000 per year there. In this way he figured the total cost for the four years' period would be \$777,000, and he estimated the receipts for the same period at \$987,500, thus showing a surplus of \$210,500.

This sounds well, but Mr. Phillips has overlooked one or two little items. In the first place the City cannot issue bonds without a sinking fund, and this at \$13,500 per year will wipe out his \$50,000 surplus and leave him \$4,000 in debt. The depreciation fund and taxes must be met in some way, and when these are considered, instead of only being \$4,000 to the bad, he will be \$204,000 on the four year operation.

If this is not raised by direct taxation where is it to come from?

Mr. Foster in 1922, (last Thursday): "The Province of New Brunswick is not entering into competition with the N. B. Power Co. It is making arrangements to sell electric current to the City of St. John."

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Michell's what to do. So proud apparently are the Commissioners of the work they are doing that they spent \$200 in having some moving pictures taken of the power site. One gentleman received \$896 for "services as chauffeur and draughtsman." This is rather an unusual combination, and suggests lots of other possibilities.

We understand the Chancery Court is soon to take up the matter of the C. P. R. bridge. Does anyone, we wonder, ever stop to consider what sort of plight this City would be in should this crazy application succeed? It would take months to raise that bridge and much of it would have to be rebuilt, during which time, no trains could enter or leave the City and Fairville would have to be the C. P. R. terminus.

Mr. Herbert Phillips had only cold comfort to give the expectant citizens of St. John last night. He put down 6.35 cents as the average price at which the City could sell light to consumers over its own distribution plant, which means that the ordinary homeholder will still pay pretty much the same as at present, or at the most only a cent or two less.

CITY OF ST. JOHN AND CONFISCATORY LEGISLATION

Whether born of the rough and ready ways of the war or representing simply a phase in the economic evolution of the people, the fact is that Canada—and probably the world—has had a deluge of strong arm legislation, proposed or actually adopted, such as it would have been difficult to find any representative man to even suggest a decade ago.

At the bottom of much of this legislation is the mistaken belief that democratic government can do no wrong. The government of a democracy is presumed to represent the majority, and the distorted view is held by many that a majority may do pretty much as it pleases without violating the principles of democracy and of liberty and justice.

The board will be appointed under legislation already provided for by the Melghen Government. In addition to this the Melghen policy of establishing operating districts or divisions under separate managers with a certain amount of local autonomy will be carried out.

The improvement in the financial condition of the road is due to the policies of the Melghen Government. The ex-prime minister with justifiable pride remarked: "The statement is such that it will carry encouragement to the people of this country and strengthen the hands of those who have believed that if we followed right lines we should make these roads a success."

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Benny's Note Book. BY LEE PAPE. FRED FERROT AMONG THE LIONS. Some, Fred Ferrot in the jungles with a guide. Fred Ferrot. G, these curtesy are dark jungles. Guide. The worst is yet to come. They get darker inside of lighter.

WHAT OTHERS SAY. The Melghen Railway Policy Adopted. (London Free Press). So all the condemnation of the Melghen Government's railway policy during the election campaign by Hon. Mackenzie King, his satellites and his press was only so much bluff and bluster.

THE LAUGH LINE. And yet, you'll seldom find a man who is too busy to stop and think his vanity by giving you a little free advice.

THE AGES OF MAN. Of all the ages of man, there are only two: Cribbage and dotage. The ages in between do not count.

A Diplomatic Recommendation. A gentleman lately dismissed a clever but dishonest gardener. For the sake of his wife and family he gave him a good character, and this is how he worded it: "I hereby certify that A. B. has been my gardener for over two years and that during that time he got more out of my garden than any other man I ever employed."

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The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd. Engineers and Machinists. Iron and Brass Castings. Phone West 598. West St. John. G. H. WARING, Manager.

Tanks For Pulp Mills. La Cie de Pulp de Chicoutimi, Chandler, Que. have just erected a large Recovery Tank made at our plant. The tanks of the Frasers, Ltd., Pulp Mills, Edmundston, were milled here. We have special tank machinery. For Tanks Phone Main 1993.

The Christie Wood-Working Co., Ltd. 186 Erin Street.

SAVE YOUR EYES. Headaches. About ninety per cent. of all headaches have their origin in eye-strain. If you suffer from headaches which medicines do not relieve, it would seem to be the wise thing to find out if your eyes are the cause.

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DELEGATION. Genoa April 1922. The British and Belgian guests, headed by the Hon. Mr. George Titcherine, minister in order would cost 250 Mr. Titcherine, incidentally the whole hotel is now homes of any of. During the first was closely guarded and special precautions were taken to guard gates, and telegrams and Mr. Titcherine, this secrecy, that. We. A wedding at performed yesterday eleven o'clock in nuptial mass, when McLaughlin, daughter and Mrs. William city, was united. Hon. Joseph McLaughlin, Rev. J. W. Holroyd, Arthur rendered appropriate service. The bride was Miss Joseph McLaughlin, daughter of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Montreal, and on the in Paddock street at the wedding. Hon. P. J. Mahon, norland county Phillips of Bonaventure party, Ontario, played the role of best man. The bride was Miss Joseph McLaughlin, daughter of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Montreal, and on the in Paddock street at the wedding. Hon. P. J. Mahon, norland county Phillips of Bonaventure party, Ontario, played the role of best man. The bride was Miss Joseph McLaughlin, daughter of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Montreal, and on the in Paddock street at the wedding. Hon. P. J. Mahon, norland county Phillips of Bonaventure party, Ontario, played the role of best man.