

CITY GAS RATE BOOST SHELD FOR 2 WEEKS

Commission Government Proposal Also Put Aside By Legislature Committee. ALL LONDON'S MONEY BY LAWS APPROVED Representatives of Citizens Oppose Gas Increase, But the Committee Wants More Information.

TORONTO, March 1.—(Special to The Free Press.)—The proposal of the City Gas Company, of London, to increase local gas rates stands over for two weeks, as does the commission government proposal in the City of London bill, but all of London's money by-laws this morning received the approval of the private bills committee of the Legislature.

The fight over the application of the company for authority to increase its capitalization and to jump rates to \$1.40 per 1,000 cubic feet was hardly well underway when the members of the committee passed the conclusion that there was not enough information before them to pass the clauses as they stood and that it might prove a service to both city and company to allow them time to get together.

WANT DATA ON COSTS The members showed a disposition to look favorably upon the request for higher rates provided they could be satisfied that the company could not manufacture and distribute gas at the existing price. Representatives of London citizens, led by Dr. Stevenson, opposed the increase, claiming that the company was not making money, but that 600,000 or profits had gone back into the plants. It was claimed that an increase in capitalization would be capitalizing increased rates to pay dividends on those capitalized profits.

W. A. Crockett, a member for South Wentworth, did not favor any steps being taken towards invalidating an agreement with a municipality. He expressed his opinion that the Legislature and it was no time for the Legislature to fix a high price for gas.

Hon. W. E. Roney, who was in the chair, said there were two points for the committee to determine: (1) Should the committee interfere with contract? (2) Should the committee undertake to fix a price? T. G. Meredith, C. C. city solicitor, said the city did not want anything done to increase the rights (if they had any) of the Gas Company. The city was not interested in contract.

Money clauses approved. The expected fight on the money by-laws did not materialize, support for the clauses being strengthened by the realization that work would be provided for the unemployed. The clauses were approved by a vote of 15 to 10. The bill was adopted in executive session. The committee said it made it "mandatory" for Mr. Houston to appear before the committee to-morrow with the full correspondence.

SHACKLETON MAY GET SUPPORT IN CANADA OTTAWA, March 1.—(Special to The Free Press.)—Sir Ernest Shackleton's projected dash to the north may be partially at least under the auspices of the Dominion Government. When he last week Sir Ernest made application to the Government for financial assistance for his project and while no decision in regard to it has been reached, the matter is known to be under consideration. It is also understood that the explorer is endeavoring to enlist backing in Montreal and Toronto. He is now in Montreal en route to England. When in Ottawa Sir Ernest had several interviews with regard to his proposal. Financial conditions may preclude Government assistance, but the disposition seems to be favorable.

THREE BUILDINGS FOR WESTMINSTER PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Doctors' and Nurses' Homes Are Ready For Occupation. More Accommodation Will Be Available For Patients.

New buildings to the value of several tens of thousands dollars will be handed over to the Westminster Psychiatric Hospital in a few days. Col. Shannon, of the D. S. C. R., announced to The Free Press to-day that the erections have been built by the federal department of public works and are practically ready for occupation now.

The large structure is a nurses' home with accommodation for 30 sisters, while the other most important building is a home for the five resident doctors. All the necessary conveniences have been installed and it is believed that the homes will be among the finest on the continent from the standpoint of the medical and nursing profession.

Col. Shannon points out that the changes to be effected this month will greatly improve the hospital since much more room will be available for the accommodation and other purposes. Up till now the doctors and the nurses had special quarters reserved for them in the hospital proper and have therefore cramped the work to a certain extent.

ONLY A RUMOR. Rumors have been current to the effect that the public works department was to take over the institution from the D. S. C. R., but Col. Shannon stated that he knows the latter has no foundation in fact for the rumor. The explanation offered was that some people had become confused in their minds regarding the construction work being done by the public works and had jumped at the conclusion that the engineers were to continue in charge after the erections had been completed.

The colonel also took occasion to deny the further rumors that outside men were being taken on the staff of the hospital in preference to returned men. While admitting that orders from the board had been taken on the local staff he pointed out that no Londoners had been ousted in the transaction.

While any reductions being made in the pay of the employees at the hospital, the colonel was asked, in view of the fact that they have been made by various bodies. He stated that the wages had not been cut.

"We handle the paying of all the men employed in this district and I have not noted any reductions in the wages in any of the public works," said the colonel. "It is possible that some cuts may have been made, but it is not in my knowledge."

The institution is in a flourishing condition now. Its need in the province is emphasized by the fact that there are a total of 350 patients receiving treatment in the hospital now. Only a few beds are vacant now, but more capacity will be provided with the opening of the new doctors' and nurses' homes.

Aldermen Agree That Fair Board Got Money By False Pretense

Admission of Justness of Criticisms Made Expected To Have Splendid Effect In Making Exhibition What It Should Be—New Blood Is Advocated.

"I am glad to see that the board is waking up," said Ald. Ashton, referring to the Western Fair board. "I have not seen anything more rotten" than the shows staged in front of the grand stand at the last three or four exhibitions. Many times I have seen better all-round amusements at a Sunday school picnic. Now that the board has officially acknowledged the need for improvement it is to be hoped that something better will be done."

This comment was called forth by the statement made by President Garshore at the meeting of the fair board yesterday afternoon, in which he asserted the board was collecting money under false pretenses when it charged 50 cents for the grand stand performances. The president also intimated that the board was expected to get refunded the amount of the money collected under the false pretenses.

"It is specially pleasing to hear the president admit that the board has collected money under false pretenses," continued Ald. Ashton. "I wonder if any of that money, by chance, is included in the \$200 which the Trades and Labor Council expected to get refunded last year when we paid \$400 for the use of the inside of the ring for one week. But it is refreshing to see that these men have at last awakened to the fact that something must be done to put the Western Fair where it belongs."

HOW ABOUT NEW BLOOD. "I believe it would not be a bad plan to have some new blood on the board every year," said the alderman. "I have nothing particular against the men who are now there, but they must not expect to keep their positions forever." "This is the first step in the right direction," said Ald. Ashton. "When the president is willing to admit the 'rotteness' in the state of Denmark then the German foreign minister will be cleared up. His admission clearly proves our contentions were correct. You may be sure the citizens will be benefited by the change to improve the conditions. Now that the board admits the faults it should be easy to remedy them."

Germany's Idemity Offer \$7,500,000,000 Delegates To Allied Conference Express Willingness To Pay This Sum. LLOYD GEORGE OBDURATE Says If There Is Not New Offer, Conference Useless.

LONDON, March 1.—(Associated Press Cable.)—Germany, through her delegates to the conference with the allies here, to-day made reparations offers of approximately 20,000,000,000 marks, or about \$7,500,000,000. It was understood outside the conference that after Dr. Simons, the German foreign minister, had finished his statement on reparations to the conferees, Mr. Lloyd George, the British prime minister, replied in substance that unless the Germans had something more to offer than appeared in Dr. Simons' statement there was no need of continuing the conference.

Four German delegates, Dr. Walter Simons, foreign minister; Carl Bergmann, minister of finance; Herr von Simson, secretary of the German foreign office, and Dr. Goepfert, head of the judicial section of the foreign office, entered the conference with the allies on the reparations question. Before going to London the Germans had been in discussion with the allies on reparations. The Germans, it was learned this morning, were in a state of great anxiety. The French Government was strongly represented at the conference by three of the most influential members of her cabinet, in addition to Premier Briand. They were Louis Loucheur, minister of foreign affairs; Barthou, minister of war; and Doumergue, minister of finance. In addition, Philippe Berthelot, general secretary of the French foreign office, was present.

Mr. Lloyd George opened the proceedings by informing the Germans that the simple expedient of filing out reparations questions and waiting the discussion disarmed. Dr. Simons agreed and commenced to deliver his statement.

GEORGE BUCKLE AS SOON AS WARRANT IS ISSUED

Inquest To Be Opened At Once By Porter County Official. STORIES DIFFER WIDELY Blame Shifted By Townerman To Enginemen of Trains.

PORTER, Ind., March 1.—(Canadian Press Dispatch.)—Investigations by the Indiana state officials and officers of the Michigan Central and New York Central railroads were continued to-day to determine the cause of the wreck here on Sunday night. The cause was obtained from the eastbound Michigan Central train.

Central officials of Porter County early to-day took steps to have Coroner Seipel, of Porter County, call an inquest. Most of the statements so far obtained from the witnesses connected with the wreck have been statements to press representatives, and Robert H. Porter County, declared he would start mandamus proceedings against the coroner unless an inquest were opened at once to take testimony. "Evidently," Townerman Joseph Cook and Operator Charles Whitehead insisted that the New York Central train had been given the right-of-way, and that the Michigan Central track signals were set to stop that train as the signals always remain at "stop" until a train approaches, they say.

ONE TRAIN BLOCKED. New York Central officials declared the fact that the New York Central train did not leave the rails proved that the clear signal had been given that train and pointed out that it is mechanically impossible to give both trains a clear signal. Engineer W. E. Long and Fireman George Block, of the Michigan Central train, were still sequestered by Michigan Central officials, but in a statement given to-day by the Michigan Central officials, they declared they saw the signal indicating they had a clear track. Their statement indicated that the proof of the clear signal lay in the fact that the engine and one coach passed over the derail and continued on the track.

DEATH TOLL 38. The death toll, it is stated, would not exceed 37 or 38, but information from the relatives and friends showed that many persons still unaccounted for early to-day. All of the wreckage had been searched early to-day except beneath the battered engine of the New York Central train, as a heavy wrecking crane was expected to arrive to-day to lift it from the pit where it buried itself.

PHYSICAL SURVEY OF SCHOOL PUPILS Plan To Be Brought Before the Board of Education. SAVE MANY LIVES Take Up Cases of Undernourished Children.

A general survey of the physical condition of public school children will probably receive endorsement at a session of the Board of Education, Inspector Greer will ask that platform scales be purchased for each of the schools in the city, and that every school child in the city be weighed and measured in an effort to determine just how many of the school children are underweight.

SAVING MANY LIVES. The weight of the weight survey of the public schools will be immediately parent, educators point out. Many lives will actually be saved, it is asserted, because the undernourished child must easily fall a victim to disease. It was also pointed out that undernourishment is not solely confined to children of poor parents. Many homes in the city, where children are referred to as "delicate," would be shocked at the plain statement that these children were really starving. Wrong methods of dieting, it is stated, is the great source of childhood diseases and child mortality.

STATE MUST SAY WHAT MARRIAGES ARE LEGAL LONDON, March 1.—(Associated Press Cable.)—The Guardian, the leading weekly paper of the Anglican church, discussing the Quebec marriage agreement, remarks that the Privy Council found that the Roman decrees are binding only as a matter of conscience and that they have no civil operation. This is at once common sense and good law. "Religious bodies are entitled to make any domestic regulations they think proper, but the state must be the sole arbiter of what constitutes a legal marriage. Under any other sanction there would be endless confusion in the marriage law, while it is to be observed that if our present King and Queen had been Canadian Roman Catholics their church would have declared their marriage null, since they also have a common great-grandfather."

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PROSECUTES A WAR OF HEALTH

Investigation May Be Ordered As-Result of Charges Made About Nurses. LACK OF INTEREST IN CHILDREN, IS ALLEGED Might Be Surprises For Health Board, Says Trustee

War threatens between the Board of Education, elected by the people, and the Board of Health, appointed by the City Council. Yesterday Chairman Cunningham of the health board, asserted that public school nurses were negligent in the performance of their duties; ex-Chairman Saunders stated that they sent children home when ill, but took no more interest in them. Mr. Saunders also charged that half of the children sent home ill went on a teacher's order and not on examination of a school nurse. Indignation has been aroused among the trustees over these charges, and Chairman Thomas Corbridge, of the Board of Education, to-day stated: "There will have to be an investigation, that's all!"

Trustee Thomas Rowe pointed out that the Board of Education seem to be the target of every municipal body. "We are ready to be corrected at any time," Mr. Rowe pointed out; "criticism is appreciated. But an investigation might be in order. It is probable that the members of the Board of Health would receive some surprising information if that course is taken. I do not care to say more at this time."

WITHOUT FOUNDATION. Inspector K. V. Greer asserted that the charges made were without foundation. "Our nurses, instead of 'taking it easy,' are really overworked. We will have to appoint an additional nurse this year. They also do follow up on every child sent home ill and are constantly working under pressure."

A formal letter may be sent to the City Council by the Board of Education asking the chairman of the Board of Health give a concrete statement of "alleged" negligence. Trustees are unanimous in their feeling of respect for the Board of Health, and they are constantly working under pressure.

WARD GIVES CITY LESS THAN OFFER County Officials Quietly Chuckle Over Fact. BOTH PARTIES LOSERS Point To This As Argument Favoring Co-Operation.

County councillors and officials of Middlesex are quietly chuckling over the award of the board of arbitrators of the maintenance of courthouse and jail and proportionate cost of joint administration of justice. The fact that they have a little laugh due them in view of the fact that the award will cost the city more than would have been the case if the city had accepted the proposition of the committee from the County Council.

Ward Ryckman this morning intimated that he was fairly well pleased with the findings of the board, although he did not feel that the county had received any benefit. It was also pointed out that undernourishment is not solely confined to children of poor parents. Many homes in the city, where children are referred to as "delicate," would be shocked at the plain statement that these children were really starving. Wrong methods of dieting, it is stated, is the great source of childhood diseases and child mortality.

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What's The Difference? Those who have not yet tried their hand at solving The Free Press puzzle have plenty of time between now and the 19th to enter the contest and try for one of the hundred prizes. A pencil with a little effort and thought may win it for you as well as anyone else. It's not a question of the time it takes you to work out the problem, but whether, after some pleasant work you have a prize-winning answer. Any one of the prizes await the result of your work. The last solution received can win as well as the first. You can start now and mail in your solution by the 19th with the assurance that it will stand on an equal footing with any of the others. Don't miss this chance of winning any one of the many prizes, which run as high as \$700. Working charts will gladly be mailed anyone. Address: "Contest Manager, The London Free Press, 110 Dundas street.