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STERNO
SOLID ALCOHOL
STOVE

is just what you require. Simply pour milk into boiler, light the solid alcohol, and in a few minutes it will be piping hot.

The Sterno IS NOT EXPENSIVE, and comes in several styles.

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INCREASE IN GAS RATES ALLOWED TEMPORARILY

Valuation of N. B. Power Company's Property to Be Made; City to Pay One-Third of the Cost

At this morning's session of the Public Utilities Commission in Chief Justice McKeown's chambers in the Pugsley building it was decided to allow the New Brunswick Power Company to increase their rates for heating and lighting gas. The increase is to be merely temporary and is to continue only until an expert appraiser shall have valued the company's plant and reported to the commission. It will then be subject to revision.

F. R. Taylor in response to Dr. J. B. M. Baxter's request of yesterday produced a financial statement of the company's business, all departments, for the last four years as well as a written statement embracing the present situation. The figures showed that in 1914 there was a surplus of \$8,000 and since that time there had been a yearly deficit.

Mr. Blanchet, accountant, was then called to the stand. He said he audited the books of the gas company and found everything in a satisfactory condition. He said that the sum of \$4,514 for clerks' wages was a reasonable sum and that all of this sum would not be saved in the event of the cessation of operation of the plant.

Mr. Blanchet said that the net earnings of the Eastern Electric Co. were allowed to accumulate in the bank.

Dr. Baxter asked as to whether the retail price to the power company or whether it was used to sell cheaply to the power company. According to Mr. Blanchet the profit which the electric company made ran from \$8,000 to \$11,000 yearly. His audit was, he said, purely arithmetical correction and verification.

In answer to Mr. Otty, in the chair, Mr. Taylor said that the electric company did very little business with the power company, and did a great deal outside trade.

Dr. Baxter asked Mr. Blanchet the meaning of an item of \$18,000 in December, 1916, which was charged up against the gas. This was shown to be a part of \$16,282.18 set aside in 1916 for depreciation and replacement.

Several other points in the various financial statements were explained by the witness and Mr. Hopper.

Dr. Baxter then said that as the investigation was going at present there would be a tremendous amount of matter which was not connected with the power company, and that a great deal of the matter should be brought to the attention of the legislature, or else go out of business, or else go out of business.

Mr. Taylor said that as regards the gas end of the business, the information plainly showed that some increase in the rates was an immediate necessity. "Although it is quite possible that we may have to appeal for relief in electric power and street car rates at the next session of the legislature, or else go out of business," said he, "yet that has nothing to do with the present appeal."

Commissioner Council suggested that the city should appoint an expert who should make a report to the commission. Dr. Baxter did not think it fair, but agreed to take the matter before the common council. He had said that R. A. Macintyre had made a statement to him that since the N. B. Power Company took over the business nearly \$70,000 yearly was being paid in extra dividends.

Mr. Taylor here said that the gas end of the business was the only matter under consideration at present.

Dr. Baxter asked him whether, if the objection to increase of gas rates were dropped, the company would agree not to pursue the petition before the legislature as regards the electricity and street railway.

Mr. Taylor said that he could not agree to this, and said that the question showed that Dr. Baxter was trying to find out about the whole of the company, not confining himself to the gas works.

Mr. Otty said that the commission did not altogether agree with the stand of the company that the different departments could be considered separately. He did not see why the commission must confine itself to the gas lighting and heating. He said that first of all an examination should be made of the plant and that taken together with the amount of capital invested, should be taken upon which to estimate the proper charging.

Mr. Taylor asked that the rate might go into effect on Jan. 1 and then if it were found that the company were not entitled to any raise in rates it could be reduced.

This was agreed to by the commission. Mr. Otty said that an expert was in the mind of the commission, and that he would be brought down to appraise the plant.

Mr. Taylor remarked that it would not be satisfactory to the company if more had to be paid for experts that would be brought in from the new rates of gas.

The commission was of the opinion that the expenses of experts should be shared by the city, and Dr. Baxter suggested an impromptu meeting of the common council in the near future.

GAVE HIS LIFE IN WAR



This is a picture of Gunner James Walter Mason, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Mason of this city, who was killed in action in France on Dec. 11, Gunner Mason enlisted here with a siege battery, and crossed over in one of the early drafts.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS IN LOCAL SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Fairville Methodist Sunday school held their annual Christmas entertainment last evening in the vestry of the church and, as usual, the function was well attended by young and old. A large, beautifully trimmed tree occupied the centre of the platform and was much admired. The following programme was rendered by the children:—Recitation, Mildred Bailey; chorus, Primary department; recitation, Elsie Simpson; recitation, Stella Cox; song, Luella Bonnell; recitation, Cecil Henderson; chorus, Miss Eva Taylor's class; recitation, Beulah Craft; duet, Margaret and Harold Stout; recitation, Dorothy Bennett; recitation, Kenneth Congie; dialogue, Mrs. Kirkpatrick's class.

At intervals, three telegrams arrived from Santa Claus and were read from the platform, eliciting much applause and enthusiasm. When he finally made his appearance he distributed a treat to each member of the primary and beginners' classes. The older classes on being called to the platform contributed useful gifts, over which Santa Claus presided. These articles will be delivered today to those in the community requiring assistance.

The gathering last night was a success in every way. The national anthem was sung in closing. A happy time was enjoyed by the children of Eastern Street Methodist Sunday school last evening when they were given their Christmas treat. Gordon Stevens was Santa Claus, and distributed gifts with a lavish hand. The following programme was enjoyed: Christmas hymn; exercise, "A Game of Letters," by fourteen children; recitation, Dorothy Young; recitation, Howard Neil; recitation, Helen Handran; solo, Greta Love; recitation, Eleanor Vincent; recitation, Hector Little; exercise, "Our Flag," by five boys; recitation, Eleanor Romney; recitation, Dorothy McFarlane; recitation, Ræburn Jack; piano duet, Marion Cooper and Gordon Titts; recitation, Emily Hope; recitation, Alfred Vincent; solo, Edna Amberg; recitation, Marion Rolston; recitation, Grace Hughton; exercise, "Christmas Emblems," by four girls; recitation, Ruth Drake; recitation, Kathleen Amberg; solo, Emma Rand; recitation, Alfred Marsden; recitation, Jack Davis; recitation, Alice Dawson.

The children of St. Phillip's Sunday school rendered a very good programme to an appreciative audience last night. Santa Claus then handed presents to members of the school. The programme was: Welcome Beautiful Christmas—Sunday school. A Christmas Wish—Maud Stewart. Recitation—Saw Ye Never—Marjory Marsh. Recitation—If You Had a Quarter—William Stewart. What's the Meaning—Sunday school. Mistletoe—Helena Adamson. When Bells Ring, Together—Agnis Stewart. Christmas Bells—Sunday school. Merry, Merry Christmas—Ernest Boyd. Shine Up, O Blessed Star—Florence Boyd. Piano solo—Helena Adamson. Something, Worth While—Oscar Stewart.

Festive Time—Sunday school. Trio—The Tree That Blooms at Christmas—Agnis Stewart, Marjory Stewart, Helena Adamson. Remarks—Pastor. God Save the King. The entertainment was enjoyed by all present.

NURSING SISTER McKIEL MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Friends in St. John and elsewhere will be glad to hear that a cablegram was received by her brother in Fairville yesterday, announcing the safe arrival of Nursing Sister Theodora A. McKiel in England. She has just returned to active service after spending a very enjoyable furlough in Canada. Nursing Sister McKiel was recently mentioned specially in despatches for efficient service in the eastern war zone. This word was received here after she had left on her returned journey to resume her duties.

Sergt.-Major Tyner returned to Halifax last night after spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, 111 Broad street.

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Our Stores Open at 8.30; Close 6 p.m.; Saturdays 10 p.m.

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Ladies' Coat and Skirt Suits

in Poplin, Tweed, English Serge, Broadcloth and Gaberdine, etc.

All Colors All Sizes

Before Stock-taking we will sell at Half-price

Every Suit New Stock

Every Suit up-to-date in Style, Cloth and Trimming

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Send your Tea Kettle to us and have it repaired. We can put on an all copper bottom, replace knobs, repair spout, and put your kettle in good condition at a reasonable cost.

WASH BOILERS REPAIRING

We can put on either copper or tin bottom, that will make your boiler almost as good as new.

Wash Boilers and Tea Kettles Called for and Delivered.

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Black Cashmere Half-Hose made with seamless foot, guaranteed fast color. Special 50c.

"Wolsey" All-Wool Black Cashmere Half-Hose, unshrinkable, 60c, 75c. and 85c. per pair

Fine White Cashmere Half-Hose 50c. and 75c. per pair

Grey Cashmere Half-Hose 65c. and 75c. per pair

Heather and Grey Ribbed Worsted Half-Hose, 50c, 60c. and 75c. per pair

"Wolsey" Black and Heather Worsted Half-Hose, 75c, 85c., \$1.00 per pair

Dr. Jaeger Worsted Half-Hose in black and heather, 75c, 85c. per pair

Khaki Cashmere, plain and ribbed 65c. and 75c. per pair

Khaki Ribbed Worsted Half-Hose 65c, 85c. and \$1.00 per pair

Men's Golf Hose in grey and heather mixed \$1.25 and \$1.50 per pair

OAK HALL

SCOVIL BROS., LIMITED
ST. JOHN, N. B.

Dear Mary:—

When so many homes are begging to be beautifully furnished don't you think it is a shame that so many people neglect to do this and that lots of husbands actually mortgage their homes to buy automobiles. A car is alright if one can afford it, but with me, home needs and home pleasures come first.

Why, the money spent on gasoline and repairs would handsomely furnish every neglected home in this town. People must be crazy.

Loyally—HELEN.

P. S. The price of an auto will more than handsomely furnish an entire home at

A. Ernest Everett 91 Charlotte Street
THE HOUSE FURNISHER

WOOL CAPS
—Cold Weather Necessities

If you have put off buying a Warm Cap until the last few days come to our store and avoid the discomforts of the cold winter storms. You can enjoy the cold weather properly fitted with a Warm Cap. \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00.

Black and Blue Drivers, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00.

Aviation Caps, Golf Caps with inside pull down bands

We have Fur Caps from \$3.00 to \$35.00.

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