

CITIZENS MEET AND ORGANIZE TO FIGHT POWER CO.'S APPLICATION TO INCREASE RATES FOR SERVICE

Meeting Called by President of Board of Trade Last Evening so Largely Attended that Seaman's Institute Hall Was Necessary to Hold the Crowd—Heard Strong Addresses Criticizing Company and Passed Resolutions of Protest—Committee Appointed to Make Preparations for Carrying City's Fight to the Legislature—An Interesting Session.

The meeting called by the president of the Board of Trade last evening to consider the MacIntyre report and organize for some action against the application for increased rates for service, which the New Brunswick Power Company will present to the legislature, developed considerable enthusiasm. There was a large attendance of interested citizens and the large hall in the Seaman's Institute was filled when the proceedings opened.

Addresses explaining the disclosures made by Auditor MacIntyre and criticizing the company not only in the application for increased rates but for the quality of the service provided in all its departments, were made by Mr. E. Agar, F. A. Dykeman, F. B. Ellis, W. F. Burditt, Dr. F. A. Godose, W. A. Nelson and others, and two resolutions were passed approving of the action of the City Council in engaging an auditor to probe the company's affairs, protesting against the proposed increase and expressing determination to fight the company's application in the legislature.

Mr. Wetmore Opened Case. President A. H. Wetmore of the Board of Trade opened the meeting and was elected chairman for the evening. R. E. Armstrong was chosen secretary and Mr. Wetmore then proceeded to give the reasons for calling it. He said the meeting had been called with the idea that the sentiments expressed in the resolutions passed might be helpful to the City Commissioners in their efforts to enable them to be fully prepared to properly defend and protect the interests of the citizens. If it should be found that more is being or is to be exacted from the people by the company than is given in return for the value received.

There was a strong feeling that the N. B. Power Company "had done many things they ought not to have done and have left many things which they ought to have done," but he urged that in the discussion and proceedings the meeting should be fair to all parties.

They should not wish to load upon the present commission the responsibility for a great looseness and laxity in the various charters under which the Power Company is operating; nor should the interests at present enjoying these privileges be blamed for the fact that the public are not well protected thereby; nor should they be condemned without a fair trial. Rather, said Mr. Wetmore, "we should look to the future, guided by the experience of the past and advocate that hereafter these public utilities shall be operated under a new charter which will enforce fairness and equity to all parties interested. If we are to have privately owned public utility corporations, then I think we should recommend such action, and I believe the City Commissioners and perhaps the Power Company will appreciate it if this meeting does so recommend."

Mr. Wetmore then announced that the meeting was open for discussion.

Time to Protest.

Mr. M. E. Agar said that in view of the agitation caused by the request of the N. B. Power Company for permission to increase rates for service, the City Council of the Board of Trade felt the time was opportune to call a meeting and prepare a resolution of protest which would meet the views of the community. These views should be placed before the Legislature as a protest against the application of the N. B. Power Company to increase its rates for service. There was no disposition on the part of any one

with the Council in any action it may see fit to take in the premises, and it was further recommended as the interests of all parties that the numerous acts of parliament and complicated legislation, under which the Company is now operating, be replaced as early as possible by a clear and well-arranged charter which would adequately protect the interests both of the Company and the community it serves, and that would safeguard the public against over-capitalization and the consequent unnecessary cost to the community for service that in the future may result therefrom.

Explaining more particularly the engagement of an outside counsel, Mr. Agar said that he had given long and faithful service to the city and had saved it many thousands of dollars. In the present case, however, it was known that he was the legal adviser of the principal company but had been unable to get satisfaction from the company and he was certain that he could not receive anything he desired to receive. Mr. Agar's resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Price of Electricity. Dr. F. A. Godose said all the complaint had been about the street railway service. He desired to enter his protest against the quality of the gas. He had made numerous protests to the company but had been unable to get satisfaction. He had not only failed to get an extra price for gas, yet he wanted the quality and the quantity the company should give. He certainly did object for paying for something he did not receive.

A Gas Complaint. Dr. F. A. Godose said all the complaint had been about the street railway service. He desired to enter his protest against the quality of the gas. He had made numerous protests to the company but had been unable to get satisfaction. He had not only failed to get an extra price for gas, yet he wanted the quality and the quantity the company should give. He certainly did object for paying for something he did not receive.

was represented to the city that it was only asking enough money to get along on. Yet the auditor's report showed it had accumulated capital of \$400,000. The city had been very generous to the company in the past and the civic department of public works today obliged to bear the stigma of incompetency and neglect because the railway company had not paid to the city what it should have paid.

Urges Expert Advice. W. F. Burditt said the legislature could amend or repeal any legislation it once granted. The railway company had failed to get from the Public Utilities Commission authority to raise its street car fares and was now going to the legislature to get it there. The change would entail an amendment in the charter and, said Mr. Burditt, "while it is being amended, it is being amended right."

He urged that the city should procure counsel well versed in public utility matters and able to cope with the experts the Railway Company would be likely to engage.

A Fairville Complaint. W. Albert Nelson of Fairville objected to the statement by Mr. Agar that the company had given a fair service. In the case of Fairville he claimed it was not fair and not a return for the service from the city. He had entered into an agreement with the company and the Lancaster Highway Board.

Mr. Nelson read this agreement, showing that the company was bound to provide transportation and a suspension bridge with transfer rights to any part of the company's main line. Any days when ice or snow on the rails prevented the running of a car over the section covered in the agreement, the company stood bound to provide another conveyance. This he claimed they did not do. He contended that the street railway service was poor. His idea of street railway service was that the company was bound to provide a return for the service at the price of ticket. He thought there was every necessity of fighting the company's application to the legislature.

William Vincent asked if there was any assurance that when the auditor was hired to make a further investigation of the affairs of the company, he would be permitted to examine the company's books?

Mr. Wetmore said he hoped that this would be one of the matters to be referred to the City Council for its consideration for public utilities in the future. Under present conditions the city had no authority to put an auditor on the company's books and what Auditor MacIntyre had been shown was distinctly private and not public property. He contended that the city had the power to compel the company to open their books to him.

Mayor Hayes. Mayor Hayes was called upon. He said the resolution appeared to approve of what the council had already done. He then moved that the city should appoint an auditor to investigate the company's affairs. When the company's application first came before the Public Utilities Commission the city solicitor had protested against any decision being given because the city had not completed its investigations. The Public Utilities Commissioner however had permitted the company to increase the price charged for gas against the city's objection. After the publication of the MacIntyre report the city requested the Public Utilities Commission to revoke the permission given to increase the gas rates, and while he did not know what the commission's decision would be, yet he did not know that all these things would be thrashed out when the case reached the legislature. He hoped it would be possible then to find out just how much real money was invested in the company and upon what sum stockholders were entitled to receive dividend.

Crowded Like Cattle. The mayor agreed with Mr. Nelson that the street car service was not at all satisfactory and said he had just come from West St. John on a car where passengers were crowded in like cattle, more standing in the aisles than could be accommodated on the seats. The city had a right to expect that the company should give a fair service and receive for it fair compensation, but he did not think they should get higher rates. On the contrary it was time to consider when they should not make larger contributions to the treasury of the city of St. John, even if the present rates were continued.

Louis Simms asked if the last paragraph of the Agar resolution was based upon the assumption that the city should get a new charter?

Mr. Agar said the city desired to hold the company to the charter they had. They were now asking for something that they had not done and they were asking that the citizens proposed to fight.

Amend Charter Properly. Frank B. Ellis said that if the company was justified in going to the legislature and asking for amendments to their charter to give them something they do not now possess the city would be wrong in that charter should now be put right.

Mr. Agar said the company had always represented to the city that it was only asking enough money to get along on. Yet the auditor's report showed it had accumulated capital of \$400,000. The city had been very generous to the company in the past and the civic department of public works today obliged to bear the stigma of incompetency and neglect because the railway company had not paid to the city what it should have paid.

The Dykeman resolution was then carried unanimously and the following committee was chosen by the meeting: W. C. Cross, M. E. Agar, F. A. Dykeman, F. B. Ellis, Louis Simms, F. W. Daniel, A. M. Belding, T. A. Linton, J. Willard Smith, T. H. Esatbrooks, W. F. Burditt, Dr. F. A. Godose, F. B. Hamann, M. F. Mooney, George H. Watkinson, W. L. Harding, W. A. Nelson, W. M. Angus, Adam MacIntyre, A. W. Wetmore, George L. Warwick, H. W. Rising and W. F. Leonard.

It was decided to send copies of the resolutions to the mayor and council, after which the meeting adjourned.

Battle Before Kiev. A battle before Kiev, therefore, seems not far distant, unless meantime another armistice is arranged pending the final capitulation of the Bolshevik government and the signing of a peace treaty.

At last accounts the Russian delegates who are to treat with the Germans were to have left Petrograd Sunday night for Brest-Litovsk. Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, who bolted the original peace conference and declined to sign peace treaty, will not represent the government in the present discussion, it having been decided to send in his stead M. Zinoviev, president of the Petrograd council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates.

The Old Order. Already the imperialistic German viewpoint is being pressed upon Russia in the newly acquired territory. The German commander has informed the populace of Estonia and Livonia that they now are under German police power and the barons of the old regime have been ordered released from imprisonment and instructions have been given that they are to be protected by the Germans who will not permit their transfer to territory where they may again be made prisoner by the Bolsheviks.

In Petrograd the situation is still critical. For the present the American and British Allied ambassadors have elected to remain in the capital pending further developments, but many attaches of the embassies and civilians have departed by way of the trans-Siberian Railway.

The Big Battlefronts. On the battlefronts the fighting by the infantry continues mainly in the nature of patrol encounters. On various sectors in France, Belgium and Italy the big guns are engaged in reciprocal duels, which at some points are of considerable violence. The latest exploit of the unit of American fighting ships, the French along the Chemin-Des-Dames was a raid, made in conjunction with the French, in which the German line was penetrated for a distance of a few hundred yards. After sharp fighting, in which a number of the enemy were killed and wounded, two officers and twenty men of the German ranks were brought back prisoners to the French line by the Americans.

The British casualties during the past week aggregated 3,571, the lowest number in several months. The total number of officers and men killed was 760.

THE GERMAN IN THE THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL SQ. MILES OF TERRITORY.

(Continued from page 1) Probably Little Fighting.

Although it is announced that Reval was taken "after a battle" it is doubtful if serious resistance was offered by the Germans by the Russians still holding the town. Since the renewal of hostilities the Germans have taken over thousands of additional square miles of Russian territory, the rapidity of their advance, even though virtually unimpeded, being remarkable.

Especially rapid has been that in the south through Volynia, where particular efforts were directed to getting in touch with the Ukrainians so as to carry out the compact with them to aid in expelling the Bolsheviks from Ukrainian territory.

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MINIATURE ALMANAC. February—Phases of the Moon. Last quarter . . . 4h 52m a.m. New moon . . . 11d 6h 5m a.m. First quarter . . . 17d 8h 57m p.m. Full moon . . . 25d 8h 37m p.m.

DEATHS. CAMERON.—At his residence Boulah Kars, Kings county, on Thursday, February 14th, Howard Cameron, in the 78th year of his age, leaving a widow and six daughters to mourn.

ESTABROOKS.—In this city, on the 23rd inst., Sarah Elizabeth, beloved wife of Birkedal C. Estabrook, leaving a husband and one daughter. Funeral from her late residence, 276 Prince St., West St. John, on Tuesday, 26th. Service at 3.30 p.m.

STILWELL.—In this city, on the 27th inst., A. S. Stillwell, in the 68th year of his age, leaving one daughter and three sons to mourn the loss of a loving mother. Funeral from her late residence, 118 Charlotte street, on Tuesday, Feb. 26. Service at 3.30.

CALLAN.—At his residence, 238 City Road, on the 25th inst., after a long illness, William Callan, leaving two sons, three daughters and one brother to mourn. Funeral Wednesday afternoon from his late residence. Service at 2.30.

WILSON.—At his residence, Lorneville, on Feb. 25, Andrew Wilson, aged 74 years, a native of Port Stewart, Coleraine, leaving his wife, four sons and five daughters. (New York and Coleraine papers please copy.) Funeral from his late residence on Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock. Interment in Fairville.

WAYS TO SERVE POTATOES. It is claimed that there are more than 100 ways to cook potatoes, from the primitive (and still probably the best) method of boiling or baking with the skins on, to the most complex and seasoned dishes. Here are some of the ways known to the United States department of agriculture:

Baked Lyonnaise Mashed Pan browned Stuffed In chowder Baked Croquettes Hashed brown Mashed fried Stuffed In fish cakes In lightbread In meat pie crust

INTERESTING MEETING. An interesting meeting was held last evening in Centenary Church by the Young People's Society. There was a good attendance and a general good time was enjoyed. Miss Dorothy Waterbury presided. Solos were given by Mrs. A. P. Crockett, Charles Salmon and Miss Hilda Galley, readings, Miss Maxwell and Miss Marjorie Pearce. An interesting address was given by Rev. H. A. Goodwin on the subject, "The Effect of the War on Our National Idea."

Colds Cause Headaches and Grip. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only this "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVES' signature on box. 30c.

SOLDIERS IN CAMP. The abrupt change from home comforts to camp life may be trying on your boy's health, but if he will only take the rich liquid food in SCOTT'S EMULSION.

It will create richer blood to establish body warmth and fortify his lungs and throat. Thousands of soldiers all over the world take Scott's Emulsion. It is exactly what they need.

(British and Colonial Press.) FRED R. WHITALL, Managing Director A. R. Whitall Car Co., Montreal.

THE FEBRUARY SALE. Yes, this sale has been going some—this week ends it though.

It's our way of keeping ahead, of keeping our stock fresh—clearing out the odd suits and overcoats after the season's selling.

You save \$5 to \$10 on each suit or overcoat. Suits, \$10, \$15, \$17.50 reduced from \$15 to \$28.

Grey Check Worsteds Suits, \$20, reduced from \$30—Sizes 36 to 42—Slow sellers is the reason.

Overcoats, \$10, \$12.50, \$15.50—Reduced from \$15 to \$25—One of a pattern.

Gilmour's, 68 King St.

THE WEATHER. Maritime—Strong winds and gales, south to west and northwest with rain, colder by Wednesday.

Toronto, Feb. 26.—A very deep depression is centered tonight over the Great Lakes and another one, of minor importance, covers Alberta and Saskatchewan. Rains are falling heavily over the greater part of Ontario; elsewhere in Canada the weather has been fair.

Min. Max. Prince Rupert . . . 32 38 Victoria . . . 34 44 Vancouver . . . 32 36 Edmonton . . . 2 38 Prince Albert . . . 2 16 Battleford . . . 2 16 Calgary . . . 10 16 Parry Sound . . . 28 42 London . . . 27 46 Ottawa . . . 29 42 Montreal . . . 34 42 Quebec . . . 20 40 St. John . . . 32 48

Below zero.

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