

The Chatham Daily Planet.

VOL. XVI.

CHATHAM ONT. FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1907.

NO. 88

THE RELIABLE STORE Thomas Stone & Son THE RELIABLE STORE

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The largest shipment of Axminster Rugs ever received in Chatham, was delivered to us to-day by the C. P. R., shipped to us direct from the German manufacturers.

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MR. SHELTON ANSWERS THE AUDITORS' CHARGES

He Gives Full Details Of the
Cases Cited In Recent Re-
port To The Council

CAPABLE MUNICIPAL
OWNERSHIP PAYS

Business Methods Used By
Water Board—What They
Did During 1906

W. D. Sheldon, chairman of the Water Commissioners, was interviewed yesterday in reference to the charges made against the Water Board by the civic auditors, Wilson Taylor and W. T. Campbell. When Mr. Sheldon was approached first by the reporter, he said he had nothing to say. Upon being questioned further, he thought it might be advisable to make a short explanation, merely to set right, the gentlemen who are patrons of the Waterworks Department, and whose names had been connected with the criticism handed out by the auditors. "To anyone who understands what business methods have to be observed in the management of the Waterworks Department, no explanations are necessary, but there may be a few citizens who do not understand all the circumstances connected with the cases brought out by the auditors, and it is probably only fair that their right to know should be recognized. If the auditors had only stated all the facts in connection with the Department, there would be no call for this explanation. If they had stated, as they could have done, that when the city took charge of the waterworks plant there was \$2,000 of a deficit, and had then followed year by year the progress made by the Commissioners, and how they lifted this Department up to a high plane of efficiency, and had given the full results of their findings, their remarks would have been more fair to the Commissioners and to the patrons of the Water Department.

"Why did they pick out the three cases mentioned? There are dozens of cases they might have taken up, where grievances have been adjusted by the Water Board, and in every case, we think that favorable and satisfactory arrangements have been made.

"Take the case of Mr. Massey. He has had a contract for years, for a service for his pasture field, running an open account. The year mentioned was a wet season. The prices of cattle were low, and besides this, Indian Creek provided his cattle with all the water they wanted to drink. We didn't want to force money out of Mr. Massey, unjustly, and we made a settlement, giving rebate of \$40, and I think it was a fair one to all concerned.

"Then as to Dr. Bray's account. Dr. Bray was a Commissioner at the time and chairman of the Board. He lived in the terrace, and there were only two in his family. His plumbing was especially bad, and there was a very large leakage. The Board had been considering favorably a number of such cases, and was settling for amounts which they thought were reasonable and right. Dr. Bray expressed the delicacy he felt at bringing up his own case, but when it was explained fully, Mr. Cowan, who was the Mayor at the time, moved the motion that he be charged at the rate of \$6 a year, which is a good price for any service. He was paying in settlement more than a service for two people would cost with a meter. In all of these cases the Board made it plain that they would consider the first complaint but not the second, and as a result many differences were settled, where leaks were found in plumbing.

not running right. It was running far too fast, what we call running away. The metre was repaired, and Dr. Hall settled at a rate of \$6 a year. Since that time the metre has been working properly, and Dr. Hall's account has not been up to the \$6 a year he paid for the first four years. Now there are lots of other cases like this, and they are all open for honest investigation from every patron of the Waterworks.

"I think the auditors made a mistake in bringing this matter before the attention of the Council. What right has the Council to deal with it? The Water Board are not responsible to the Council, and as far as I can see, they had no right to even read the report at a Council meeting. If the auditors had done right, they would have called the matter to the attention of the Water Board, when we would have been quite willing to make all explanations about that, or any other thing connected with this department.

"Upon being questioned as to what was done by the Commissioners last year, Mr. Sheldon said: "If the Auditors had wanted to make a report on the work of the Water Commissioners, why did they not tell how during the year 1906 we gave the city \$5,370 for water for fire protection; that we added \$2,000.50 to our plant in the way of extension of mains; that at the end of the year we had \$820.34 more stock on hand than we had at the end of the year previous; that we added two new 100 H. P. boilers at a cost of \$2,430.98; that we had \$200 in outstanding accounts more than that the year before, and that on Dec. 31 we had a cash balance of \$2,997, making a total of \$13,751.91. They might also have told that besides all this we paid \$1,205.10 for coal more than the previous year, \$853.75 for maintenance, \$299.62 for scraping and painting the standpipe, \$115.44 in renovations to the dwelling at the station, \$140.38 for cleaning and renovation of our well, making a total of \$2,414.23. If they had told of all this, they might have given some idea of what we were doing during the past year."

When asked what he thought of municipal ownership, he continued: "We have heard a lot lately about municipal and private ownership. Under the regime of companies in the Water Works department, the people paid \$35 a year for their water for hydrant purposes, and 30 cents per thousand gallons for the rest of their water, with a special rate to customers who took it by the year. Under municipal ownership we have 187 hydrants at \$30 a year, which in itself is a saving of \$935 a year. Our water patrons use \$15,000 worth of water a year, and we are saving one-third of the cost, which is \$5,000 a year. This is a good record for municipal ownership in the Water Works department at least."

CHASED HIS WIFE.

Irate Husband Follows His Elop-
ing Spouse Across the Atlantic.

Halifax, April 12.—An eloping couple were captured on board the Allan liner Carthagenian, which arrived Wednesday afternoon from Liverpool. They are William H. Black, grocer, and Mrs. Frederick Anstey, who are now in the custody of the immigration authorities, and will be deported by the next steamer.

Frederick Anstey, the husband of the woman, was on the pier when the steamer tied up, waiting to confront her. He had come over on a faster steamer, the Virginian. She had her two little sons.

Expected to Reach Pole.
New York, April 12.—Walter Wellman bade his friends in America farewell yesterday morning when the steamer Touraine sailed, and said when he greets them again he hopes they will hail him as the discoverer of the North Pole.

He expects to leave for Tromsø, Norway, about June 1, and before the middle of the month to be at his winter quarters in Spitzbergen.

It will not be possible, however, to begin the trials of his airship before the second week in July and it is likely to be the last of July or early in August before a start can be made for the Pole.

He, who lives after Nature shall never be poor; after opinion shall never be rich.

"Wright" Went Wrong! Attempted Murder In Windsor

—Arthur Wright Arrested
Special to The Planet.

Windsor, April 12.—Arthur Wright, a young man 22 years of age, committed murderous assault upon George Pearce a well known jockey, this morning. Wright entered Pearce's room and fired a revolver at him while Pearce was in bed.

The would-be murderer then calmly walked out and carried two pails of water for a horse in the stable. He submitted to the arrest without any difficulty or resistance.

Pearce was removed to Hotel Dieu hospital where he now lies in a precarious condition.

No reason can be ascribed which would lead to the cause of the rash deed except the Wright has been giving signs lately of becoming demented. Wright's parents formerly resided in Chatham. For the past two seasons he has been a baseball player on local diamonds.

MUCH TALK; LITTLE DONE

City Council Is Swamped
With A Lot Of Perplexing
Figures

Gas Co. Will Provide Lights
at \$60 Each per Year—
Saving of \$2,000

A committee meeting of the whole City Council was called by Mayor Stone last evening for the purpose of discussing the proposal to abandon the present city-owned electric light plant, and enter into a contract with the Chatham Gas Company, to have the latter supply the city with street lighting. The meeting was a very long and cumbersome one, lasting from eight o'clock till within a few minutes of twelve, and could not be said to be very productive of results.

Those present at the meeting were Mayor Stone, Ald. Kerr, Westman, Potter, Benson, Bullis, Stevens and Meynell, and Messrs. Falls, Coate and E. B. Jones. Ald. Kerr, who introduced the subject, said that a municipal lighting plant must be sized up from two points of view—the standpoint of efficiency and economy. There was sufficient evidence during the past few nights when the citizens were forced to grope about on dark streets to prove that the city plant is not efficient, said Ald. Kerr, and there had been proofs of this kind in evidence all along. Dark streets were a frequent happening in Chatham. From the standpoint of economy, Ald. Kerr declared that this city was losing at least \$2,000 a year on its electric light plant, and during the next five years, this loss per annum would in all likelihood be greater still. These calculations had been made from statements supplied by Engineer Jones. These statements had been figured from the past five years' service. The older the plant got, the more costly it would be to maintain in, and while municipal ownership might be a high-sounding name from a sentimental standpoint, it apparently was nil from a standpoint of economy and efficiency.

Ald. Kerr's average showed that ten per cent. of the city lights had been out for the past five years. Mr. Jones had made no allowance for depreciation, as he claimed that the plant had been kept up and maintained during the past five years. Ald. Kerr held that Mr. Jones was wrong here and that there should be an allowance made for depreciation. According to the best authorities, an allowance of five per cent. should be made for depreciation outside of wear and tear to machinery. Ald. Kerr claimed that municipal ownership was pretty much a thing of the past in this country. Cities all over the States were abandoning it as a losing proposition. The reason for this was that the earning power of an electric light plant only extended over a few hours each day, while the charges cover the full 24 hours. In private plants the earning power lasts the full 24 hours.

Ald. Kerr said that he understood that the Chatham Gas Company would be willing to supply lights to the city at \$60 per lamp, while the

CONCERT WAS GREAT SUCCESS

Will J. White And Local
Talent Entertained Pack-
ed Audience

Ladies of April Club deserve
Credit For Providing
Such A Fine Treat

The concert given by the April Club of the Ladies' Assisting Society, in the Brisco Opera House last evening, was pronounced by the majority present as the best entertainment given in the Maple City this year. It was presented under the management of Mrs. Innes, the convenor of the April Club, and directed by Mrs. John Cooper, Chatham's talented vocalist and musical director.

The house was packed. Every available seat was taken, and the program was such that merited the spirited and enthusiastic applause which greeted each number. The special attraction of the evening was Will J. White, the Toronto comedian, impersonator and entertainer. Mr. White scored a distinct success. His different numbers were all given in excellent style, and each time he appeared he was literally forced to respond to encore after encore. Probably his best number was the last one he rendered as an encore, "A Broken Down Actor," composed by himself. Mr. White appears in costume, and goes through a series of lightning changes, which surprise the audience and which add greatly to the success of his performance. The numbers of his own composition were his best. He sings well and acts perfectly—in fact, he is an ideal entertainer, and the ladies who arranged for this excellent evening's amusement were indeed fortunate in securing his services. Should he return to Chatham he would be assured of a full house, even if he were the only performer on the program.

The ladies' quartette, composed of Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Bogart, Miss F. Schwemler and Miss F. McGeorge, were never heard to better advantage. This quartette has a reputation in the Maple City for sweet, harmonious and effective singing, and, if such a thing were possible, their reputation was enlarged last evening. They gave two numbers—"Because I Love You" and "Annie Laurie." Both were loudly encored.

Miss Jean McDonald, reader, appeared several times, but not often enough to satisfy the demands of her audience. Miss McDonald's equal as a reader has not been heard in Chatham for some time. She is well known here, and those who had heard her before expected something exceptionally good, and they were not disappointed.

Mr. Samuel I. Slade, Detroit's popular basso, sang a solo, to which he was compelled to add a hearty encore, and also sang the solo parts in the "Hunters' Chorus," from the opera "Robin Hood." This chorus was one of the favorite numbers of the evening. Those who took part in the chorus were Messrs. Dielman, Martin, Bogart, McAlpine, Laurie, Gunn, Coatsworth, Rutley, Head, Philp, Wilson and Angus.

Continued on Page Eight.

Continued on Page Four.

GOOD QUALITY

... and ...

LOW PRICES

Are the two distinguish-
ing features of our

Wall Paper

this Spring. When you combine these two desirable attributes to perfection in tone, style and color, you reach the climax in the decorative art and that is what our papers represent this Spring. Every country is here represented that makes good Paper—England, Germany, France and America.

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DRUGGISTS AND

OPTICIANS