

# THE CITIZENS' GAS COMPANY.

(Incorporated by Act of the Provincial Legislature.)

**CAPITAL - - - \$1,000,000.**

In Twenty Thousand Shares of Fifty Dollars each.

## PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS.

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The Citizens' Gas Company has been organized to supply the Corporation and citizens of Montreal with illuminating and heating gas at the lowest possible price consistent with a fair return on the investment.

The origin of the organization was based on the revelations made to the Light Committee by the representatives of the citizens on 12th December last, when it was proven that the citizens of Montreal had in the past been paying for their gas exorbitant prices, altogether beyond the requirements for a fair return on the capital invested to produce it. The statements made on that occasion have been fully confirmed by careful research, and the fact remains that instead of fair prices in return for street privileges, the inhabitants are treated without the consideration to which they are entitled in return for those privileges.

The charter for this Company was granted at the last session of the Provincial Legislature. The interval of time, since the granting of the charter, has been devoted to the securing of consumers as patrons of the new Company, as it was felt extremely desirable to put to a practical test the feeling of the public towards the new enterprise before taking further action. The result of the canvass has been altogether beyond anticipation. Eighty-five to ninety per cent. of the consumers have been secured in the districts covered, and these include all the Hotels, Factories, Wholesale Warehouses, Retail stores and the cream of consumers in private residences.

Ample opportunity having been given to the old Company to reduce their price to a reasonable figure, the organization of the Citizens' Gas Company has now been resolved upon, with a determination to carry it to a successful issue. The new enterprise is practically a MUTUAL COMPANY, provision having been made to return to the pockets of the consumers all profits in excess of a ten per cent. dividend on the ACTUAL CASH CAPITAL, and the charter of the new Company gives the City Council the right to be represented at all meetings to see that the provisions of the charter are honestly carried out.

In many towns of Great Britain where the Gas Companies have been subjected to Municipal control, the price charged for gas, even in places much less populous than Montreal, is, and has been less than one-half the price charged here, and this is true of towns where the cost of coal is greater than in Montreal by virtue of long transportation by rail.

The promoters of this Company feel that the cheaper the necessities of life can be supplied to the people the more desirable will Montreal be considered as a city in which to live, and it has been the general endorsement of this view that has secured for the Citizens' Gas Company the almost unanimous support of the citizens, and placed it in a position where its success is assured beyond peradventure.

With improved methods of pipe-laying to be adopted by the new Company, it is expected that a great diminution in the annoyance which has been incident to street opening in the past will be effected, much to the convenience of the citizens. In crowded thoroughfares the work will be performed at night, and in other sections it will be done expeditiously and carefully, with little or no obstruction or discomfort to the people.

It is confidently believed, after careful enquiry, that the new Company entering the field unfettered by watered stock, can produce and supply with a good profit, a superior illuminating gas at a price that will save for the people a sum ranging from FIFTY to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER ANNUM. This calculation is based upon the amount of consumption actually secured to the Company already, with indications that sufficient additional consumers will be guaranteed, to place the SAVING BEYOND THE HIGHER FIGURE, and these views are sustained by conservative gas engineers of high repute.

It is the intention to give Stockholders in the Company a special discount off their gas bills.

Investors in this Company will have TWO SOURCES OF GAIN, one in reduced gas bills and the other in direct profits from the business.

In the meantime, NOT MORE THAN TWENTY SHARES will be allotted to any individual, the object being to distribute the Stock so as to give every citizen an opportunity to participate in the benefits of the special discount.

A number of capitalists have signed an agreement to take a large portion of the whole Stock, if any remains unsubscribed at the closing of the books.

The Citizens' Gas Company has received the unanimous approval of the City Council, and has in its possession a guarantee that it will receive every consideration at the hands of that body.

The Citizens' Gas Company, organized on a business basis, has extraordinary claims upon the people whom it is intended to benefit. All who have not already been waited upon and who feel disposed to take their gas from the new Company, are requested to call at the Office, where consumers' books are kept for signature.

The Stock books are now open for a limited period at the Office of the Company, MOLSONS BANK CHAMBERS, 198 ST. JAMES STREET.

Communications may be addressed to the Office, or Post Office Box 277.

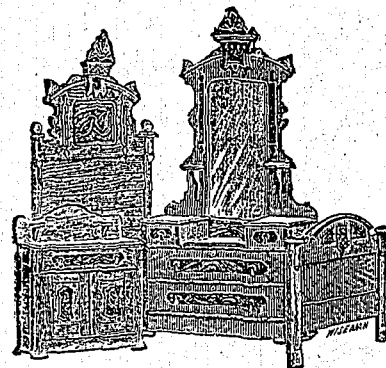
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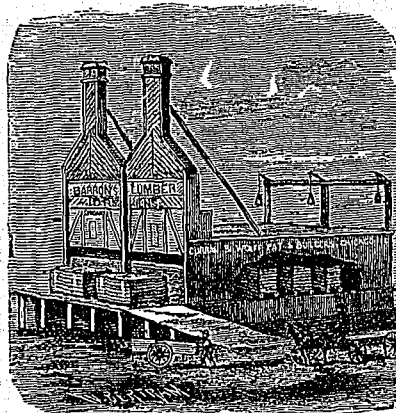
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