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LONDON, THURSDAY, DEC. 29.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC LIGHTING RATES.

The Stratford Herald discusses the difference between the London and Stratford rates for hydro-electric lighting.

There are two prices in Stratford for domestic lighting, and customers are offered a choice. One rate is 9 cents per 1,000 watts, with 10 per cent. discount, compared with London's rate of 4½ cents net. The other Stratford rate is 6 cents per 1,000 watts, and 3 cents per 100 square feet, with 10 per cent. discount. The Herald says the latter rate is the better one, and with free carbon lamp renewals is equivalent to 7 cents, net. No doubt it would be better for some customers, but not all. The floor space arrangement works out unevenly, and is too complicated to be satisfactory. At least this has been London's experience. Our contemporary, we think, is mistaken in thinking that Stratford's rate in practice will be little dearer than London's. The Herald seems to contradict its own assertion when it says:

"Besides, the London rate is a commercial war rate, framed to crush the local company. In Stratford we have managed it better. Here we arrange a substantial reduction, but aim still to maintain a revenue sufficient to prevent the enterprise becoming a charge upon general ratepayers. We question if London can manage to avoid drawing upon the general purse."

Londoners themselves are asking the same question. Is the present rate purely a war rate, and will it be necessary to draw upon the general purse to make up the amount which must be paid the hydro-electric commission? The city had to meet the cut in the London Electric rates. It appears now to be a test of endurance between the company and the municipal taxpayers.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE RATEPAYERS.

Apart from the elections to the several civic boards, there are some questions before the ratepayers upon which a public journal ought to express an opinion.

1. The fixed assessments. No proposal to exempt anybody from taxation excites riotous enthusiasm, but in this case ratepayers should look the facts squarely in the face. Against the proposal it is contended that manufacturers should pay their taxes as other property-holders do, and that there should be no discrimination between rich and poor. However, it is a condition that confronts the city, not a theory. Other municipalities are bidding high for industries. Any one of the eight local concerns asking for fixed assessments could get better terms in a score of cities or towns in Western Ontario. One of the firms was burned out recently and was deluged with offers to go elsewhere. This would be the experience of the others in the same circumstances. It should be remembered, too, that capital tied up in a factory building is not a very liquid asset. If a manufacturer fails, or wishes to move his plant, it is only by a stroke of fortune that he can sell his building without loss if it is adapted only to factory purposes. This is one claim he has to a special rate of taxation. The fixed assessment is not a new thing in London. Some of the firms are merely asking for the renewal of privileges they were granted years ago.

Ratepayers should ask themselves whether it is good business to risk losing any of the factories we have, or to advertise that London will do nothing to attract new industries. Some of the manufacturers asking for fixed assessments contemplate large additions and extensions. If they knew they would be assessed to the hilt on their additional plant, they might prefer to build elsewhere. It is time the city adopted a settled industrial policy which would put London on an equal footing with competing municipalities, and which would treat all local industries alike.

2. The advisability of guaranteeing the bonds of the Midland Electric Railway to the extent of \$200,000. This question is not submitted in the form of a money bill, as many may have supposed. It is merely a plebiscite of the ratepayers. They are asked to say whether they favor the proposal. An affirmative vote will authorize the council, at its own discretion, to ask for special legislation to make the guarantee effective.

Surveys have been made of the route northward from London through Middlesex, and Blanshard and Downey Townships in Perth, touching Lucan, Granton, St. Marys, Stratford,

and other intermediate points. The promoters will ask these municipalities for bond guarantees if London gives them a start. In the event of the ratepayers of London endorsing the proposal, the city council should take no steps until it is seen what the other municipalities will do, and until there is sufficient money in sight to build the road, or a substantial portion of it. If the promoters could get sufficient bond guarantees for this purpose the municipalities would, of course, lay down conditions which would insure that the money raised by the sale of the bonds would be put into construction and that the indebtedness per mile would be reasonable. They should have the right to representation on the directorate and they should appoint an engineer to see that the road was built economically and according to specifications. For these reasons the council took the proper course in submitting the proposal as a plebiscite. The vote commits the city to nothing, and the council ought to do nothing until it is perfectly satisfied as to the financial soundness of the scheme.

Once the road is built, the municipalities which would have a first mortgage upon it need not worry about their security. As to the value of a radial railway entering the city from the north there can be only one opinion. There is a great development in electric traction north of London, in which the C. P. R. is interested, but unfortunately the projected lines run east and west, not north and south. They are feeders for Toronto, not London. There will be no risk in at least giving the promoters of the Midland a chance to see whether they can secure the co-operation of other municipalities. The project will evidently fall through if London is opposed to it.

3. A new City Hall. It is proposed to sell the present city hall and the police station for \$119,000, and the ratepayers are asked to vote \$75,000 additional, making \$194,000 available for a new municipal building. The cost of a central site would leave less than \$150,000 for the building alone, a sum which would not provide an edifice in keeping with the city's dignity and importance. By abolishing the auditorium and utilizing the space for offices, the present city hall can be made to meet all requirements for years to come. Either that, or sufficient money should be raised for a building that would be a creditable one to London. In the midst of the Niagara power experiment and with the tax rate at the maximum, it is present is not a time for unnecessary expenditures.

DR. COOK'S "CONFESSION."

In an American magazine for January appears the "Confession" of Dr. Cook. It seems to be considered the main article of the issue, to judge from the flaring of it across the front page. This is a good way to begin a new year! A convicted impostor who has already obtained, it is said, considerable money for his false pretences, is now engaged to come forward and megaphone to the people of the United States and any others who care to read, an account true or untrue of his own shame!

It is a pity that a periodical that has been ably conducted and has done much useful work in the exposure of genuine abuses, should thus cater to the quest of cheap novelty by meeting Cook as he crawls out of hiding, opening its arms to him and giving him forward into the limelight again. Dr. Cook is a clever but notoriety-crazed faker, who understands and profits by the weaknesses of his countrymen. If he should follow up his magazine effort by vaudeville lectures, he will be like the negro who presents his head through the screen as a target for baseballs, drawing audiences who will pay him well for the privilege of jeering him. Pelted at one place he will be only the more interesting "attraction" at his next stand. Let him be careful, however, of venturing south, as a lynching bee and final souvenir-snatching may crown but end his career, giving him a glory transcendent but posthumous.

Dr. Cook may have been crazy, as he has suggested. He is crazy normally. At the Thaw trial something was said of dementia Americana. This in the form of a craze for notoriety and money is Dr. Cook's complaint. Here is the half-serious editorial comment of another American magazine on Cook's confession, as heralded before published:

"And take the case of Cook. Through all that controversy, deep down in your mind weren't you sure all the time that the man was a fake? But what a fake! How long would he keep it going, and how would he act when caught with the goods? I myself had hoped the man would laugh, laugh long and loud, in one final story entitled 'The Joke I Played on the World.' Because you would have liked that; you would have admired his impudence. But Cook broke down like a baby and cried, and you dropped the story in utter disgust." But did they drop it?

It is time to begin framing your New Year resolutions.

Victory for the suffragettes is now assured. The cause claims a martyr.

Two more ocean monsters will be placed on the Canadian Atlantic route. The development of the passenger steamship service between Canada and Great Britain has been a marvellous feature of a marvellous decade.

The London Economist says that in the first nine months of this year the money publicly raised from British investors reached the enormous sum of \$1,055,000,000. The accumulated wealth

of Great Britain is only less remarkable than the mass of misery which exists beside it.

The output of the Scotch distilleries fell two million gallons last year. The new taxes have caused a great decrease in the consumption of whiskey, but this will be hailed by one party as proof of the ruinous nature of the budget.

TEXAN TURKEYS OF THE EGGS.
(Cuero (Texas) Star.)
Rudolph and Edwin Egg, of Meyersville, assisted by five hands, drove 968 fat turkeys into town about noon today. The distance of thirteen miles between the starting point and destination was covered in a day and a half, keeping the caravan out only one night.

THE ONLY PRACTICAL POLICY.
(Hamilton Herald (Ind.))
As matters stand now, the naval policy of the Laurier Government is the only practical policy open. It may not make such provision for efficient aid to the Empire as many Canadians would like to see; but at least it means something definite. It is a policy that Canadian "autonomists" cannot support, because it puts the local navy under the control of Parliament; and imperialists can support it also, in the hope that, later on, the wisdom of complete co-operation with the naval forces of the Empire will be generally recognized.

AN ICELAND FARMHOUSE.

(Springfield Republican.)
The guest room contained a narrow bed, a big round table and an organ made in Brattleboro, Vt. Our host provided the usual box of snuff, and with it a box of cigars.
The host and hostess then showed us all over the house. It is a turf structure and is typical of the older farmhouses, with narrow, dark, windowless corridors, winding in labyrinthine mazes from room to room. One passage leads to a large open mound where a fire is made to smoke meat and fish, and incidentally the whole house and everything in it. Another passage leads to another kitchen with a modern stove. The walls are all of turf, as is the roof, with just enough driftwood in the rafters to make a framework to hold it in place. Very steep stairs lead up to the badstofa, or sleeping apartment. The badstofa frequently forms the sitting and common workroom of the family, especially in winter, as well as the sleeping room of the entire household.
Bunks built into the wall extend around the room, and are often filled with seaweed or feathers, or with a thick covering of eiderdown. The floors are sometimes covered with boards, but more often consist of damp earth. From the ceiling are suspended numerous articles of domestic economy, while large chests containing clothing and valuables are scattered throughout the house.

CHILDREN'S MANNERS.

Brantford Expositor.
Earl Grey says that the children in some parts of Ontario are without manners, and that irreverence is mistaken for smartness. The worst of it is that most residents of this province will be disposed to concede that the charge is only too well founded. If you have any children, you will observe the manner in which the children address their parents, and the school teachers. If they ever had a bump of reverence it was soon worn off.

GOOD MANNERS.

Toronto News.
The French-Canadians are the only Canadians who in the mass compare in politeness with the people of Great Britain and other European nations, and to argue otherwise is to reveal one's provincialism and ignorance of the facts.

THOUSANDS OF METEORITES FALL EVERY HOUR.

(Strand Magazine.)
Meteors, or shooting stars, as they are more generally called, have from the beginning of things been bombarding the world at a rate estimated by the highest authority at many thousands an hour, of which, however, an average of only five or six are visible to the naked eye during the same period of time. Fortunately, owing to our protecting envelope of air, very few of these missiles reach us. In size, meteors vary from a few pounds to many pounds in weight, and it is only very occasionally that one is of sufficient dimensions to survive the passage of 80 to 100 miles through an atmosphere increasing in density as the earth is approached. The domestic meteor is immediately reduced to an incandescent vapor, which is the luminous train so frequently seen in the heavens on a clear night. The vapor rapidly cools, and condenses in form of these minute particles, which assume the spherical form as does dust during its fall from the top of the tower.

PRACTICAL BENEVOLENCE.

(Washington Star.)
"De mos' practical man I know," said Uncle Eben, "is de one dat wished a poor family 'Merry Christmas' an' den made his own wish come true by sendin' 'round a basketful 'um de market'."

WHY?

(Detroit Journal.)
Now Mrs. Nat Goodwin No. 4 asks for a legal separation. Why do American women marry Nat Goodwin?

INVENTION OF THE SALAD.

(Hampton's Magazine.)
Delicate cookery has long been known to flourish best in those lands where roast beef is hard to get. It was starvation that invented the salad, for example. Somebody had to eat grass or go hungry, so he put vinegar and oil, pepper and salt on it, and lo! it made dry bread seem like a dinner. I do not doubt that we shall bless the meat trust for a varied dietery we get through with it or it with us, which ever way the thing comes out.

FAME.

London Daily News.
An amusing story was told last night by Lord Alverstone, the lord chief justice, at the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, Clerkenwell.
The other day, he said, he distributed prizes at an institution, and it was related to him that the name of the pupils met a man whom he knew in a tram-car, or somewhere of the kind. The man asked the boy if he knew who was going to give away the prizes. The boy said he did not, and asked who it was, and the man replied: "Why, the man who hung Crippen."

EVEN.

(Washington Star.)
"Has your husband an even temper?" "Disagreeing even," replied Mrs. Flynn. "He's always out of temper. I wish he'd vary it."

U. S. WILL CREATE TARIFF COMMISSION

New Bill Will Be Put Through Early in March, It Is Expected.

DRAFT IN NOW READY

New Body Will Have Five Members, and Has Power To Meet Anywhere—Plan To Check Aggregate Expenditures.

[Associated Press.]
Washington, Dec. 28.—Impetus to the movement for a tariff commission was given today by conferences at the White House and at the capital, the return of Representative Longworth, of Ohio, to Washington, with a full draft of a bill creating a commission and announcement of Chairman Payne, of the house committee on ways and means, that he expected such legislation before March 4.

Following a discussion with the President over various features of the legislative programme for this session, Mr. Payne, who is Republican floor leader of the House, announced that he was quite sure a bill for a permanent tariff commission, acceptable to both Congress and the President, would be put through the Senate and House before this session ends, when Democratic control of the House begins.

Payne Consults Emery.

Later, at Mr. Payne's instance, he had a conference in the ways and means committee-room with Chairman Emery, of the Senate Finance Committee. Mr. Emery's idea being that the nature of the work and the character of the men the commission would make it impossible to operate advantageously if positions and salaries of the commissioners were fixed by Congress. He suggested that industrial experts might have to be engaged for varying terms at various compensations. Mr. Payne believes there should be a legislative check to the aggregate expenditures, but is said to agree as to the necessity of freedom of action for the commission as to individual items.

Terms of Longworth Bill.

Embodiment features of the tariff commission bills of Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, and LaFollette, of Wisconsin, introduced at the last session of Congress, and of Representative Goode, of Iowa, and Lenroot, of Wisconsin, at this session, following conference with a number of representatives before the holiday recess, Mr. Longworth, who is a member of the ways and means committee, has drawn a bill which he expects to introduce next week.

It creates a commission of five members, salaried at \$7,500 each, not more than three of the same political party, with offices in Washington, but empowered to meet anywhere. It is given wide powers of collection and collation of facts, without authority to make recommendations, and instead of making fixed reports it can only report on special subjects. It is given wide powers of collection and collation of facts, without authority to make recommendations, and instead of making fixed reports it can only report on special subjects.

May Get Corporation Data.

The commission is authorized to require confidential data from corporations as to any certain subject, but must never disclose the source of such data and must especially safeguard such data from competitive interests.
An important provision of the Longworth bill is a section defining its scope of investigation. It authorizes the commission to investigate the cost of production of manufactured goods, the condition of the domestic and foreign markets affecting the American products, including detailed information of the cost and of every part of the manufacturing process, and the effect of other facts which, in the commission's judgment, will be helpful to Congress in providing equitable rates of duty on any article, and in aiding the President and other officials in administering the customs laws.

Maximum-Minimum Clause Kept.

One section re-enacts the maximum and minimum clause of the Aldrich-Payne tariff law under the Longworth bill the five commissioners are to be appointed by the President at first for two, three, four, five and six years respectively, but those terms adjust themselves to regular six-year terms for all.
The ways and means committee will take up the commission question soon after Congress reconvenes. Some of its members think the commission idea, holding that it puts into being another body with high salaries and big general expense accounts on work of a minor nature, and that the department of commerce and labor, other regular department and that all that is necessary is to appropriate to continue the existence of the present board through the Taft administration.

PLAN BIG TUNNEL

Grand Trunk Scheme in Montreal Meets With Much Opposition.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Montreal, Dec. 28.—An application was made to the board of control today by the Montreal Central Terminal company for leave to construct under its charter a great central railway terminal here.
The scheme involves a tunnel under the St. Lawrence River, which would be used by the New York Central lines and the Detroit and Hudson, it is said. From the north and the west the terminal would be used by the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk systems. The Canadian Pacific Railway is not interested in the project. The company is capitalized at \$30,000,000. The application was presented by C. L. Armstrong and J. M. Shanley, and it is said it will be vigorously opposed.

The idea of tunnelling under the St. Lawrence has been broached before. It has always been opposed on the same grounds that the project for a tunnel from Calais to Dover has

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In this clearance of Ladies' Winter Coats we are offering \$17.50, \$18.50 and \$20.00 values at the remarkable price of \$8.50. The choice is limited to certain lines that have sold down to the last two or three of a kind. Every coat is strictly up to date, perfectly tailored and desirable from every point of view. Long, semi-fitting styles, made of fine quality beaver and broadcloth, in navy and brown shades, also a few gray diagonals with military collars. All these coats are 50 and 52 inches long; sizes 36 and 38 only. Regular selling prices are \$17.50, \$18.50 and \$20.00. In reading this advertisement remember these are regular lines of handsome winter coats. Selling Friday and Saturday at \$8.50.

Down Crib Comforters

Beautiful Comforters for children's cribs. Made of sateen with satin borders, in rich colors, filled with pure down fillings. Were \$2.00 and \$2.50 each. Choice \$1.00.

Buy Furs at Lowest Prices

Four only Alaska Sable Muffs, large pillow shape, satin lined. Regular price \$20.00. Reduced price \$14.50.

Five only American Sable Muffs, pillow shape, satin lined. Regular price \$10.50. Sale price \$6.85.

Six only American Sable Ruffs, trimmed with heads and tails. Regular \$10.50. Sale price \$7.35.

Four only Ladies' Mink Marmot Fur Stoles, trimmed with heads and tails, satin lined. Regular \$15.00. Sale price \$10.50.

Children's Bearcloth Coats

Slightly mussed White Bearcloth Coats, lined with flannelette, sizes to fit children 4, 6 and 8 years. Were \$3.00 and \$3.50. To clear at \$1.85.

Children's Tweed Coats

Table of Girls' Fancy Tweed Coats for winter wear, neatly and stylishly trimmed. Sizes to fit girls 6 to 10 years. Regular price \$4.50 to \$6.00. Clearance price \$2.85.

Linens for New Year's Gifts

Hand-Made Cluny Lace Centrepieces, size 20x20. Worth \$1.25 to \$1.50. Sale price 98c.

Damask Linen Sideboard Drapes, size 18x54. Sale price 59c.

Irish Linen Tablecloths, size 2x2½ yards. Special value at \$2.50.

CHAPMAN'S 126, 128, 128½ Dundas Street

MURDERED MAN WAS LUMBER CONTRACTOR

Body Found in Detroit Park Was Identified By Nurse.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Detroit, Dec. 29.—The body of the man found mutilated in the woods at Highland Park, was identified last night by Mrs. Cora Westgate, as Obed Westgate, of Grand Prairie, Mich. Although the names are the same, she says she is not related to the dead man. Although the features were badly puffed and distorted, Mrs. Westgate claimed to recognize the face when she first looked at it and later, when she saw it there before she examined the corpse.

Mrs. Westgate became interested in the case through reading the newspapers and last night went to the morgue to attempt to identify the body. According to her, Westgate was a small timber contractor and took jobs of getting out ties, fence posts and other timber. She first knew him in Houghton, Mich., when she was a nurse in a hospital there. She nursed him through an attack of illness and was familiar with scars on his body. She found one on the left foot and another on the right hip.
Westgate was known as "Bill" Westgate, and was well known about the lumber camps in northwestern Michigan. He is in Traverse City for a time, and Mrs. Westgate says that she took care of him while he was in a hospital there. She says he told her the scar on the hip was caused when he fell on a sickle when a boy. Mrs. Westgate's daughter looked at the body last night, but because of the distorted features was unable to identify the body.

ANOTHER REBELLION

Fighting Is Going On Around Border of Honduras.

[Associated Press.]
New Orleans, Dec. 29.—Advices received here last night say that a revolution has broken out in Honduras, and fighting is going on along the Honduras-Nicaragua border, twenty miles below Cape Gracias, Nicaragua. The forces are being led, according to wireless reports by General Las Casas, who was to have met 1,600 men on the Nicaraguan border, with forty days' provisions. It is known that the Davila Government moved \$55,000 in silver from Puerto Cortes to Ceiba, and the latter city is believed to be the objective point of the advancing revolutionists.

CONTROL NEW COMPANY

Mackenzie & Mann Said To Have Acquired Interest in International Railway.

Niagara Falls, Dec. 28.—For some time past it has been known that some form of reorganization of the International Railway Company has been under way, and now there are persistent rumors which will not down, to the effect that D. D. Mann, of Mackenzie & Mann, of Toronto, has been or will shortly be made vice-president of the company, and that the Mackenzie & Mann interests will control the company, which will be re-organized. Like many other trolley and traction companies, the International is carrying a heavy bonded debt and it takes the greater part of its earnings to meet the interest on the outstanding bonds, leaving little or nothing for repairs and new equipment and other running expenses.
Should the rumors materialize the interests now controlling the Toronto, and the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Toronto lines, will have an outlet into the United States, and the second trolley bridge across the Niagara at this city will be unnecessary.

Wanted

We want several young men and young women to prepare for important positions with good salaries. WE HAVE PLACED MORE THAN FORTY in good paying positions during the last three months. Calls came from as far west as Brandon, Man., and Albion, Mich. The demand is increasing, and our Courses in Pitman's Shorthand, Touch Typewriting, Bookkeeping and all allied subjects will fit you for some of these good situations, but don't delay. Winter term begins Jan. 2. Write, phone or call for full particulars.

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