

NATURAL GAS COMPANIES ARE NOW TRYING TO MERGE HAVE 80,000,000 FEET TO SELL

Representative Was in the City on Wednesday and Had an Interview With His Worship Mayor Stevely—The Scheme Outlined—City Gas Company Still Appears To Be in the Way of the Promoters.

A monster merger of gas companies seeking a franchise in London is in the process of formation and if the deal goes through, as it is expected it will, a supply of 80,000,000 feet of natural gas will be ready for piping to this city.

Negotiations between the owners of the Leamington field, the Romney field, and the Volcanic gas Company, are now in progress, and it will probably be consummated within a short time.

It will be remembered that these three companies applied for a franchise to distribute gas in this city last year.

But no really definite proposition was received by the council from any one of them, owing to the fact that each asked a little longer time to prospect for more wells, as they did not feel like coming to the city with the limited amount of gas then held.

THE MERGER.

The idea of a merger of the companies was considered some time ago, and the representatives got together. The scheme was favorable received, it is stated, by all of them, and the details of the amalgamation are now being worked out.

The combined companies have at the present time 80,000,000 feet of gas ready for the market, sufficient to supply London and many other cities. Mr. G. L. McKay, of Leamington, was in the city yesterday. He came for the purpose of interviewing Mr. J. C. Duffield, manager of the City Gas Company, as to terms of distribution.

But Mr. Duffield is at the present time out of the city, and could not be seen.

MAYOR WAS INTERVIEWED.

Mr. McKay had an interview with Mayor Stevely, and explained that the companies intended to combine and market their product in the city of London. He asked if it would be possible to obtain a franchise in case suitable terms could not be arranged with the City Gas Company.

"I saw Mr. McKay yesterday afternoon," said Mayor Stevely. "He explained to me the merger, and said that it would no doubt be worked out in a short time. He pointed out that not one of the companies had enough gas to warrant them piping it 80 miles to London."

80,000,000 FEET OF GAS.

"If the merger is consummated, there will be a total of 80,000,000 feet of gas, quite sufficient, I should say, to last London for some time."

"Mr. McKay wanted to know whether the city could get a franchise, provided suitable terms could not be made with the City Gas Company to distribute. I told him that no doubt the council would consider such a proposition. Natural gas would be a good thing for this city."

STILL ANOTHER COMPANY.

There is still another company asking for a franchise. A London company is interested in the Port Dover field. They have a number of wells on their property, and are certain that they have enough gas to supply the city of London.

However, they claim that it is not necessary to come to London to find a market, as they have applications for other municipalities for practically all the gas they can supply.

SUSPENDED SENTENCE FOR ELLIOTT KIMBALL

High Character and Big Petition in His Favor Saves Him From Prison Term.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Chatham, May 6.—Elliott J. Kimball, found guilty of the manslaughter of W. J. Healey, formerly of London, on July 28 last, was released on suspended sentence this morning, after Justice Teetzel had declared he was satisfied of the high character of the ex-police chief. His conviction, the judge declared, would be a warning to all constables to be careful with firearms. No officer had a right to shoot at a fleeing man, and, in any case, only in self-defence. A large delegation was present in Kimball's favor.

SITUATION IS NOW VERY COMPLICATED

Generally Thought That the Charges of Perjury Against Londoners Will Be Dropped.

It is generally thought that the charges of perjury laid against Tom Lewis and John O'Meara arising out of the London election conspiracy will be dropped.

When the charges were made against them they were allowed out on bail, to be returned when the other cases were disposed of.

Several legal gentlemen stated this morning that in the light of the decision of the court of appeal yesterday it was a question whether the crown could proceed against them.

If action were taken it was their opinion that a lengthy legal battle would ensue, similar to the other, and the results would be the same.

Neither one of them have received any instructions as to the disposition of their cases.

It is no idea what will be done in these cases," said Mr. J. C. Duffield, K. C., who was associated in the prosecution. "I have received no instructions whatever, and cannot say what will be the outcome."

GRAVESTONES FOR BASES.

Port Hope, May 6.—At a meeting of the high school board last night Trustees Clark called attention to the condition of the deserted Methodist Cemetery, adjoining the school grounds. As the deeds and papers have been lost for years, the place has fallen into bad condition. The boys on Saturday's play ball on the high school grounds," said Mr. Clark, "and last week I saw a number of lads busy at a game using the headstones from the graves as bases. One stone with the name of a reverend doctor of divinity on it was the home plate. It's a shame." No action was taken, as several attempts to settle the question of the costs of repairs have been made.

SNOWBALLS IN MAY

An unusual case for the month of May was heard in court this morning, when Ralph McCully, of this city, was found guilty of throwing snowballs and was fined \$1.

"I don't think I ever had anyone up on a charge of that kind in May in all my experience," said Magistrate Love.

A man charged a week ago with insanity, was dismissed this morning, as he has recovered somewhat.

LONDON ELECTRIC GETTING SORE OVER THE CITY'S LIGHTING BILL

It Is Said a Writ May Be Issued If Company's Account for \$9,000 Is Not Paid Forthwith—Company Has Not Received a Cent for Street Lighting Since November Last.

There is the possibility that a writ may be served on the city in case the bill of the London Electric for something over \$9,000 is not paid within a reasonable time.

The city has not paid the company a cent for street lighting since the expiration of the contract in November last.

Since that time negotiations have been going on between the city and the company for a contract to run five years, with a three months' notice of cancellation. The proposed agreement drawn up by the city solicitor was not agreeable to the London Electric, and they refused to sign it unless amended to suit them.

Mr. Meredith advised the council not to pay any money until the contract was signed.

Charging Interest.

So no money was paid the company. They have charged 6 per cent on the bill, and the city must pay \$121 in interest.

Now a contract cannot be signed for five years. One year is the limit, and the company must sign for one year or not at all.

Mr. Meredith was asked by the council on Monday night if an agreement could not be arrived at by which the money might be paid over to the company without prejudice.

Company Must Sign.

The city solicitor has not given his opinion officially, but it was learned that he favors paying the money provided the company sign the contract prepared by him for one year.

As they refused to sign it before, it is quite likely they will refuse to sign it now.

In the meantime the London Electric are not feeling any too well disposed to the city on account of the bill, and it was stated to The Advertiser today that it would serve the city right if they served a writ on them for the full amount.

May Be Trouble.

He would not state that such would be done, but he intimated that such a thing might happen.

If the city decides not to purchase the plant, and the company refuses to sign a lighting contract for one year, there will be trouble.

OUTSIDE PLACES WILL COMPETE

Erection of Hospitals Will Likely Mean a Reduction in Victoria Hospital Revenue.

PATIENTS LIKE LONDON

Come From as Far as St. Catharines—Petrolia and Ingersoll Building Hospitals.

The fact that before the summer is over, London will have three competitors at nearby outside points for hospital patients, is one that according to several physicians spoken to by The Advertiser, means considerable diminution in the revenue the city has been receiving from out-of-town patients at Victoria Hospital.

The first rival of the London institution will be Petrolia, where a hospital is being built on a site owned by the city. On the death of Mrs. J. L. Englehart, which occurred a short time ago, she left her magnificent residence and an estate of some forty acres to the town, on condition that they maintain it as a hospital.

These they have agreed to do, and it is expected that the necessary alterations will be completed shortly and the new hospital opened.

Ingersoll also. Ingersoll will also have a new hospital before long and this week a deputation from St. Catharines visited Victoria Hospital and were shown through the building. One of the members of the deputation stated that St. Catharines is about to build a large general hospital and will probably model it on lines almost exactly similar to Victoria, only smaller.

When these hospitals are completed the city will certainly lose a large revenue every year, and one which has been one of the best sources of income of Victoria Hospital, as there has been but little difference in collecting the money from outside patients. On the other hand, several thousand dollars has had to be written off local accounts as non-collectable.

Come From All Over. "Does the city get many patients as far away as St. Catharines? The Advertiser asked one physician.

"Yes, they come from all down through the county," was the reply. "Many go to Toronto and Hamilton. But I should say London gets more than her share of that trade. This has been the case of late, of course, but will not be so great as that occasioned by hospitals starting in Petrolia and Ingersoll. Of course, London will still get her share from those places, but they will be cases that are of a special nature. The large majority of the cases, however, will go to the hospitals in their own districts as long as they get good treatment, which there is no doubt they will."

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—COOLER.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, May 6—A. m.

Winds increasing to strong breezes and moderate gales, and shifting to westerly; mostly fair, but showers and thunderstorms this evening and tonight; turning cooler on Friday.

TEMPERATURES.

Today. Yesterday.

Stations. 8 a.m. Low. High.

London. 44. 40. 58.

Victoria. 44. 40. 58.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44. 40. 58.

St. John. 44. 40. 58.

Ottawa. 46. 42. 58.

Montreal. 44. 40. 58.

Quebec. 44. 40. 58.

Father Point. 46. 42. 58.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Yamoucheville. 38. 34. 44.

Edmonton. 38. 34. 44.

Calgary. 24. 22. 32.

Winnipeg. 36. 34. 44.

Port Arthur. 38. 34. 44.

Perry Sound. 44