

LONDON ELECTRIC CO. OFFER TO SELL OUT OR ARBITRATE

If City and Company Cannot Agree Let Three Men Say What Plant Is Worth.

MAYOR CALLS A COUNCIL MEETING

Proposition Will Be Laid Before That Body at Once—Mr. Hunt's Letter in Full.

The city council will meet tonight in special session at 7:30 o'clock, to consider a communication from Mr. Chas. B. Hunt, manager of the London Electric plant, in which he offers to sell out the London Electric plant on a reasonable basis, or will agree to arbitrate for its sale.

The letter was received by Mayor Beattie last night, and was made public today.

The offer is practically the same as outlined in The Advertiser some days ago, when Mr. Hunt then expressed a willingness to dispose of the plant, if terms can be agreed upon.

It was stated some time ago that the company were willing to sell out on a scrap iron basis, but there is no suggestion of that in the communication. Mr. Hunt expressly stated to The Advertiser that such a proposition was not reasonable.

Special Meeting Called.

When his worship received the letter he got in touch with some of the aldermen and decided that it would be in the best interests of the city to call the council together at once.

"It is an important matter," said his worship. "For that reason I have called the council together for this evening, and some action will be taken on the matter at this time."

The proposition came somewhat unexpectedly to the council.

Several of the aldermen were spoken to today but none would venture an opinion on the question until they had further considered it.

Need for Action.

That there is need for immediate action along some definite line has become apparent of late. The city's distribution line is held up by the company, and matters have now reached a climax.

It is generally admitted that the city is in the right as regards the poles, but it will keep the city back a great deal, especially on street lighting, if the company does not get its poles out of the way very soon.

It will also hold the city back if legal proceedings have to be undertaken.

A Former Price.

This is the first offer made by the company since terms were discussed over a year ago. At that time the London Electric valued their plant at \$400,000. The committee in charge of negotiations recommended that an offer be made the company, but the council refused to open negotiations, and since that time nothing has been done to bring the parties together.

In any event the people will have to vote on this question. If a price is agreed upon it will have to be submitted to the people in January next.

When questioned, Mayor Beattie would not discuss the offer today. "I have nothing to say on the matter," he stated. "It is for the council to say what they will do. The people will have to vote on it, if the council decide to purchase the plant. The council's action will not be final in the matter in any event."

What Will Council Do?

There is an impression abroad that the council will not consider the proposal, but will file it. It is alleged in some quarters that the time to discuss this question has long since passed, and it remains only for the city to go ahead with their own plan now, and furnish the people with light and power at the earliest possible moment.

Chairman Pocock, of the water commissioners, refused also to discuss the question.

The Company's Offer.

"To His Worship Mayor Beattie and Members of the City Council:—

Gentlemen,—Having received information from Toronto that Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, has expressed an opinion that it would be wise, from all points of view, that the city and the electric light company should endeavor earnestly to come to some agreement which would remove the possibility of extended litigation, and dispose of all difficulties, both present and prospective,

"I am authorized by the directors of this company to inform you that they are prepared to meet and discuss with you a proposition for the sale and transfer of the company's privileges, rights, franchise, business and plant of every kind, including steam plant at powerhouse, all poles, wires and materials, contained and belonging to our distribution system, now erected and used in the city of London.

"The terms of the offer are to be agreed upon upon a reasonable basis, and agree to pay all current liabilities, and collect all assets, and hand over

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WEST LONDON LADIES IN WAR OF WORDS

One Averred That Her Neighbor Was Some Pumpkins as a Prevaricator.

To decide who is the "biggest liar in London West" is the big proposition in the opinion of Magistrate Love. This was the compliment paid by one West London lady to her next door neighbor last Monday, and in consequence of which a little backyard variance was well aired in the police court this morning, when Mrs. Ellen Lumley charged her neighbor, Mrs. Eliza Derrick, of Dundas street west, with abusive language.

Among other highly qualifying epithets with which it is claimed Mrs. Derrick greeted Mrs. Lumley, was the distinction of being the most extensive prevaricator west of the Thames embankment.

Both principals of the little affair appeared in court with a whole contingent of witnesses to prove their respective points.

The trouble originated out of the industrious efforts of some busybody who told Mrs. Lumley something that Mrs. Derrick had said concerning her.

"If all busybodies would keep their mouths closed and not go about poisoning people's ears against one another, it would be a great deal better for the community," said the police magistrate, in dealing with the case.

It appears that these good neighbors had no back fence between their respective territories, and so backyard conversations and close confidences were made easy.

"There ought to have been a 14-foot fence between them," said the magistrate.

Mrs. Derrick refused to apologize and consequently was bound over to keep the peace for six months at \$200, and also required to pay \$3.50 costs.

GRIPS DANCED

Travellers Had Amusing Experience While Waiting at Hotel.

An amusing incident occurred in a small place near this city the other day. Three travellers entered a hotel, each carrying a large valise. They proceeded to the dining-room, and during their absence the bags suddenly commenced to move about in a most mysterious manner. Investigation showed that each owner was bound for the north, and chose this method of evading the muzzling laws.

SUCCESSION DUTIES

Amount Received Are Considerably in Excess of Estimates.

[G. N. W. Dispatch.] Toronto, Oct. 20. The provincial succession duties receipts for the financial year passed are estimated at \$100,000. A substantial acquisition of \$100,000, received this morning, from the Martha Fuldor MacLean estate, marked the passing of the husband's share of the estate through his son, who lived only a short time after the mother. It is \$220,000. The total of the duties will not have to be paid until July next.

MAY BE A HITCH

Rumor That Reciprocity Negotiations Are Causing Controversy.

Ottawa, Oct. 20.—It is rumored in Government circles that a hitch is coming in the reciprocity negotiations between Canada and the United States. Influential Liberals are said to have hinted to the cabinet that there will be trouble if anything is done to impair Canada's tariff, and that there is no particular demand for reciprocity, anyway. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's western statements, however, it is held here, make some action imperative.

ENGLAND'S EXAMPLE

American Commissioner Urges Better Administration for Philippines.

Mohonk Lake, N. Y., Oct. 20.—Speaking before the Lake Mohonk conference of friends of the Indian, Hon. W. Morgan Shuster, formerly a member of the Philippine commission, today reviewed some of the difficulties in the way of rapid execution of our Philippine policy.

"Our highest executive authorities seem to agree that at least two generations will be necessary to secure the fact that there are not sufficient resources by this I mean we are starting where England started in India in 1853—not where she stands today, with a colonial civil service along the seas administrators in the world. If we are going to enter seriously for this long race we must create by law a permanent and liberal lines of the British civil service in India."

MORE MANHOLES

Dundas Street Merchants Suffer in Heavy Summer Showers.

A petition asking the city council to have more manholes connecting with the big sewers on Richmond and Dundas streets, will probably be presented to the council shortly.

A large number of businessmen have their cellars flooded after every heavy rainstorm, and the trouble is largely due to the fact that there are not sufficient manholes to carry off the water.

Since the streets will be torn up next spring, it is thought it would be an opportune time to put in extra manholes.



LORD ALVERSTONE. Who is Presiding at the Crippen Trial.

CANADA'S TRADE INCREASES RAPIDLY

Figures Show Fifty-Six Millions More Business Than Last Year.

IMPORTS MUCH GREATER

Business With United States is Growing Faster Than With England—Trade Treaty With Germany Affected Trade.

Ottawa, Oct. 20.—For the first half of the present fiscal year Canada's trade increased by nearly fifty-six millions, or 18 per cent, as compared with the corresponding six months from April to September inclusive last year.

The half year's trade totals \$360,274,850, or over sixty-six millions more than the total annual trade of the Dominion when the first fielding started into force thirteen years ago, the monthly increase averaging more than nine millions over the record figures of last year.

Imports and Exports. Imports for the six months ending with September totaled \$225,364,221, an increase of \$50,263,000 as compared with the first half of the last fiscal year. Exports for the same period amounted to \$134,910,629, an increase over the same half last year of \$8,414,817.

Exports of domestic products for the six months totaled \$75,258,452, an increase of \$7,041,177. Exports of domestic products totaled \$24,110,308, an increase of \$526,606.

The customs revenue for the half year totaled \$35,327,705, an increase over last year of \$7,041,177. An additional evidence of the rapid commercial development of the country is shown by the fact that the importation of coin and bullion for the six months totaled \$4,410,952, as compared with \$1,550,987 for the corresponding period of last year.

Part two of the annual report of the trade and commerce department, issued today, gives some illuminative statistics with regard to the increase in Canada's trade with the principal countries with which the Dominion does business—Great Britain, the United States, Germany and France.

With Great Britain the total trade during the last fiscal year increased by \$41,011,871; with the United States the increase was \$56,955,610; with Germany \$2,814,449, and with France \$1,696,849.

Last year Canada imported merchandise for consumption from Great Britain to the value of \$95,666,000, an increase of about twenty-five millions over the preceding twelve months. Exports totaled \$149,630,488, an increase of over sixteen millions.

Imports From United States. From the United States last year Canada bought goods to the value of \$233,071,155, or about 25 per cent more than from Great Britain. The increase, as compared with the preceding year, was nearly fifty millions. Of the imports from the States, \$118,834,173 were dutiable, and \$98,668,242 were free. Exports exclusive of coin and bullion, which decreased by four millions, totaled \$110,616,320, an increase of nineteen millions. The total trade with the United States last year was \$353,221,327, as compared with a total trade of \$245,313,984 with Great Britain.

Trade with Germany amounted to \$10,405,455, the imports increasing by nearly two millions and the exports by one million. With France our total trade was \$12,811,551, the imports increasing by two millions and the exports decreasing by nearly half a million. Under the operation of the new French and German trade treaties trade with these two countries this year is showing a very much larger increase.

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DEATH THREATS IN LETTERS FOLLOW HALDIMAND OUTRAGES

Strange Occurrences Are Being Investigated By Attorney-General's Department—Family Are Kept in Terror By Unknown Parties.

Hagersville, Oct. 20.—A bold attempt to terrorize a family and drive them from the farm which they have occupied for 22 years is being perpetrated in Haldimand County, near the village of Selkirk, where the household of Mr. Fred Smelser lives in deadly fear of impending disaster. Three weeks ago their farm, filled with the season's crops, was fired and destroyed under strange circumstances, and since that occurrence Mr. Smelser has received an anonymous letter warning him to give up the farm and move away or his life will be taken. Five letters have been received to date, in which the writer represents himself as the involuntary agent of an unrelenting enemy of Smelser, who will brook no interference with his plans.

Sent to Attorney-General. The members of the family are not only terrified, but mystified. They

Hagersville road, and about 11 miles have hitherto believed that they possessed the friendly regard of their neighbors far and near, and they are at a loss to know whom to accuse of the crime. Two of the threatening letters have been forwarded to the Attorney-General's department. The other three have been stolen from the Smelser home, and the fifth is in the possession of Mr. Joseph W. Holmes, of Selkirk. Mr. Smelser has taken the mysterious mandate very seriously. He has advertised a sale of his stock on Nov. 1, and is preparing to abandon the farm.

The Smelser family consists of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smelser, two daughters and four sons, three of whom are at home: Ernest, aged 23; Harry, aged 18, and a boy aged 12, who is attending school. They live about a mile north of Selkirk on the New Haldimand road.

7TH PRIZES WILL BE PRESENTED AT ARMORIES MONDAY NIGHT

At no time in the history of this famous regiment has the esprit de corps been as good, and it is doubtful if at any time in its honorable history it has ever reached that degree of proficiency in the practical side of the work laid down by the militia department which it has attained this year.

It is true that time and again the old Seventh has captured the laurels and won encomiums over the head of others who have been equally successful on ceremonial occasions, and not for that which would stand in best stead in case of actual hostilities.

The regiment, under Lieut.-Col. A. A. Campbell has taken hold with the determination to set at rest any criticism on the score of usefulness.

During the year a friendly spirit of rivalry between the companies and sections was engendered and grew to a competition as to which should

have the largest company, section or squad, the greatest proficiency in drill, shooting, interior economy, etc.

The Prizes. Prizes in the shape of silver cups, steins and shields being donated by senior officers and leading citizens. The result of these competitions have been ascertained the trophies are being awarded in the order of merit by the ladies of the district, assisted by the ladies of the district's staff.

The parade on Monday, 24th inst., will be full dress, bugles, scarlet tunics, etc. All branches of the corps will be in line.

A programme, composed of choice selections of music, will be given by the band under the direction of Mr. Slatter. This organization has fair to again deserve the adjective "famous" attached to its name as in the old days. Citizens are invited to be present and witness the ceremonies.

ALBERT HUGHES IN THE RIVER

Man in Hard Luck Alleged to Have "Bluffed" to Get Hospital.

He Said, But There Was an Element of Comedy to His Position.

Albert Hughes, a crippled peddler, well known about London and vicinity, was arrested last night on a charge of vagrancy, and sent down this morning to the county jail until his sanity had been investigated. Hughes was discovered last night by Dr. J. J. McFarland, of Victoria Hospital, in the river at the rear of the institution, and was "rescued" from death by drowning.

He claimed that he wanted to die, and that he had jumped into the river. As a matter of fact, the doctors state that he was sitting in a few inches of water, expecting that he would be rescued. He was taken into the hospital and cared for. However, when he was found to be none the worse he was hustled off to the police station on a charge of an offence.

Has Earned a Living. It is said that Hughes has always tried to earn his living honestly, but that of late he has met with much ill-fortune. With Great Britain the total trade during the last fiscal year increased by \$41,011,871; with the United States the increase was \$56,955,610; with Germany \$2,814,449, and with France \$1,696,849.

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CRIPPEN SAYS HE LOST WIFE'S LOVE AND THOUGHT SHE RAN AWAY

Denies Any Knowledge of Body in Cellar Until After He Was Brought Back—Explains Suicide Note On Ship and Says He Arranged To Be Landed at Night.

[Associated Press.]

London, Oct. 21.—Dr. Hawley H. Crippen, accused of the murder of his wife, known to the theatrical profession as Belle Elmore, matched wits today with Richard Muir, one of the cleverest criminal lawyers in England.

The fact that the defendant was to undergo cross-examination by this representative of the crown increased interest in the proceedings, and when Lord Chief Justice Alverstone, always punctual to the minute, entered the New Bailey courtroom, and the prisoner at the same time took his place in the dock, the spectators were already in their seats awaiting the opening of the contest between the keen lawyer and the cool doctor.

Will See Skin. Before Crippen re-entered the witness box, from which he gave his testimony yesterday, the judge, Lord Chief Justice Alverstone, at its own request the jury would be allowed later in the day to examine microscopically the skin from the part found in the Hilldrop Crescent cellar, which bears it is alleged by the prosecution, a scar such as Belle Elmore received from a surgeon's knife twelve years ago. The defence claims that there is no scar, but what appears to be such was caused by a fold in the skin.

Although the steamer Montrose is at the quayside where Crippen testified yesterday, entered into a conspiracy to hide him during his flight to Canada, is now in London, and Mr. Muir had a long talk with him last night.

Crippen Calm. When Crippen was escorted to the witness box today he assumed the same characteristic attitude as he did when he faced his own counsel. He rested his elbows on the railing, clasped his hands and looked inquiringly about the courtroom.

Mr. Muir, losing no time in preliminaries, asked Crippen whether he had seen or heard anything of his wife since early on the morning of Feb. 1. He replied in the negative, and in answer to further questions that were rapidly fired at him, said that he could not prove any facts showing that she left the house alive. He supposed that she had gone to Bruce Miller, her professional acquaintance, who was in Chicago. That was the only guess he could make. He made no inquiries.

The witness said that he last saw his wife between 2 and 3 o'clock on the morning of Feb. 1, when she retired as usual. That morning he prepared his own breakfast. Returning home in the evening he found that Mrs. Crippen had disappeared, as she had threatened to do. He made no inquiries regarding the passengers listed on vessels sailing for America, nor had he since suggested that inquiries regarding the whereabouts of his wife should be made.

Would Call on Sisters. Mr. Muir suggested that if the witness' wife were alive he would call upon her sisters in the United States. Crippen's reply to this was that if his wife had gone with another man she would not have the face to go to her sisters. This opinion from the witness box drew forth a chorus of "Ohs" from the spectators.

The doctor could not say whether his wife took any of her furs with her, or if she had any quantity of furs and dresses.

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DEPUTY SHERIFF HAS LONG PRISON RECORD

Ben Waterworth Has Been to Kingston 112 Times in Sixteen Years.

One Londoner at least has a rather remarkable record for trips to Kingston. During the past sixteen years he has been in the penitentiary there no less than 112 times, and he is now waiting to make it 113.

However, as this person is Deputy Sheriff Waterworth, no particular watch is kept upon him. The deputy is just back from Kingston, whither he escorted John Procter for a three-year term, and his services as a chaplain are now bespoken for a ride down east with Frank Horne, who was sentenced to ten years this morning.

JUDGMENT RESERVED IN WEST MISSOURI CASE

Appeal Allowed in Pickard vs. North Oxford at Osgoode Hall.

At Osgoode Hall, before Middleton, J., re Henderson and township of West Nisour.—J. M. McEvoy (London), for appellant, T. G. Meredith, K. C., for the township of West Nisour, who was appointed to quash bylaw No. 205 of the township purporting to be a bylaw to levy a rate for the erection of a continuation school. Reserved.

Pickard vs. North Oxford. J. M. McEvoy (London), and J. S. Paterson (Ingersoll), for defendants, J. B. Clarke K. C., for plaintiff, contra. An appeal by defendants from the judgment of the county court for Osgoode, of 23rd June, 1910. Argument resumed from yesterday. Appeal allowed and judgment appealed from set aside and judgment directed to be entered for the defendants, dismissing the action with costs including the costs of appeal if the defendants ask costs.

Hall vs. Seely.—W. Proudfoot, K. C., for defendant, W. R. Meredith (London), for plaintiff, contra. Appeal by the defendant from the judgment of the county court for Huron of 28th April 1910. This was an action for recovery of a portion of the west half of lot 36 on the north side of Mary street in the town of Clinton, and or damages for cutting down certain trees on said land and removing a live fence thereon. At the trial judgment for plaintiff for possession and \$10 damages for the destruction of the maple tree was awarded with costs.

Appeal argued and judgment reserved for one week to enable the defendant to produce before the county judge of Huron the affidavits upon which the motion for a new trial is based, and, if possible, procure a certificate from the judge to rehabilitate the character of the defendant.

CUBAN TOBACCO CROP ALL RIGHT

Mr. Harry Schram Has Returned From Trip to the Island.

Later reports from Cuba state that the crops there have not been so badly damaged as was at first stated. The tobacco crop, the main staple of the country, is but slightly injured, and but small loss has been occasioned.

"There are always heavy storms in October," said Mr. Harry Schram, who has just returned from Cuba. "This year there has been a severe storm, but very little worse than ordinarily. Some of the crops have been damaged, but that is a very small matter. Cuba is in good shape."