

BONGARD TOLD HIS STORY.

Sanducker Investigation Was Completed Last Night.

Committee Will Meet to Frame Report on Monday.

Dredge Seems to Have Been Badly Handled Here.

The poor old sanducker, which has been a target for malicious attack ever since it came into the city's possession, was under fire for three hours last night at the special meeting of the Fire and Water Committee to investigate the charge by Captain Bongard, commander-in-chief of that gallant ship up till the time it was burned to the water's edge. The captain was there, with his lawyer, George S. Kerr, who cross-examined several of the witnesses at length. The company that sold the city the dredge was represented, and an interested audience watched the proceedings. The committee closed the investigation and reserved judgment until Monday night.

Bongard's Charges.
Secretary James read the charges as published in the story told by Captain Bongard in his attack on the sanducker. Bongard denied these statements, which were attributed to him by the Spectator:

That the hull of the sanducker was formerly an old scow, and that it had been in the bottom of Toronto Bay for eight months.

That the boiler and machinery were second-hand and worn out when the city purchased it.

That Ald. Farrar was the only one who had made a minute examination of the work it was doing.

These are the statements that he affirmed:

That the pumps are practically worn out, and will have to be renewed before they are of any use.

That the sucker did not pump on an average of more than one per cent., and never more than five per cent., while it was supposed to pump 25 per cent.

That the sucker pumped out only muddy water and sand.

That the cutter head was worn out and would not cut well.

That the intake connections are such that the sucker will not work properly, and caused considerable loss of time.

Bongard was given an opportunity to speak, and he said he would like to see an independent engineer go down and look the sucker over to see the shape it was in, and to see an independent body of men investigate and decide whether the south basin was cleaned.

In reply to a question from Ald. Perrine, he said he discovered half an hour after he began to run it that the pumps were worn out and that the outside shell was worn a good deal.

"You were aware of that when you took charge of the pump?" asked Ald. Anderson.

"Yes," said the captain.

"Then why did you run the dredge for several months without calling 'some one's attention to it'?"

"I pointed it out to the man who was in charge."

"We are here to find out the shape it was in before it was burned, and if it would have done the work but for that," explained Chairman Clark. "I have been a common expression that we have been gold-bricked, and that it was worn out when we purchased it. This is what we want to investigate."

The Mayor—Stones were found in the bottom of the basin and lifted by the sucker.

Captain Bongard—Yes.

The Mayor—How did the sucker reach the stones without getting the weeds and muck?

Captain Bongard—The sediment is in the centre of the basin. I say the sucker will not clean the basins, because she loses her priming.

The Mayor—Were weeds not found she would take stuff out to a certain extent?

Capt. Bongard—Yes.

The Mayor—Has she power to lift dirt if the weeds are out of the way?

Capt. Bongard—Yes, in part.

Chairman Clark—How often did she choke?

Capt. Bongard—Every five minutes in the south basin.

The Mayor—It was possible to miss some spots in shifting her?

Capt. Bongard—Yes, that is another point in which it was deficient. If the weeds were out they would have floated to the top.

The Mayor—They tell me the weeds that were pulled out were cut.

Capt. Bongard—They were not such things.

The Mayor—Your friend Farrar said they were last night.

Capt. Bongard—They were not. He is mistaken.

The Cap's Credentials.

The Mayor—What experience have you had on a sanducker?

Capt. Bongard—I was on this one for a month before I came here. I assisted in giving her a general overhauling. I helped to build the dredge Northumberland for the Government at the Polson iron works, and was on her during her tests.

Bongard admitted that the only experience he had with weeds was gained during his employment here. The cutter on the Toronto dredge was very similar to the one here, only it had a good edge.

The Mayor—What position did you hold on it?

Capt. Bongard—I was engineer's helper.

Bongard explained that the weeds after being cut decayed and became muck.

Chairman—Clark—If the sucker had power enough to lift stones would it not lift this muck?

Capt. Bongard—It would if handled properly.

Bongard said there was one long streak of weeds on the west side of the basins. He admitted that the sucker would get sand before it would lift stones because it was lighter. The first time the head gave out, he said, it was worn right through, and it was impossible to pump a drop of water through it. The next occasion was when a stone went through it while it was entering the basins. On the east side they got sand and stones. On the west side of the basins the sucker choked and they got nothing.

Ald. Allen—You were on the sucker when she was at Rogers' slip?

Capt. Bongard—Yes.

Ald. Allen—And she cleaned that out all right?

Capt. Bongard—No, sir; I doubt if there was ten inches difference after we got through.

Stood in Bare Feet in Water.

It took ten days, said the captain, to get through from the lake to the basins, and this was with teams scraping off the surface. In good condition the sucker should have got through in three days at the most.

The dredge should have pumped 25 per cent. over 30 feet from the water level, and yet they could not pump fifteen feet, they being forced to dig ten or twelve trenches for the pipes.

Ald. Wright—Did you mention to any one else that it was out of order?

Capt. Bongard—Mr. Bain once, in conversation.

He denied ever having spoken to the Mayor, and said he had only spoken to Chairman Clark once on Sunday. Capt. Hemphill, he explained, had told him that the dredge was at the bottom of the bay in Toronto, and that he had helped raise her.

Questioned by Ald. Farrar, he said he had no way of knowing how much weeds the sucker took out of the basins.

"Men stood in the basin sometimes in rubber boots and sometimes in their bare feet raking out the weeds with sixteen foot poles," he said. "I suppose this was done under the direction of Myles Hunting, who was in charge. It would not have been necessary to do it if the sucker had been working right."

Some of the Sucker's History.

Secretary McClelland, of the Toronto Company, from which the city purchased the sucker, took up Capt. Bongard's story in sections. Dealing with the statement that the pumps were worn out, he said that the pumps were purchased from the Morris Machine Company in August, 1902. According to the company's record they had pumped 2,500,000 cubic yards that year. From April 1, 1903, to August the first of that year, 4,500,000 cubic yards were pumped. During 1904 and 1905 over 12,000 cubic yards. The shell of Toronto dredge No. 1 was through after 8 years and after pumping 600,000 cubic yards and yet the shell of Hamilton's dredge was supposed to have worn through after pumping 2,000 yards. Capt. Bongard, he said, had been employed by his company nine days at the rate of \$1.75 a day as a laborer.

Cost of the local sucker, he said, \$27,110.16. After using it one season on a boat it was found too powerful and was put on the Hamilton dredge, when it was built in 1904. Everything on the dredge from stem to stern, except the boiler, was new. They had to get the history of the boiler before the Government inspector would pass on it. It had been purchased from the Bertram Engine Company and was traced back to a boat owned by the Lake of the Woods Lumber Company, which was burned.

A Lie, He Says.

"That is a lie," said Mr. McClelland, referring to the statement that the dredge had been at the bottom of the bay at Toronto for eight months. After doing some work on the beach for Ross & McPhie in November, 1904, she got caught in the ice returning to Toronto and was later sunk by the ice in ship. Part of her went down in eight feet of water on December 29, 1904, and on January 25, she was raised. An entire new hull was put on the sucker at a cost of \$1,567.22. When the sucker was raised it was found that not a single pipe had burst. For the work done on the beach she cost through sixteen feet of cutting weeds. "But we had a competent man in charge, Capt. Gillespie, who we paid \$2,000 a year; not a \$1.75 a day man," he added.

Touching on the point that it should lift twenty-five per cent. solids, Mr. McClelland said that no pump could lift that weight of lift that amount under any condition. The Hamilton sucker had a capacity of 4,500 gallons a minute of 20,000 gallons an hour. They had occasion before the sucker was sold to Hamilton to look into its lifting capacity and found that it would lift a weight of 15 feet every 200 feet from the water level.

The flow from the dredge was so fast that even carrying twelve per cent. solids it would look just like dirty water.

As to the cutter not cutting the weeds this was something that engineers all over found difficulty with. The city of Toronto kept a man in a pontoon near the end of their dredge to dislodge the weeds which choked it every fifteen or twenty minutes, although under certain conditions it might run a much longer time without doing this. The dredge Northumberland paid a royalty of \$4,000 for the use of a cutter after which the one on the local sucker was fashioned. If the agitator was properly placed below the weeds it would get them out.

"To say that the shell is worn out is ridiculous, silly, preposterous and foolish," said Mr. McClelland. The company wished it had the dredge during the year. The sucker had been rigged by an experienced man. "I think I could put a man in the basins who would clean them out in quick time," he added. "The man who says the dredge will not do it, if working properly, does not know what he is talking about."

Sharp Repartee.

Then Mr. Kerr, the captain's solicitor, and Mr. McClelland had several sharp duels.

"You are the secretary of the company," inquired Mr. Kerr.

"Yes," said the secretary.

"And you never worked on a dredge?"

"No, but I am a pretty keen man. I am paid a good salary for running the business."

"What experience in handling weeds?"

"All a man can get in six years."

"But just from what you saw?"

"Yes; I can sometimes see as much in ten minutes as the average man can see in a day."

"Where did you get your experience?"

"I was chief clerk of the Toronto police department for some years, if you want to know."

"That is where you got your observational powers?" smilingly suggested Mr. Kerr.

Mr. McClelland admitted that with weeds the most favorable conditions for the sucker working did not exist.

"And still you dispute what the captain says?"

"Yes, I do."

"And you dispute it not knowing what you are talking about?"

"Yes, I dispute it."

Hemphill, he said, was the best man they had in view at the time the city purchased the dredge for taking charge of it. He should have had enough experience to handle it, although they did not get the best results.

"What about the pumps and shell being worn out?"

"I don't know anything about it."

"We may as well go home and go to bed," was the jesting comment of the lawyer.

"Yes, I think your time is lost, anyway," was the sarcastic retort.

"All, it apparently is, with you," said the rejoinder.

Another Bruin.

The hall, Mr. McClelland admitted,

was not new. It might be eight years old.

"What did you write to the company to find out about the lifting capacity?" asked the lawyer.

"I think that is an impertinent question," answered the secretary.

"It was not working satisfactorily?" queried Mr. Kerr.

"It was something entirely different. It was my own business and I won't tell you."

Mr. Kerr asked a question about the agitator that evidently annoyed Mr. McClelland.

"That is the question an average lawyer would ask," he observed sarcastically.

"And the average policeman answer," was the lawyer's sharp thrust.

"I don't like impertinence," Mr. McClelland complained.

"Well then you should not give it," said the lawyer.

The sharp repartee made a hit with the audience and the chairman had to call order. "This is no farce," he rather angrily exclaimed.

To Ald. Farrar Mr. McClelland admitted that if weeds were taken out there should be some evidence of them. To Ald. Wright he said that the dredge, if improperly operated would be seriously damaged.

"What would the average cost of repairs on the dredge be?" inquired Mr. Kerr.

"I don't think the city got a fair shake," replied Mr. McClelland, "from what I saw in the papers. There was one account for supplies that was ridiculous."

He considered \$75 a week a fair expenditure for operating the sucker.

"Are you aware this dredge earned only \$100 in five weeks?" asked Ald. Farrar.

"We earned \$800 on the beach in eight days," was the reply.

"Who do you consider to blame for the dredge working improperly?"

"The captain," was the reply.

James Bain, assistant engineer at the Beach pumping house, who examined the machinery and advised that it was all right, related his connection with the famous sucker. He described in detail how it had been wrecked under Captain Hemphill's management and said that he had saved Capt. Bongard from being in the hole a dozen times over it. Once when the shafting was broken, Hemphill hired a rascally driver and when it did not do the work he used a sledge hammer to finish it. The shafting subsequently was broken and cost the city a good deal to repair. He said Bongard had told him the agitator was working fine, that the weeds were being cut up and cleaned out in great shape.

"I certainly think so," was the reply.

"A little more care was exercised here thought the work could still be properly done."

"You think the greater part of the weeds have been taken out?" asked Ald. Farrar.

"Yes, because you could see them as high as the water level."

Ald. Farrar wanted to know if one of the basins could not be shut off and pumped dry. Mr. Bain said they could not although the water could be lowered until the pumps would suck air and it would be possible to see the bottom better.

"Would you recommend that the basin be done?" he was asked.

"No, I would not," was the reply.

"You don't want to see the bottom?"

was Ald. Farrar's sarcastic comment.

Mr. Bain protested against this slur and Ald. Farrar withdrew it. His reason for not recommending what Ald. Farrar suggested was that there would only be the James street reservoir to depend on in case of a big fire. A good deal of the stuff taken out of the basins had been dumped into the creek and could not be seen. The shell, he felt every 200 feet of water level, was only cracked, and not worn.

City Engineer's View.

City Engineer Barrow said he had recommended the purchase of the pump to clean the basins because he thought it was the only proper way of doing it. He had been down three times a week while the operations were in progress, and found the sucker pouring out black stuff, which satisfied him it was doing good work. Bongard and Hunting had told him the sucker was doing good work, and Engineer McFarlane said the basins had never been cleaned so well before.

"Are you still satisfied that basins have been cleaned?" asked Ald. Farrar.

"There may have been parts of it missed, but it is my intention to go over it again." If there had been failure, Mr. Barrow said it was because the agitator did not get under the weeds.

Other Evidence.

Myles Hunting, caretaker of the basins, said he had seen stuff coming out of the pipes as black as a man's hat. Bongard had told him the sucker was doing good work, and chopping up the weeds, and he had likewise heard Engineer McFarlane speak of the good work being done. He had advised Bongard to put two or three boys along the sides of the basins with rakes to get any weeds that might fall over.

James Miller, who was employed by the city on the roads that were being made down there, and who referred to Ald. Farrar as the "worthy clothier," said the sucker had done good work and poured out black mud to get any weeds that might fall over.

John Bain, of the firm that has the contract for repairing the machinery, said it would be put in as good shape as before the fire. The sand pump was in first class condition, except that it required a new runner.

Engineer McFarlane wrote a letter in which he stated that he went to the basins two or three times, and found the sucker discharging very dirty water. He thought it was doing good work, although rather disappointed in the small quantity of weeds being taken out, and suggested to Myles Hunting that the basins be raked over, something that could be done at any time.

Richard Quinn, who is repairing the boiler, wrote to say that he found it well stayed and well built.

On motion of the Mayor, seconded by Ald. Allen, this closed the investigation, and the committee adjourned, to meet again on Monday night.

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The outside worker must. We meet his needs; 25 dozen sample mitts 25 per cent. off; cardigans, sweaters, reefer, leather coats. We make a special shirt for big men. Hand made socks. M. Kennedy, 240 James street north.

Labelle and Nicolet Elections.

Ottawa, Nov. 13.—Wrote for by-elections in Labelle and Nicolet, caused by the resignations of Messrs. Bourassa and Devlin, will be issued in a few days. The election will be held during the first week in December.

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TORONTO POWER

From Hydro Service May Cost \$276 a Horse Power.

In a letter to the Globe Mr. Frederic Nichols, of the Toronto Electric Light Company, thus presents the Hydro propositions:

If it is intended to supply light and power to the citizens generally I do not hesitate to say, in the most emphatic manner, that the estimate of \$5,200,000 will be found totally inadequate for the purpose, but, assuming that the citizens will be satisfied with a service provided by the amount estimated, let us see for a moment what the cost to the consumer in plain figures will amount to.

The annual charge for interest and depreciation, when the city would have to meet upon an outlay of \$5,200,000 would be:

Interest on \$5,200,000 at 4 per cent. equals \$208,000

Depreciation, 6 per cent. \$312,000

Total \$520,000

altogether, exclusive of the first cost of power, at the city limits and the cost of operation and maintenance.

The maximum demand, under any circumstances, that will be available for the city to supply would not exceed 10,000 horsepower, and consequently the interest and depreciation charge on 10,000 horsepower would be \$82 per horsepower per annum, to provide for the fixed charges upon the \$5,200,000.

As the facts are, that the load factor will not exceed 20 per cent. of the maximum load, it is obvious to anyone that the amount of \$82 per horsepower must be multiplied by four, making a total charge of \$328 per horsepower.

After having provided the \$208 per horsepower for interest and depreciation, we have to consider the cost of the current itself, delivered at the city limits, horsepower, but as the commission offers this only on the flat rate 24-hour basis and the consumer will only be willing to pay on a meter basis for his actual consumption this figure must also be multiplied by four to bring it to the meter basis of ordinary consumption, making the total cost of power on a meter basis amount to \$1,312 per horsepower at the city limits.

If we add these two sums together the amount of \$208 for interest and depreciation and the cost of power at the city limits, \$808, we have a total of \$276 per horsepower, entirely exclusive of any other charges, but as the commission offers this only on the flat rate 24-hour basis and the consumer will only be willing to pay on a meter basis for his actual consumption this figure must also be multiplied by four to bring it to the meter basis of ordinary consumption, making the total cost of power on a meter basis amount to \$1,104 per horsepower at the city limits.

The public will sooner or later understand that the figures as submitted by the Hydro Commission are not "parties' have been absolutely accurate, and I do not hesitate to say that what has misled the public in their estimate of cost has been the fact that figures submitted to them have been entirely on the flat rate basis, as against the meter basis.

BAPTIST WOMEN.

OWEN SOUND BAPTIST WOMEN'S SOCIETY. TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OPENED.

Owen Sound Baptists Welcome the Delegates—Election of Officers—Mrs. Holman Continues as President—Work in Cobalt District Described.

Owen Sound, Nov. 13.—The twenty-third annual convention of the Baptist Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies opened in the Baptist Church here this morning at 9.30 o'clock and will continue for two days. Mrs. C. J. Holman, president, and about two hundred delegates, representing thirteen associations, are in attendance.

After the opening exercises reports were read from all the associations, showing a general increase in the interest taken in mission work, as well as a substantial gain in the amount of contributions.

Mrs. Gregory, of Toronto, gave an interesting account of the Northwest Indian mission work, which is being carried on with great success. Satisfactory reports were read from the secretary-treasurer and other officers.

The following were elected as officers for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. C. J. Holman; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. R. W. Baird, Mrs. John Little, Recording Secretary, Miss Emma Fox; members of the board, Mrs. John Stark (Toronto), Miss Olive Copp (Hamilton), Mrs. Jessie Gibson (Toronto), Mrs. H. H. Hurd (Toronto), Miss Trotter (Toronto), Mrs. A. J. Vining (London), Mrs. Wismer (St. Catharines), and Mrs. Gilmour (Toronto).

At the afternoon session Mrs. Vichert gave an exceedingly interesting account of a summer's work in the Cobalt district, and was followed by further reports from the corresponding secretary, Miss Stark, and a conference on mission band work led by Mrs. Mulock.

The session closed with a stirring address from the president on "The Master's Call."

Honors for Carrie.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 13.—Mrs. Carrie Xanthopoulos today made a life member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The Commissioner of Industries estimates that 5,000 men are at present out of a job in Toronto.

New York Excursion

Via West Shore R. R. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

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We have a line of Men's Dark Shad Tans for winter wear, heavy double waterproof soles, leather lining, up-to-date in style, for \$5.00. They are regular \$6.00 shoes.

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