

The Evening Times and Star

The St. John Evening Times is printed at 27 and 29 Canterbury Street, every evening (Sunday excepted) by The St. John Times Printing and Publishing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Act. Telephone—Private exchange connecting all departments, Main 2417. Subscription Prices—Delivered by carrier, \$4.00 per year; by mail, \$5.00 per year in Canada. By mail to United States \$5.00 per year. The Times has the largest circulation in the Maritime Provinces. Special Advertising Representatives—NEW YORK, Frank P. Northrop, 350 Madison Ave.—CHICAGO, E. J. Fawcett, Manager, Association Bldg. The Audit Bureau of Circulation audits the circulation of The Evening Times.

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC.

In giving consideration to the hydro-electric problem the citizens should not be guided solely by thoughts of the present, since the agreement entered into will affect conditions for years to come. The aim must be to give the city the fullest possible benefit derivable from the development at Musquash, and not to make an agreement now which five or ten or twenty years hence would be regarded as against the best interests of the city. The question of profits does not enter into the transaction. The interests of a few must give way to the interests of the many, or the expenditure at Musquash cannot be justified. The current is offered at a low rate and it must not cost the people a high rate. The idea that any particular interest should be considered in advance of the general public interest finds no favor in the minds of the people. Armed with this knowledge the city council as representing the citizens will be justified in sifting the matter to the bottom. It is true there are complications, not of the city's making, which surround the task of adjustment with difficulty, but one fact stands out clear. It is that the city is offered cheaper power. It is for the civic authorities in conjunction with the citizens to see that the city gets the benefit, and that no agreement be made which years hence might be regarded as an improvident bargain.

The report of the discussion on the subject at City Hall yesterday has rather depressing effect upon the reader, but the citizens will be very reluctant to believe that they cannot get some substantial benefit from the large expenditure at Musquash. Further investigation of the whole subject, which has been fairly begun, ought to discover a way to get better results than some of yesterday's speakers appeared to anticipate.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK.

While reporting business quiet in the United States with no present indications of notable improvement, Bradstreet's points out that the feeling in business circles is much more confident than a year ago. We quote:

"A much more cheerful feeling pervades the general business community, in the larger lines at least, than at this time a year ago, when the greatest shutdown in business since the outbreak of the big war was in progress, when employment was increasing by leaps and bounds, and trade and industry as a whole were facing a year of heavy liquidation. Today the financial skies are certainly clearer, the international political situation is vastly better, exchange rates are nearer parity, a good investment demand for securities exists, the average of stock market prices is about at the year's highest and the commercial community, though chastened in spirit, is very much more optimistic than it was possible to be a twelvemonth ago."

Reports from the larger Canadian centres quote expressions of opinion that in this country also the outlook is brighter, despite the present rather serious condition of unemployment. The price is expected to bring improvement in conditions in the world at large, with increased activity in production and distribution.

In a statement issued yesterday Sir Henry Drayton says business conditions in Canada have slowly but surely improved through the last year and that the people may well look forward to the future with confidence. It is clear that the retiring finance minister does not fear any ill results from the change of government.

Toronto Globe—"It is significant that the United Farmers of Ontario unanimously rejected a resolution favoring protective duties on certain agricultural products. It had been supposed that Ontario farmers leaned more toward protection than those of the West. In Ontario, with its large urban population, the home market argument would naturally be more appealing than in the west, where it is more clearly apparent that the price of farm products is fixed in the unprotected markets of the world. Either the United Farmers of Ontario do not set any value on tariff protection of the home market or they must be credited with breadth of view and freedom from class-animosities."

The Maritime Branch of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada will receive the support of all lovers of clean sport in its efforts to clean up the slate in these provinces. There is a small group, represented in several provincial towns, which harshly criticizes the A. A. U. because it interferes with plans that would mix amateurs with paid players in such games as hockey and baseball. Central and Western Canada are out for straight amateur sport. The maritime provinces should be in line. There are difficulties, but a careful enquiry as to the motives of the trouble-makers generally reveals a leaning toward professionalism.

New Brunswick will go dry on January 18, after which date importation of liquor will be illegal. There will then be a clear field for adequate enforcement of the law.

A VALUABLE HISTORY.

A book has just been issued from the press of Barnes & Co. that will be highly valued by the people of New Brunswick. It is a reprint of Peter Fisher's History of New Brunswick, first given to the public in 1825. As no copy of the book could be got for the printer's use, the present volume was printed from a photostatic copy furnished by the Dominion archives. The reprinting is done jointly by the government of New Brunswick and W. Shives Fisher, a grandson of the author. It is issued under the auspices of the New Brunswick Historical Society, is well printed in clear type on good paper, and very substantially bound. It is a book of 138 pages, and contains, besides the original work, some valuable notes and observations prepared by Ven. Archbishop James; Hon. Dr. E. A. Smith, chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission; W. H. Harrison, acting city solicitor; G. G. Hargy, city engineer; G. N. Hatfield, road engineer; R. E. Armstrong and W. F. Burditt, secretaries and members of the Board of Trade, respectively; C. W. Brown, of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; F. A. Campbell, L. D. Ferris, C. Maxwell and G. R. Melvin, of the St. John Trades and Labor Council; L. R. Ross, of the New Brunswick Power Company; E. N. Sanderson, of the Federal Light and Traction Company, New York; R. A. Ross, consulting engineer engaged by the city; Roy Willett, of the Hardware Clerks' Association; P. H. Butler, of The Clerks' Bazaar, county secretary; Councillors O'Brien, Campbell and Golding of Lancaster; W. G. Chace, of the Canada Lumber Joint Pipe Company and a hydro-electric engineer, and F. E. Jones.

The Mayor. On account of the unavoidable absence of the Mayor, Foster and the fact that the estimate of distribution charges which was being completed, the gathering might carry on a round table discussion on the several subjects of the question and make inquiries concerning the project from Mr. Ross, the expert engaged by the city, and Dr. Smith, chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, both of whom were present.

He said that the council had been criticized for moving slowly in the matter, but he explained that until Tuesday's meeting no definite offer had been received. That the taxpayers and citizens might get the benefit of the expenditure was the consideration uppermost in the minds of the city council, his worship said, and he thought that in the future some widespread advantage to the citizens might result.

Consulting Engineer Heard. R. A. Ross, consulting engineer engaged by the city, said that a good deal had been done already. The three parties concerned, the city, the N. B. Power Company and the N. B. Electric Power Commission, had come together and begun discussion of the matter. The first question to be examined was whether the three could arrive at some agreement. If not, then some other plan must be explored.

The price of 1.2 cents per k.w.h. had been announced by the commission and the power company would tell many.

HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROPOSALS DISCUSSED IN CONFERENCE

Representatives of City, County, Electric Commission, Power Company and Local Organizations Present Views and Hear Explanations of R. A. Ross, Consulting Engineer—Another Meeting to Be Called Later in Week.

The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission's offer to supply the city with 15,000,000 kilowatt hours per year of electrical energy, at a maximum rate of 4,500 kilowatts, or 6,107 horse-power, at an annual cost of \$183,210—that is the mayor's office in City Hall here yesterday at a meeting of five people, including representatives of the municipality, the N. B. Electric Power Commission, the N. B. Power Company, the Board of Trade, the Trades and Labor Council, the Hardware Clerks' Association, hydro-electric engineers and others.

The question of how the city might with advantage to the consumer contract for the amount of energy offered was canvassed from many angles, but in view of the fact that Premier Foster was absent from the meeting, and because also no actual figures indicating the cost of distribution of the energy were available, no definite recommendations were made by the meeting. The mayor expects to call another meeting later in the week, at which the premier will be present and the necessary data to hand.

Those Present.

Those present at the meeting included Mayor Schofield, who presided; Commissioners of the Board of Trade, respectively; C. W. Brown, of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; F. A. Campbell, L. D. Ferris, C. Maxwell and G. R. Melvin, of the St. John Trades and Labor Council; L. R. Ross, of the New Brunswick Power Company; E. N. Sanderson, of the Federal Light and Traction Company, New York; R. A. Ross, consulting engineer engaged by the city; Roy Willett, of the Hardware Clerks' Association; P. H. Butler, of The Clerks' Bazaar, county secretary; Councillors O'Brien, Campbell and Golding of Lancaster; W. G. Chace, of the Canada Lumber Joint Pipe Company and a hydro-electric engineer, and F. E. Jones.

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SUMMER STORM.

The hilltop trees are bowing Under the coming storm, The low gray clouds are trailing Like squadrons that sweep and form, With their ammunition of rain.

Then the trumpet wind gives signal To unlimber the viewless guns; The cattle huddle together; And the farmer runs; And the first shot lashes the pane.

They charge through the quiet orchard; One pear tree is snapped like a wand; As they sweep from the sheltered hill-side, Ruffling the blackened pond, Ere the sun takes the field again.

A CHRISTMAS DINNER.

By kind permission of Commander Perry last evening the catering staff of the steamer Melita enjoyed their Christmas dinner. After the dinner a very enjoyable evening was spent. Messrs. Williams, Osborne, Katty, Wilson, Geoffrey and Gill contributed several, then they gave several banjo selections which were highly appreciated by the audience. The tit-bit of the evening was rendered by G. D. Fishwick, purser, assisted by Hurl Andrews at the piano. George Burt officiated at the piano in his usual excellent style.

PRETORIAN DOCKS.

The steamer Pretorian, which docked at Sand Point last evening, came direct from Glasgow, and sailed from that port on December 10. She encountered winter weather until Cape Race was reached, and from that time the weather improved and the remainder of the trip was favored with fine weather until the Bay of Fundy was entered, then she impeded the progress. Yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the Pretorian was anchored off Partridge Island, but it was 6:30 before she was tied up at the dock at Sand Point, the sleet having held her up for the whole day.

Besides Mrs. Chapelle and her two children, of 47 Winslow street, St. John, there were three other passengers for St. John on board; James Gibb, who is on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Burns, and Mrs. E. Prentice and her daughter, Miss Prentice, of Richmond street, who have been visiting relatives in the old country.

things regarding their distribution costs. The rates in St. John, he said, were pretty high. In Ontario the government had cancelled certain charges for depreciation and sinking fund during the last few years and he thought that the N. B. government might do something like that here.

The hydro-electric development was not an especially brilliant proposition since the approximate cost of generating the energy by water power was very little less than generating the energy by steam. He did not think that the large power user could be secured at the rate quoted by the power commission.

There were only two customers, he said, for the output, the city and the power company. If the city went into competition with the power company the city would put it out of business in a few years. Until the bona fide user of the city and its capability of handling the situation was investigated no such action should be contemplated.

About 200 municipalities, he said, were deriving hydro-electric energy from Niagara Falls. The same system of book-keeping prevailed for all so that it was possible to compare rates, etc. Such comparison revealed startlingly different charges for different cities and towns. The rates varied from 10 to 21 cents per k.w.h. He explained that this was in addition a service charge of three cents per month per 100 feet of floor space illuminated.

The town of Dundas, which was near the falls, had a rate of 4.1 cents per k.w.h.; the city of Hamilton, close beside the falls, had a rate of 2.8 cents per k.w.h. London, 120 miles distant, had a rate about the same as that of Niagara Falls. Dr. Smith, who pointed out, had little to do with the rate. The determining element in the cost was the load factor, that is the percentage of the energy developed actually used by the community. This load factor naturally varied with the nature of the uses to which the energy was put. In some places only light loads were obtained, whereas in others the energy was used to drive street cars and industrial plants. St. John's load factor, he said, was about 35 per cent. That is to say only about one-third of the energy developed was actually used; the rest was wasted and leaked away.

Because the load factors of different towns and cities were different, comparison of rates was unsound unless these other factors were taken into consideration.

He illustrated this by means of an example in which he supposed the cost of one horse power of energy to be \$80 a year. Taking the supposed case of a plant that would use this horse power twenty-four hours a day, 365 days in the year, that is 100 per cent. of the time, he said that the rate for that plant would be one cent per horse power hour (approximately 1.3 cents per k. w. h.).

If another plant used the energy seven-and-a-half hours a day, the rate for that plant would be 1.33 cents per h. p. h. (about 1.8 cents per k. w. h.); for the plant that used it fifty per cent. of the time the rate would be two cents per h. p. h. (about 2.7 cents per k. w. h.), and for the plant that used the energy only one-third of the time the rate would be three cents per h. p. h. (about four cents per k. w. h.). Willett speaking of cost per horse power one must remember that the cost per horse power hour (or per kilowatt hour) decreased with an increase in the time per day it was used.

Discusses City's Position.

In reply to a query from the mayor as to whether it might be reasonable for the city to take the power and go on for distributing it, Mr. Ross expressed the following views:

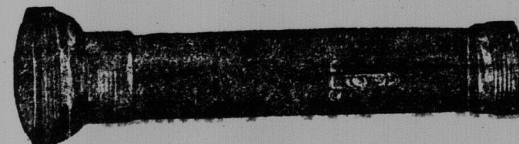
The city would be obligated at the outset to pay the power commission \$200,000 for allment of 10,000,000 kilowatt hours per year of energy. For the first two or three years the city would have to stand a dead loss because it would have few customers. The city would have to build transmission lines, substations, etc., and he feared that in the meantime there would be a very considerable opposition in the way of injunctions and so forth from the power company on their hands.

"But leaving the opposition out of it and supposing the distribution system to be built for less than \$1,000,000. Continuing, he asked if after all this had been done the city could give power much cheaper than that power company. The city would get it for 1.2 cents per k. w. h., the power company could generate it for about 1.38 or 1.40. There would be no appreciable saving and the public would have the street railway and gas services on their hands.

"The rates here for lighting are high," he said in answer to a question. "They ought to come down and they must come down," he continued. Mr. Ross then went on to explain why incandescent lighting was so expensive. He supposed a case of a house with forty lights. Usually there would be only about five of the forty burning, but if the householder wished at some time to turn on the whole forty he must have the service to do so. All the time the transformers on the poles outside his house were absorbing current; the losses in current were greater than the amount used in lighting.

Besides these losses there were considerable expenses incidental to maintaining house lighting. To connect up a house meant an investment of from \$100 to \$200. There was considerable expenditure involved in making out bills and delivering them. On the other hand there were none of these high office

A Gift for All the Family— A Flashlight

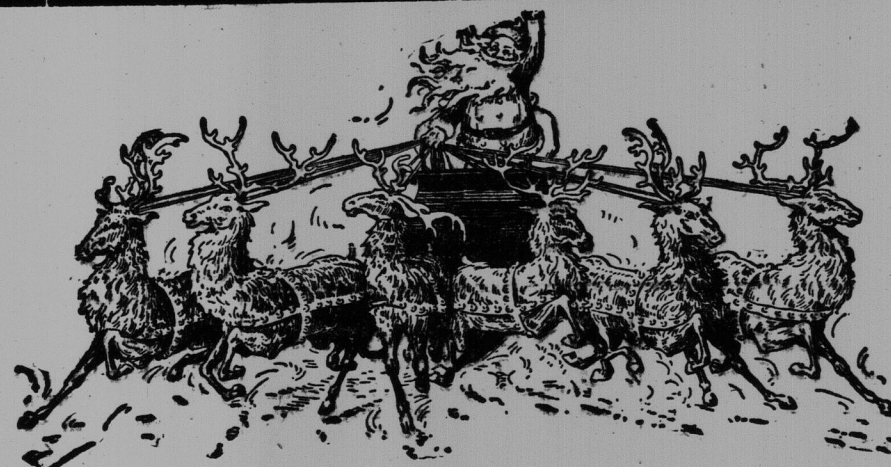


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Pocket Knives
Shaving Mugs
Flashlights
Razors
Razor Straps
Skates
Snowshoes

For Her

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Cut Glass
Brass Coods
Candle Sticks
Electric Table Lamp
Electric Grill
Electric Toaster
Electric Irons
Electric Percolators
Scissor Sets
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charges for are lighting and for power for industrial use.

W. F. Burditt, president of the Board of Trade, said that he was not speaking officially for the board. He felt from the beginning that the results of the Hydro

project would be disappointing on account of the high cost in proportion to the power developed and on account of the cost of distributing the energy. The city ought not to be asked to pay a percentage on the abnormally high cost of doing the work.

For Hardware Clerks.

Speaking for the Hardware Clerks Association Roy Willett said that the difference between the cost of generating the energy and its cost to the consumer, seemed unreasonable. The question, so the discussion indicated, was not so much one of power as power losses and charges on equipment. Rates at other places were on the average about one half of what they were in St. John.

Mr. Ross said the Ontario Hydro was getting power for one tenth of a cent per horse power hour and selling it at 1 cent per h. p. h., approximately one tenth of the price fixed by the N. B. commission. The Ontario Hydro was using about eighty per cent of the capacity output.

Councillor O'Brien.

Councillor O'Brien then asked Mr. Ross what the rate would be if the 6,000 horse power were used twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year. A very some discussion in which Mr. Ross, Mr. Sanderson and Councillor O'Brien took part, Mr. Sanderson explained the (Continued on page 11.)

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