

# The Albertan

W. M. DAVIDSON,  
Editor and Manager.

## THE COST OF POWER

In a letter to the Calgary corporation organ, Clifford T. Jones, the advocate for the power corporation, writes: "Attempts have been made to convince the citizens that the present city power plant is producing power cheaper than this company offers to sell it. This is wrong."

But it is not wrong. And it certainly is not wrong because the advocate for the people who are asking for this corporation is saying it. Mr. Jones may be an authority upon power, but he has not shown himself to be such an authority upon power that we should take his word for gospel.

He further says that water power is cheaper than steam power, which is not exactly an original discovery either. That is doubtless correct. That much may be accepted. However, it is hardly possible that the water which a city can generate for a price somewhat less than a private company which has a very enormous quantity of watered stock, which has to pay profits, which has to pay a price for the watered stock, can produce power for.

The question of price is not much of an argument. Mr. Jones may say that 1.75 is less than 1.008. But the fact that he says so does not make it so. Ordinary people who have not had the advantage of association with corporations will still have the vulgar idea that 1.75 is more than 1.008.

Now 1.75 is the price that the company offers to sell power for and 1.008 is what the city is paying for the manufacture of power.

Mr. Jones says that no one has heard that Vancouver and Victoria have any trouble with their street railways. Perhaps not. No person has ever had definite information from this point that there is or ever has been disturbance in the overhanging regions of hell, but that is not any reason why any person should endeavor to risk a journey there. We do know that the street railways in Toronto are stopping on the streets, that there is trouble in Hamilton, Winnipeg and London, that private owned companies in the United States are the chief source of annoyance in the larger cities.

Now that Mr. Jones has written as the advocate of corporation rule, in which capacity he seems to claim exemption from criticism as a citizen, the people would be pleased to read the words of ex-Ald. Jones, a gentleman who when untrammelled gave good advice to the city council upon the subject of municipal ownership.

MR. HALL AND MEDICINE HAT  
A Medicine Hat exchange intimates that there is a possibility of John T. Hall locating in that city as publicity commissioner or assessment commissioner. Mr. Hall has been attracted to the west and for some time has been anxious to locate somewhere in Alberta. His services were offered to Calgary but the council of 1906, with its usual method of doing business would neither favor nor oppose the appointment. Accordingly nothing was done.

Apparently Mr. Hall has got the idea that Calgary has no place for him, a very natural conclusion at which to arrive. But Calgary has the same need for him that Calgary had last year. Calgary needs a man who will look after the city end of the publicity part.

Mr. Hall has had phenomenal success in attracting manufacturing establishments to his city. If he came to Calgary, in a very few years he would have this city the Pittsburgh of western Canada.

Mr. Hall has not closed with Medicine Hat, and he has a preference for Calgary. Why cannot the city council join with the citizens in the effort to advance the interests of Calgary and publish its advantages abroad? But to do this the city must act very quickly.

A WILLING OFFICIAL  
The Albertan would like to get the figures from Mr. White, superintendent of something or other, when he estimates that power costs the city \$60 per horse power.

The Albertan has quoted the figures of expenses at the power house and the cost of power is less than one-half that mentioned by Mr. White.

Does Mr. White include his own salary in the cost of producing power? But he, or some other person occupying the same position, must be employed even though this marvellous agreement is accepted. Does he include the salary of a lineman? But a lineman or linemen are necessary under the proposed order of things. Does he include office expenses and collection? That also must be considered in the new proposition.

During the entire negotiations last night Mr. White took the part of the company, argued in their favor and accepted their figures, even going a little further in that direction

and doing them one or two better. Had the company desired they could not have found a man who served their purposes better than the man, who offhand, without any details, without any information, guessed that the cost of producing power was about twice as much as it really is.

## THE NEW AGREEMENT

It cannot be denied that the proposition as amended by the corporation company which was announced at the city hall is more favorable than before. In its original state the proposition was so objectionable that it was doomed to defeat from the very beginning. That is the reason that the amendment was made.

The company improved its position by dropping the street railway part of the proposition.

Another change that was made which is favorable to the city is the clause that they will lease the city power plant and maintain a duplicate system.

On the other hand the company declines a couple of clauses upon which they were agreed upon previously: One of these was that a test should be made at the power house and that the cost of manufacture should be cut in two and if found to be lower than the other figures submitted that that should be the price agreed upon.

The company now asks the city to take a chance, make a gamble on it, and if the half price rate is lower than the figures already proposed why the city gains, but if the price is higher, why the city loses.

At a meeting of the council last week, the company made big boasts of the people who were at their back. Now they decline to make any statement. The company further spoke of their readiness to provide for penalties and forfeitures. But now the company cannot see why these should be given.

The Albertan is still of the opinion that this power scheme should not be considered. At this time when natural gas is almost within sight, which will in itself cheapen the cost of power; when gas producers are perfected and threaten to revolutionize the price of power, the council would be foolish to tie this city up in the hands of corporations for the next 25 years.

EDITORIAL NOTES  
There is many a slip between promoters' effort and a well equipped power proposition privately owned.

The weather is giving signs that it would break forth into a chinook if it didn't have so much respect for the curls.

Calgary scored the first goal in the hockey game last night, or in other words they took the slogan of the Northern town and "saw Olds first."

If all Olds people are as speedy as the seven who represented that town in the hockey game last night, the ten thousand mark should be reached about the middle of next week.

According to the Liberals of Ontario the anxiety of the manufacturers who benefit by these bounties is in the adverse ratio to the rapidity to which they pocket the bonuses.

Any one with a head for figures can work it out that if it takes three days to get seven jurors to serve on the Thaw murder trial, that it will take about four years to complete the trial.

What good will it do the city to bind the corporation down to dispose of no stock without the sanction of the city while they are at liberty to purchase everything in sight?

To the man who doesn't curl there is nothing so bad as to be full of fun as to spend all day sweeping a small strip of ice and then go at it in the evening and start again at 2 a.m. in the morning.

If 1.75 is less than 1.008 this power scheme has some elements worthy of passing consideration just as their solicitor says, but on the contrary if 1.75 is more than 1.008, as many people maintain, then it is worthy of but little consideration.

Clifford Jones as representative of the corporation forgot to add that the public never hears of any street railway difficulties in Medicine Hat, Macleod or Okotoks, and in none of these are the street railways owned by the municipality.

If the city of Calgary is progressive and up-to-date the same may be said of its newspapers. A noticeable change is to be observed in the Albertan which is now as cleverly managed and excellently printed a journal as we have in the west.

High River Times.  
A bad man whom the chief justice said should be hanged was acquitted of the charge of wife murder in Toronto one day, and a harmless newspaper man, who had never done any harm to any person was the next day sentenced to be leader of the Ontario opposition. Things are not divided fairly in this country.

When an attempt is being made to rob the city of a franchise there is nothing quite so interesting to the Calgary Herald as the compulsory arbitration courts for strikes; and when laboring men are being robbed of their just rights there is nothing so interesting to the Calgary Herald as a long discussion on the bald principle of municipal ownership.

## On Hockey Matters

Editor Albertan  
Sir, In the Albertan of last Saturday the Rev. A. O. MacRae complains of unfair tactics by the Calgary hockeyists or some persons among them. In reply let me state that there were no dodgers printed. The bills or posters stated "Medicine Hat vs. Calgary inter-mediate." This is the usual way of publishing all matches, both in the east and west, and would mean to any ordinary person that both teams were in the intermediate class.

Dr. MacRae makes a further statement that three or four of the Calgary team are seniors. For his benefit let me state that according to the Western and Manitoba rules, under which we play a player is not a senior until he has played two scheduled games in senior company. None of the Calgary inter-mediate which played against the Medicine Hat team last Thursday had previously played two senior matches and only one of the players had played one senior match.

The inference of the letter referred to is that the Medicine Hat team were dissatisfied with the treatment whereas they were perfectly satisfied, and so expressed themselves to one and all, not only of the treatment accorded them by the Calgary hockey club, but that they knew what they were "up against" before they left Medicine Hat. As a proof of the fair treatment of the Calgary team and their satisfaction therewith they proposed my name as referee for their match against Western Canada College. This was opposed by Dr. MacRae in such strenuous terms that the Medicine Hat team gave way. I do not wish to enter into any controversy with Dr. MacRae or any other person on hockey, but simply state the facts as they are.

In conclusion let me say that had he acted toward the Medicine Hat hockey team in as fair and manly a spirit as we did, they would have returned home a perfectly satisfied team. The true sport is he who plays the game, and not he who "knocks."

C. J. ROULEAU  
Man. Calgary Int-hockey club.

Editor Albertan  
Just a word in reference to the letter on hockey matters in answer to Dr. MacRae. The Western Canada College athletic club does not intend to take up the cudgels on his behalf. We believe that the doctor has but one purpose in regard to sport—to further its highest interests. This charge therefore can be left to the judgment of the public that loves true sport. But the slur contained in the last paragraph cannot be allowed to pass.

The Medicine Hat team came here without having made a previous arrangement of any kind with us. There was not a word said to the captain or secretary treasurer about an arrangement after they came here. Dr. MacRae offered no objection to any referee, simply because the matter of a referee was not even mentioned to him.

W. SHARPE,  
Capt. W.C.C. hockey team.

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