POOR DOCUMENT

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The Evening Times ★ Star

VOL. XIX., No. 165 PAGES ONE TO EIGHT ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1923 SIXTEEN PAGES—ONE CENT

Strong Appeal Made To City Council To Get On With The Distribution of Hydro

REAL DELEGATION PRESENTS COMMISSIONERS SOUND AND UNDENIABLE REASONS FOR DESPATCH

File of 1,700 Contracts For Hydro and 800 More Prospective Users Presented—Commission has Now in Sight Sale of as Much Current as N. B. Power Company is distributing—Contracts For Ornamental Lighting System and Other Equipment Recommended to Council After Delegation Leaves—Mr. Thornton.

A real delegation went to City Hall this morning. It was alive, unanimous and knew what it wanted. It crowded and overflowed the committee room and threw on the table seventeen hundred signed contracts for hydro, with eight hundred more ready to be signed as soon as the current is available, although only a quarter of the city has been canvassed.

The spokesman, Fred A. Dykeman, was heartily applauded at intervals as he clearly and forcefully presented the case for civic distribution; as was Father Duke when he pointed out that the real issue was not one of figures and estimates, but whether the people rule; adding that how any commissioner, in view of the popular votes recorded, could take a stand in opposition to the people's will was beyond him.

Both Mr. Dykeman and Father Duke made incisive speeches that went to the root of the matter, and the applause was of the sort seldom heard in City Hall.

Commissioner Thornton wanted to know who the people present represented, and after Father Duke had spoken he attempted to justify his own course thus far; but the only portion of his remarks which appeared to meet with hearty approval was that relating to his willingness to resign.

There was a rapid fire of general talk at times, for the delegation was very much in earnest, and others besides the two leading spokesmen took part in the discussion.

There has not been such a demonstration at City Hall for many years.

After the delegation had thanked the commissioners for a hearing and retired, the regular business was taken up and several matters relating to hydro distribution were put through committee, including approval of the contract for ornamental street lighting, and of a lease of warehouse and storage yard for the Civic Commission.

AT LEAST 100 THERE.

It is estimated that at least 100 people jammed into the committee room or overflowed into the ante-rooms. Conspicuous among the number were F. A. Dykeman, Rev. W. M. Duke and John Flood, Sr., who were the principal speakers; Alexander Corbet, Angus McDonald, W. L. Walsh, James Carleton, E. Clinton Brown, Harold Rising, Rev. Dr. R. Heine, T. H. Haley, Martin McGuire, A. M. Belding, James Barrett, Robert J. Armstrong, Geo. M. Floor, M. D. Sweeney, Edward Farren, R. A. McAvity, chairman, Roy A. Willet, secretary, and W. L. Harding and John N. Flood, members of the Hydro Commission of the City of St. John.

John Flood was the first speaker. He said he was present in the interests of the tax-payers of the City of St. John. He said the council had signed a contract with the Government of the Province for a supply of electric current and they had also committed the city to a large expenditure for a distribution system. The council now was holding up progress in the work and he protested against the delay. (Applause.)

Mr. Dykeman said the delegation was present to protest against the delay in carrying out the wishes of the people at the polls. He said the Power Company had refused to sell its plant and the only proposal from the company now was to obtain the current. As the people had expressed themselves against that action, he did not see that there was any reason for further discussion.

Mr. Dykeman said he had heard Mr. Sanderson say that if the New Brunswick Power Company electrical business was wiped out the city would lose in taxes around $60,000. The facts, Mr. Dykeman said were that the gross earnings from the company from electrical distribution were about $480,000. The cost had been reduced about one-third, leaving the gross revenue about $320,000. The company was taxed at 2½ per cent. on its gross receipts, so that the outside figure of taxes on this end of the business would be $14,000 and not $60,000.

The amount which the citizens would save by using hydro instead of steam power, Mr. Sanderson alleged, would be about the same as the amount of taxes lost to the city. Mr. Dykeman pointed out that in places using hydro the consumption had increased seven to ten times.

The hydro canvassers to date, having covered only quarter of the city, had booked the same amount as is now supplied to the people from the N. B. Power Company, or about 5,000,000 kilowatt hours. (Applause.) About 3,000,000 of this was about new business and 2,000,000 was business which was being taken from the N. B. Power Co. If the canvassers met with the same success in covering the balance of the city there was ample evidence that the 10,000,000 k.w.h. would be contracted for before the canvass was completed.

He quoted the following figures of yearly cost for hydro:—

Cost of current	$120,000
Costs of system	130,000
	$250,000

If based on the present rates, the citizens would be paying $640,000 to the N. B. Power Company for the same amount. Under hydro, therefore, they would save $390,000 a year.

As a citizen he resented the attitude which Mr. Sanderson adopted towards the city in which he implied that the citizens could not figure these things out for themselves. (Applause.).

Mr. Dykeman said the world was turning toward "white coal," and when St. John was ready to make some advancement it was disheartening to think there were some willing to keep the heel of the New Brunswick Power Company on their necks.

Prosperity had followed hydro, he continued, and industry was what was required in St. John. He said the new dry dock had planned a plant which would require 8,500 horsepower. One reason why St. John had not gone ahead industrially was on account of its unattractive power rates. He urged that the delay in getting to the realization of the hydro programme be as short as possible.

To Commissioner Thornton, Mr. Dykeman said he was present as a taxpayer and representing other taxpayers. He impressed the importance of looking to the future in this work.

He produced a bill paid by his company which totaled $87.03. Under hydro this would be reduced to $45.85, a saving of $41.18. Part of the bill was at the old rate, however, so that he figured the general monthly saving would be about $25.

1,700 Contracts Already.

R. A. McAvity said that to date 1,700 signed contracts for domestic lighting were in the commission files, and 800 information cards, all covering live prospects. The files were on the table in the council chamber. He was not sure what amount of current this would cover, but thought it would be in the vicinity of some 750,000 kilowatt hours. He confirmed the figures give by Mr. Dykeman.

Commissioner Frink asked, with other places taken into consideration, how St. John should be sure of getting the amount of current it had contracted for.

Mr. McAvity said that if the city had signed a contract for 10,000,000 k. w. h., with the privilege of increasing it to 15,000,000, with the Government's guarantee behind it, there should be no question raised as to whether that amount would not be supplied. (Applause.)

SHOW WHAT PEOPLE WANT.

Mr. Bullock said the figures presented were a clear barometer of the attitude of the people of St. John to the hydro proposition.

To Mr. Thornton, Mr. Dykeman said that Mr. Sanderson had said the N. B. Power Co. plant was not for sale.

Commissioner Wigmore and W. L. Harding both verified this statement.

Commissioner Wigmore said he had asked Mr. Sanderson if the Power Co. plant was for sale, and Mr. Sanderson had replied emphatically, "No."

"Had the City of St. John accepted ex-Mayor Schofield's proposition at the figures of 12½ cents which he proposed," said Mr. Dykeman, "the citizens would have been out of pocket $240,000 in the two years' trial, as the rate now charged was a saving of about $120,000 a year. Another loss of $120,000 a year was anticipated if the hydro current was handed over to the Power Company at the present rates. If the hydro was handed over, the city would never get it back," he concluded.

Father Duke.

Rev. W. M. Duke said that he spoke for no organization or section of the people, but as a citizen, interested in the development in this province and having seen hydro in operation in other section. He did not intend to go into the technical side of the matter, but asked how the council could keep the citizens waiting so long after the minds of the citizens had been expressed emphatically on more than one occasion He said one of the best representatives the city ever had had gone down to defeat on the question, and the present Mayor was elected on that issue. He said it was public ownership as opposed to monopoly, and he felt that something developed by the Government for the people should not be handed over to the monopoly. He said that the Power Company had ample opportunity to sell if it wanted to.

He did not understand how a member of the council could go against the wishes of the people and retain his seat in the council. He said that if a minister of the Government was in that position his only course would be to resign. He said that if the city could not get the plant, then it was clear that it must go ahead and erect its own plant.

Replying to Father Duke, Commissioner Thornton said that when a commissioner assumed office he took an oath to carry on to the best of his ability. He said that his interest was only in the city. He said he did not think, in the face of his own judgment, that he could vote for something which he thought was against the interests of the people. He said if no satisfactory proposal was made by the Power Company representatives, he would be willing to vote for municipal distribution.

Asked by E. Clinton Brown if he understood him to say that if the Power Company did not present a suitable proposition this afternoon he would vote for bond issues necessary to carry out civic distribution, Commissioner Thornton replied that he did not say that.

He said he would resign if the rest of the council would resign.

"Why wait for the others?" asked a voice.

Mr. Thornton said that in a previous council he had held up a bond issue for a million dollars of the citizens' money. "Wasn't that action justified?" he asked.

Mr. Thornton said it was on his recommendation that the city decided to contract for hydro for street lighting.

On being asked how many people in the room were behind Mr. Dykeman in his request, every hand was raised.

Voice—"And there are 2,500 more in the box on the table."

London's Good Record.

Mr. Dykeman quoted the experience of the people of London, Ont., in their fight for cheap electricity. The old rate averaged 9.25 cents a k. w. h. while today hydro was costing 2.2 cents for domestic and 1.8 cents for commercial lighting. The cost to the people was $497,166.68 last year, with expenses of $420,512.22 to the city, leaving a surplus of $76,654.46.

"Are the people of St. John not as good as the people of London?" he asked.

Mr. Dykeman then thanked the commissioners for the patient hearing given to him and the others and the delegation withdrew.

Tenders Accepted.

Immediately after the delegation had retired the commissioners further considered some recommendation of the Civic Hydro Commission.

On the motion of the Mayor the recommendation of the civic commission that the tender of the Canadian General Electric Co., Ltd., for the erection of an ornamental lighting system at a cost of $26,132, this to be part of an expenditure of $79,850.50 for street lighting system, was recommended to the council without opposition.

A similar motion regarding a tender of the St. John Iron Works, Ltd., for the steel super structure for the transformers at the sub-station was also recommended to council.

Commissioner Thornton reported that Barry Wilson, city electrican had promised to bring in some information as to how the costs of switching equipment at the sub-station were to be divided between the city and the

(Continued on page 9, seventh column)

Public Ownership Produces Surplus

Barrie, April 16.—Barrie's Electric Light Department's profit of $6,309 for 1922 is almost equalled by the surplus in the Waterworks Department, which amounts to $5,488, nearly double that of 1921. This is due mainly to reduced operating expenses, particularly in fuel. Coal has been entirely displaced by electric power for general pumping, with an auxiliary gas engine as an emergency power for fire purposes. Since the plant was taken over by the town surpluses to the amount of $32,858 have been earned.

PREPARING FOR ROYAL WEDDING

King George and Queen Mary who are so keenly interested in the happiness of their family and closely associated with them in all their affairs, are now busy preparing for the wedding of the Duke of York. The Queen has been deeply interested in shopping with the young people and in assisting the preparing of White Lodge, Richmond, where they will reside. It was the Queen's girlhood home.

LIVE SIX MONTHS IN SWITZERLAND; THE REST IN U.S.

Plans of Max Oser and His Millionaire Chicago Bride Announced.

Chicago, April 16.—Official confirmation of the news of the marriage of Miss Mathilde McCormick and Major Max Oser, a Swiss soldier, was given yesterday by Harold F. McCormick, the bride's father and chairman of the executive of the International Harvster Company. The announcement merely said the marriage occurred in London on Thursday, April 12.

Geneva, April 16.—Mr. and Mrs. Max Oser have bought a large farm near Yverden, at the southwest end of Lake Neuchatel, in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland. They will spend six months of the year on the farm and the remainder of their time in the U. S.

Oser, who was a former Swiss riding master, married Miss Mathilde McCormick of Chicago last week, in England. He intends to become a naturalized U. S. citizen.

FRENCH SEIZE 9 MORE COAL MINES

Dusseldorf, April 16. — Nine additional coal mines in the Ruhr have been seized by the French and Belgians, making a total of thirty-one mines and coke plants now in the hands of the forces of occupation. There are approximately 260 coal shafts in the Ruhr.

At nine of the works seized today there were about 160,000 tons of fuel, chiefly coke. All this was confiscated

The French and Belgians, it was announced, will begin shipping today an average of 10,000 tons of coal and coke daily to France and Belgium.

The German mine owners assert that this is excessive, estimating that the shipments will be only between 4,000 and 5,000 tons.

Essen, April 16. — Burial services were held yesterday for the fourteenth victim of the shooting of workmen at the Krupp works a fortnight ago. The other persons wounded during the disorders at the Krupp works are reported to be out of danger.

Cologne, April 16.—More than 100,000 marks worth of wine has been seized by the French at Dusseldorf because the Germans had not paid the wine tax, according to an announcement in the German quarters.

A message received from Gladdeck says the troops of occupation have commenced seizing coal wagons along the streets of the town, apparently in enforcement of the new order requiring the occupying forces to grant permission to the Germans for the transportation of coal and coke.

Phelix and Pherdinand

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—Moderate depressions are situated in the Ottawa Valley and off the New England coast and pressure is highest over Manitoba and the northwest states.

Forecasts:

Rain and Snow; Then Cloudy

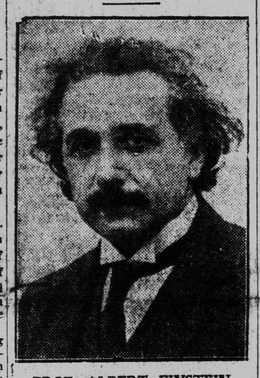
Maritime—Fresh east to south and southwest winds, with rain and snow. Tuesday partly cloudy with fresh westerly winds.

Gulf and North Shore—Fair today light falls of snow or rain tonight.

New England—Fair tonight and Tuesday. Warmer Tuesday. Moderate to fresh westerly winds.

STAMPS INSULIN COMPLETE SUCCESS

New York Hospital Doctor Tells of Remarkable Results; Says it is Greatest Discovery of Age.



PROF. ALBERT EINSTEIN.

New York, April 16—(Canadian Press)—Insulin, the discovery of Dr. F. G. Banting of Toronto, has been used with complete success in the treatment of diabetes at the Montefiore Hospital, according to a report of hospital physicians, given before a meetng of the board of directors last night.

Dr. A. I. Ringer, attending physician, reported that eighty patients, five of whom were in the last stages of the disease, have been treated. He said that five were in a coma out of which few sufferers from the disease have ever come. One, a young man of 22, was in the last stages. Three injections of insuline were administered each day for several days, and yesterday the patient was sitting up and reading a magazine. Another patient, past fifty, pronounced incurable, was now on his way to Europe.

"From the results obtained at Montefiore Hospital," said Dr. Ringer, "I can state equivocally that no person should die from diabetes. Insulin is undoubtedly the greatest discovery of the age.

DECLARE EX-CROWN PRINCE SUFFERS FROM INSANITY

Frederick Now Said to be Carrying on Revival Services for Exhausted Servants.

London, April 16.—Former Crown Prince Frederick of Germany is suffering from a progressive form of insanity, according to a Wieringen despatch which quotes as authority two noted alienists of Berlin.

"The prince has turned to religion for comfort," adds the despatch. "His exhausted servants are forced to listen for hours to revival services conducted by him on an organ, and he is subject to alternate fits of garrulity and taciturnity."

THINKS REVOLVER IS TOY GUN; BOY KILLS PLAYMATE

St. Catharines, Ont., April 16—"Hold up your hands," commanded seven year old Ray Norton to his playmate, nine year old Willie Hilton, and his brother, Irvin Norton, aged nine. The two lads, it is said, complied, and Ray pulled the trigger of a 32 calibre revolver he held. The bullet hit Wille Hilton just below the heart and he died a few minutes later. The tragedy took place on Saturday night.

Ray found a revolver belonging to an Italian truck driver, and supposed it was a toy pistol.

As Hiram Sees It

"I see," said Mr. Hiram Hornbeam to the Times reporter, "they hed another delegation o' leadin' citizens down to City Hall this mornin'."

"No," said the reporter, "those were mental defectives Buggy—not quite sane The safe and sane delegation was there this afternoon. Those other babblers are at large because we have no Home for the Feeble Minded. They wandered into City Hall this morning. I must say they behavhaved very well, and with proper treatment their mental condition might be improved. They are under the delusion that they are intelligent taxpayers. Odd—isn't it?"

"It is so," said Hiram. "Still, I've heerd it aint a bad plan to humor folks like that. What was they wantin' to do?"

"As far as I could gather," said the reporter, "they wanted the City Council to give the people what they voted for, which is preposterous, and a sure sign of mental derangement."

"I guess so," said Hiram. "I guess what they vote fer. If they want somethin' they orto vote fer somethin' else—an' then the City Council 'ud know what to give 'em—yes, sir."

LOOK FOR BEER CHEAPER BY A PENNY A PINT

Expection in Budget Announcement in England—Guesses as to Other Items.

London, April 16.—The prospect of a reduction of a penny a pint gave beer drinkers something to think about today. All the publicans and saloon keepers said that if the expected announcement of the reduction in the beer tax was forthcoming in connection with the presentation of the budget in the House of Commons, they would start selling on Tuesday at a reduction of a penny a pint. This would be in accordance with instructions from the brewers, who hold most of the "pubs."

The newspaper's political experts were virtually agreed that a reduction in the income and beer taxes would be made, but beyond these there was a wide difference of opinion. Their guesses included sugar, tobacco, postal charges, corporation profits and entertainment tickets as possible items in which the chancellor of the exchequer might grant relief, but no certain predictions were ventured.

It was generally announced that the Laborites would fight the budget to the utmost if it did not lift existing indirect taxation on such articles as tea and sugar.

MUCH CHEAPER THAN IN CANADA

Vickers Manager Says British Shipyards Can Build for 40 Per Cent Less.

London, April 16—(Canadian Press)—Arthur Gillham, manager of Vickers Co., Montreal, when leaving for Canada yesterday remarked that British yards could build ships at forty per cent. lower cost than Canadian yards due entirely to the difference in labor costs. More orders for lake freighters, he said, were likely to come to British yards.

TEACHER AND NINE CHILDREN DEAD IN FIRE

Sacramento, Calif., April 16.—Five Japanese children and one Japanese school teacher were burned to death and nine others are still unaccounted for in a fire which destroyed a boarding school here early today. The bodies were found in a room on the top floor where firemen battled through the flames.

Later.

Sacramento, April 16—Nine Japanese children, ranging in age from five to seventeen years, were burned to death in the fire.

BABY BOY FOUND ON LAWN

Ottawa, April 16—A baby boy about two months old, was found last night lying on the lawn in front of a Slater street residence. Efforts to identify the child were futile.

Death of Bishop Williams.

Paris, April 16.—The Right Rev. Gershome Mott Williams, former Bishop of Marquette, Mich., died on Saturday night in the American Hospital here. He had been ill two weeks. For the last seven years he had been in charge of American Episcopal churches in Europe.

London Papers At Odds Over Report That Premier Is To Resign

Health Condition Set Out for Statement That Bonar Law Will Soon Give Up Reins of Office as British Prime Minister.

TWO RECENT VIEWS OF BONAR LAW

(Canadian Press)

London, April 16.—Reuter's learns that, "despite official denial the belief is widely held in political circles that Bonar Law will be compelled by reasons of health to resign from the premiership within the next few weeks."

The Times, on the other hand, declares that Mr. Law was playing tennis on Saturday and Sunday, and that tennis is hardly the recreation of a sick man, but adds:

"The Premier is still suffering from a relaxed throat, and his colleagues are anxious that he shall not attend in the House of Commons more than necessary; hence he will not parctpitate in the budget debate and is not expected to speak in the Commons for at least a fortnight. But those who anticipate that this silence will be a prelude to his resignational will be disillusioned."

The political correspondent of the Sunday Observer says that Mr. Law will soon retire and adds that the Premier would have withdrawn at Easter if it had not been for the reversal in the by-elections.

London, April 16.—The staunch supporters of the Prime Minister among the morning newspapers are indignant at what they call a "conspiracy to weaken the ministry," launched in the Sunday press, which reported that the premier was about to resign because of ill health.

The Morning Post, chief Conservative paper, asserts with the greatest emphasis, that there is no truth whatever in Sunday's story and that there is nothing in the condition of Mr. Law's health to compel his retirement.

The Post and the other papers which share its views attribute the "conspiracy" to Lord Birkenhead and other Conservatives who refused to participate in the Government. They also implicate David Lloyd George and his supporters, who, they say, desire the restoration of the coaltion.

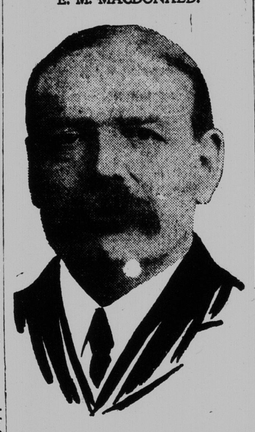
The conspiracy idea is supported to a certain extent by the moderate Liberal Westminster Gazette, whose political experts write of "a certain clue which seems to stamp Sunday's reports as calculated to be in anticipation of future events designed to further definite party arrangements and to bring back the unemployed unionist ex-ministers."

Most noteworthy among the newspapers Confirming Sunday's reports is the Daily Telegraph, which usually expresses moderate Conservative views although it was a strong supporter of Lloyd George. This newspaper's parliamentary expert says there are solid grounds for the rumor and asserts that if Bonar Law had thought himself free to do so, he would have retired before now. The Premier, the writer says, has now come to the conclusion, with profound regret, that he cannot hope to prolong indefinitely his incumbency in his present post.

GOES ASHORE ON MAINE COAST IN A BLINDING STORM

Biddeford, Maine, April 16.—In a blinding snowstorm, seventeen men were taken from the oil tanker Anahunk, when she ran aground at Fortunes Rocks, yesterday. This morning she was resting easily on a sandy bottom and it was expected by the coast guards that she could be saved.

E. M. MACDONALD.



Liberal member for Pictou, Nova Scotia, named as a member of Premier King's Cabinet, without portfolio. He may ventually go to the Department of Militia and Defence.

MONTREAL MAN CLEARED IN COURT

Charges Brought Against Joseph C. Grant of Montreal Dismissed in New York.

New York, April 16.—(Canadian Press).—Charges brought against Joseph Charles Grant of Montreal by the Belleclaire Hotel, in connection with money which the hotel claimed from Mr. Grant, have been dismissed.

Mr. Grant was able to explain the apparent financial discrepancy to the management of the hotel with the result that the charge was withdrawn and he was honorably discharged by the court.

Statements made by Mrs. Sarah G. Cassidy, of 146 Oxford Court, Manhattan Beach, who had entered a claim for rent of a cottage, were disproved by Mr. Grant. Mrs. Cassidy had asserted Mr. Grant had left the cottage last summer owing her $500. Mr. Grant had leased the cottage last autumn and had lived in it for one month, but finding conditions unsatisfactory, he had notified Mrs. Cassidy he would not remain. He declared he paid Mrs. Cassidy the full rental for the time of occupation.

Mrs. Cassidy had also said that Mr. Grant during his occupancy of the cottage had "given numerous large parties," and had also asserted that he owed bills to several tradesmen in the neighborhood when he left. This was also disproved by Mr. Grant, who asserted he had been in poor health and was living very quietly during his sojourn at Manhattan Beach.