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Huron & Erie
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CLAIMS TAX ON HYDRO IS REASONABLE

Farmers' Side of the Case Is Presented by F. M. Chapman.

The bill which was introduced in the Ontario Legislature this week embodying the main feature of the Lethbridge report on hydro distribution, and justifying a tax on power is discussed at some length in Farmers' Magazine this week by Editor F. M. Chapman as follows:

"The natural resources of Ontario should be utilized for the benefit of all the people of the province. The province has an equal right to secure a reasonable revenue from its water powers as it has from its minerals or its forests."

This simple dictum, laid down by the special committee appointed by the legislature to inquire into the operations of the distributing system used by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission, would seem to most reasonable men to be an almost unassailable and eminently sound doctrine. Yet, strange as it may seem, there are those who object most emphatically against the logical application of the principle into practical business. In other words, a strange and almost startling counter-doctrine is promulgated in its stead. The doctrine that the power belongs to those who can pay for the transmission and production from the tax free, rent free, provincially-owned water is vehemently argued by the beneficiaries of this gift. In other words, this theory is the old economic heresy of force, where might is right and the devil must take the hindmost.

Not So Willing.

Fortunately, in modern practical political economy the hindmost are not so content to be captured by this satanic fatalism. Ontario has, in a corporate capacity and by her own guarantee, constructed a big publicly-owned project of immense value, that is giving an inestimable service to the people. Particularly to those who have been fortunate enough to come inside the proximity circle of its beneficent operations. Naturally those municipalities stood to benefit most which lay adjacent to the big power projects or along the path of the high tension lines to the big cities of Toronto and Hamilton. These places have been securing power at a low cost, running as low as \$14.50 in the city of Toronto, and affording tremendous savings to the users of power, as well as of residential heat and light.

Seriously Handicapped.

Cities, towns, villages and farmers farthest inland or outside the zone, are seriously handicapped in the matter of electric service, not only in the matter of rates, but in the actual supply of any power at all to them. This situation, and the apparent injustices of the case, have been published persistently by Farmers' Magazine from time to time. Public opinion was so generally concerned over the prohibitive rates being quoted by the hydro commission, as well as by the dilatoriness of the commission to make any real effort to carry their power lines to other points, that the legislature appointed a commission, consisting of Messrs. J. G. Lethbridge and W. H. Casselman, U. F. O. members for Middlesex and Dundas Counties respectively, with J. R. Cooke, Conservative member for Hastings; John O'Neill, a Liberal member for Toronto, and F. H. Greenlaw, Labor representative from

St. Catharines, to inquire into the whole situation of hydro distribution.

Not Yet Discussed.

These men spent conscientious time on the inquiry, and brought in an exhaustive report, which has been printed for some time, but which report has not been discussed fully in the legislature. Now, at the closing hours of a long session, a bill is being introduced which will embody the principles laid down in this report, although the conclusions and recommendations may not all be accepted. But the principle of the tax must be accepted.

Briefly, this commission proposed a \$2 per horsepower tax on all power produced by the provincial water powers, this tax to go into a fund to be used for the extension of hydro transmission lines into the municipalities claiming for the privileges. These proposals were:

Small Cities and Towns Helped.

1. Where the cost of power supplied to any municipality or power zone is in excess of \$30 per horsepower per year, and the distributing system is owned and operated by the municipality or local commission or supplied by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, then the minister of power may authorize to be paid, out of the revenues of the province, to the commission of such municipality or power zone, a sum equal to 50 per cent of the additional cost in excess of \$30 per horsepower; but that the maximum amount of assistance by the province to any such commission shall not exceed an excess of \$25 per horsepower per year.

2. When power is supplied to the agricultural industries under the conditions outlined in Clause 1, then the minister of power may give further assistance by granting to the local commission of the municipality or power zone a sum sufficient to meet 80 per cent of the additional charge necessary to pay for the cost of building and maintaining in rural districts the low tension transmission lines that are necessary for rural distribution, but that such assistance shall not exceed 50 per cent of the revenue derived from power rentals, and that one of the conditions upon which such assistance may be given is that there must be an improvement in the transmission line in all rural districts served.

Such proposals at once inflamed the particular beneficiaries of cheap power, who began to argue, in ward politics fashion, against any tax being placed on power. They urged the rather specious doctrine that the cities using the cheap power were being taxed in favor of the farmers.

Wrong Arguments.

Such, indeed, was a most fallacious argument, if not a malicious and misleading one. It is misleading because Sir Adam Beck, in his own report, showed that the principle of the tax was established long ago, because a tax of 50 cents per horsepower was embodied in nearly all the hydro contracts, although, strange to say, very little of this money has ever been paid into the provincial treasury. It is said there is some \$600,000 in the province in this regard. Further, it is misleading because all the water powers have been paying rentals to the province when leased by private companies. The Dominion Power and Transmission Company generate 42,100-horsepower at DeCew Falls and pay \$30,000, or over 75 cents per horsepower to the Dominion Government. Other water powers under crown lease in Ontario show a rental charge from 25 cents to \$1 per horsepower.

It is a malicious argument because it seeks to play upon the emotions of the people against small ones, and asserts that the province is seeking to tax these urban users for some value they do not get.

Refuted by Facts.

Any such argument is absolutely refuted by a reference to the facts of the case. Indeed, it shows, as in many other cases which reveal similar errors,

neous claims, that the injustice works the other way. For the big power users have been getting their power almost rent free, and have been enjoying the fruits of a service that has been paid for and made possible by the exchequer of the whole Province of Ontario.

For Ontario has spent to date \$1,700,000 for the hydro commission, not one dollar of which has been returned or charged against the commission.

Further, Ontario guaranteed all the commission's bonds, which enabled money to be obtained at a low rate, a saving of at least 1 per cent, or a total of over one million dollars to the users of hydro power, reckoning the hydro investments at only one hundred millions.

What Would Happen?

Let us suppose that this big ditch fails to develop the power expected. Should the lessened power production be charged with the overhead of the whole cost by having it written off in the service charges over a series of years? Would our friends who argue that they are paying the whole costs of hydro power so willing to follow up their logic to that extent? Undoubtedly the province is bearing, and is bound to bear, a big proportion of these costs without hope of final redemption.

Therefore the specious reasoning of special beneficiaries fails to the ground. Justification is, on the same division, given to the non-users for their contention of a tax that will help to defray the costs of hydro extension into those parts where costs are prohibitive.

Sir Adam Beck inferentially agrees to the justice of the claim when he advocated as he did, and to which Farmers' Magazine entered a serious protest in its March 31 issue, that the farmers be granted a quarter of a million from the consolidated revenue funds for this purpose.

We condemned the proposal because it placed the farmers in the position of beggars, and it apparently, for a purpose, drew a herring across the trail. In that this proposal sought to make it out that it was only the farmers and not the urban people who were objecting to the present methods. Quite the contrary prevails, for over 72 per cent of the urban centres, the smaller cities, the town and the villages will stand to gain, and that of a right, not by grace.

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF OVAL AT QUEEN'S PARK BEING USED BY ATHLETES

Western Fair Board Has Stringent Rules Governing Use of Grounds.

Alderman George Wenige believes that the oval encircled by the race track in the Western Fair grounds should be turned into an athletic grounds. He brought in a motion to this effect before No. 1 committee of the city council at a meeting on Wednesday, but also claiming for the privileges. These proposals were:

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SATURDAY--Last Day of Month--Brings Great Sale Events

The many sales for tomorrow, and the prices listed have not been equalled for a long time. This is the turning point of the spring season with us, and the many opportunities offered will be appreciated by early shoppers Saturday.



Clearing of Street Dresses, \$14.50

A group of 50 dresses, odd lines, picked from the racks where sizes are broken, one or two of a line, comprising fine Wool Serges, Jersey and Tricot, in colors of navy, brown and black. All sizes in the lot collectively, not every size in each style, but a good selection in each size. See these early. Sale price \$14.50

Millinery Specially Featured at \$4.98

A grouping of very smartly Trimmed Hats will be found on the sale tables tomorrow at above price. About 50 hats in the lot, suitable for misses as well as matrons. Strictly no two alike. Smart suit hats, as well as large dressy hats. Hand-made hats of straw braid, combined with georgette and taffeta, as well as large dressy models of hand blocked lisse, tagel braid and mohair. Off the face hats, chin chins, drooping sailors, pokes, turbans and tricorns. Colors of squirrel grey, henna, navy, jade, brown, cherry and black. Trimmed with flowers, ribbons, fruits and feather novelties. Special Saturday \$4.98



Interesting Specials in Linen Section

Saturday specials this week are particularly interesting. The values are most attractive, and all numbers on sale are needed merchandise, marked at a great reduction in prices. Shop early and secure best selections, as quantities are limited.

LARGE SIZE GLASS AND TEA TOWELS, 25c EACH.

You have not had an opportunity in many seasons to buy a good size useful towel for as low a figure as featured here Saturday. Fifty dozen in the lot. Red and blue check, also typed kitchen. Size 21x31 inches. Special 25c each

IRISH EMBROIDERED PILLOWSLIPS, 98c EACH.

Lovely quality linen finished cloth, with good embroidery and hemstitch edge. These are wonderful value at a big saving. Very special 98c each

ROLLER TOWELS, 49c EACH.

Washed finish, ready to use, absolutely free from filling. Another lot for Saturday, 10 dozen only. Fine quality cotton, red border. Very special 49c each

2 YARDS WIDE TABLE DAMASK, \$1.98 YARD

Grouped for Saturday only at one-third off to nearly half price. 68 and 72-inch fine Irish and Scotch mercerized damask. Your choice of any number in stock, for one day only, at this price. Very special \$1.98 per yard

At Toilet Counter

Lifebuoy Soap, Price.....3 for 25c

Palmolive Soap, Price.....3 for 25c

Oriental Bath Tablet, Price.....2 for 25c

Pond's Vanishing Cream, in jars or tubes, Price.....50c

Pond's Cold Cream, in jars or tubes, Price.....50c

Powder Puffs, in all sizes, in colors flesh or white, ranging from 10c to 30c each

—MAIN FLOOR—

Laundry Soaps

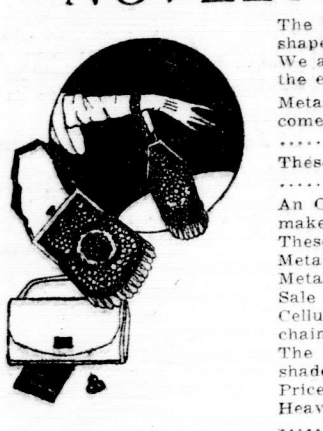
GOLD, P. & G. SUNLIGHT

12 cakes for \$1.00

6 cakes for 50c

—BASEMENT—

NOVELTY BAG FRAMES



The newest Novelty Bag Frames are now shown in many shapes and colors. A smart bag can be easily made from these. We are now displaying some of these styles made up, showing the effect.

Metal Purse Frames, with the new bracelet handle, which comes in round or oval, having mirror in the top. Prices \$2.50 and \$3.50 each

These also come in similar style with chain handle. Prices \$1.75, \$2.50 and \$3.00

An Oxidized or Green Gold Metal Frame that widens out to make the bag more roomy, with chain or bracelet handle. These are priced at \$2.50

Metal Purse Frames in oxidized only. Special \$1.50

Metal Purse Frames in Oxidized or Green Gold, to open square. Sale price 50c

Celluloid Purse Frames in Shell and Grey, with metal clasp and chain. Price \$1.50

The very smart Honey-Dew Bag Frames, in all the newest shades. These are also celluloid, having a mirror set in top. Price \$1.50

Heavy Quality Celluloid Frames, with handle to match. Price inches 25c yard

SALE OF BOYS' SUITS \$9.95 SATURDAY

One hundred Boys' Suits on sale Saturday morning at \$9.95. These Suits are an exceptional value at this price. Wool tweeds that will stand the hardest kind of wear. Smart new models. Mothers should take advantage of this sale tomorrow. It affords an unusual opportunity to save much on the boy's summer suit. Be sure and see these. For boys \$9.95 7 to 18 years. Sale price

GABARDINES

Single and Double-Breasted Models, with or without belts. Raglan or set-in shoulders. Medium, light and dark tan shades. Sizes 34 to 44.

\$18.50, \$27.50 and \$29.50

NEW TOPCOATS

Another group of these popular slip-on coats has just arrived. Featuring the new Lovat Checks. Covert Cloths (Venetian finish), all handsomely tailored. For motoring and a general utility coat they are just the thing. In all sizes.

\$27.00, \$45.00 to \$60.00

Men's Balbriggan Combinations, \$1.25

Well made, fine cotton Balbriggan Combinations, short sleeves and ankle length. Sizes 34 to 44 \$1.25

Boys' Jerseys 44c

Boys' Cotton Jerseys, fine quality. Zimmer-Knit, with white trimmings. Cardinal, brown, blue, white. Long sleeves. Sizes 22 to 34. Sale price 44c

Boys' Balbriggan Combinations, 95c

Fine Egyptian Cotton, short sleeves, knee or ankle length. All sizes. Special price 95c

Athletic Combinations, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00

Nainsook, Dimity and other cool fabrics in Arrow, Forsyth and W. G. & R. athletic combinations. Sizes 34 to 46. Priced at \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00

Men's Full Ribbed Combinations

Spring needle weave, cool, well tailored underwear, short sleeves and ankle length. Special at \$2.35

Boys' Blouses 89c

Good wearing materials, in neat patterns, for boys of all ages. Special 89c

Sale of Knitted Ties, 45c; 3 for \$1.25

Bar stripes and novelty weaves. In Fibre Silk Knitted Ties. These are ridiculously low in price for such ties. Saturday, 45c; 3 for \$1.25

Pure Silk Socks, 55c.

(SECONDS) Black and Cordovan, shades only. All sizes. The imperfections in these are very slight. Special Saturday 55c pair

DESIGNER AND SUMMER QUARTERLY. NOW IN. Subscribers please call for your copy.

SMALLMAN & INGRAM LIMITED

SALE OF EMBROIDERIES AND FLOUNCING THIS WEEK

C. S. E. T. GROUPS TOTAL POINTS WON IN TESTS

Results of Examinations to Be Announced Soon.

The Trail Ranger and Tuxis boy groups in the city are summing up their work in the efficiency tests of 1920-21 in order that the results for the efficiency trophies may be announced.

Twenty-six Tuxis groups competed in the following tests: Average Sunday school attendance, average church attendance, average mid-week attendance, average number of badge won, average number of boys chartered in the fourfold boy life advancement and the average number of points obtained in the C. S. E. T. athletic tests. The Trail Rangers participated in the same tests, excepting the average number of boys chartered in the fourfold boy life advancement.

The Dundas Centre Methodist Church Nikator Club won the Tuxis trophy for 1919-20, and it is expected it will remain with them this year. A new cup for the Trail Rangers has been donated by W. J. Wray & Co., and is on exhibition in the store at present.

If you require a messenger boy don't put a card in your window, but use an advertisement in The London Advertiser. An advertisement of fifteen words will only cost 30c.

HOLD BACK WOOL CROP. MELBOURNE, Australia, April 28. —Reviewing Australia's economic position today in a statement to the House of Representatives, Premier Hughes said the Government recognized the necessity for economy, but that he would not vote for curtailing of the expenditures for defence unless assurances were forthcoming in respect to the Pacific. The premier advised the keeping of the 1921 wool crop off the market until the present accumulations were sold.

Shave With Cuticura Soap The New Way Without Mug

Ma says one of the "Seven Wonders" is my appetite for POST TOASTIES (Superior Corn Flakes)

