

CONFERENCE ON ELECTRIC COSTS

A conference to discuss the report of H. B. M. Kenist, of the department of the interior, Ottawa, in regard to the cost of manufacturing electricity in this city from steam, was held on Saturday afternoon in the office of Mayor Schofield. Besides the mayor, others present were the city commissioners, Hon. W. E. Foster, C. O. Foss, of the N. B. Electric Power Commission, and K. H. Smith, of the N. S. Power Commission. Before the conference closed, L. R. Ross, president of the N. B. Power Company, was called in for consultation. There are so many different phases to the report that it is expected that several meetings will have to be held before any definite conclusion is arrived at.

The report, which is most comprehensive and voluminous, showed that power station operations of the company in 1920 totalled \$228,910, which is 2.8 cents per k. w. h. or \$39 per horse power year. Compared with this, hydro-electric power is expected to cost, according to the amount used, from 1 to 1.5 cents per k. w. h. plus \$48,000 the first year to maintain a steam standby plant. This plant would have to be maintained for use in case of emergency. In Calgary, a city about the same size as St. John, hydro-electric costs 44 cents per k. w. h. or \$33 per horse power year. At Toronto it costs \$18 per h. p. year and at Windsor \$88 per h. p. year.

The New Brunswick Power Company now generates approximately 6,000 horse power a year, which is the full capacity of its plant, at a cost of \$228,910. The hydro-electric development will furnish from 10,000 to 11,000 horse power at an annual cost of about \$180,000, being interest, sinking fund on the capital expenditure and maintenance. It is estimated that if the city distributed this power it would cost \$600,000 for a distribution system, which would mean an annual charge of approximately \$50,000 for interest and sinking fund, which would wipe out the difference between the cost of steam and hydro power.

Electric Lighting Costs.

The report says in part that the investigation indicates that little prospective advantage to the user of electric light. It has been shown that if hydro-electric power is simply supplied in bulk to the power company at even a very low price there would be under the present conditions but little benefit to any consumer, either of light or power. It has also been shown that the greatest benefit to the city as a whole will accrue from cheap power rather than cheap light. It appears impossible to secure both, Mr. Kenist's report indicates, if the present light and power undertaking is to be maintained. If it is not maintained there would be no steam standby for security of the lighting service. If competition put the present company's electrical department out of business the company would certainly be unable to continue the street railway and gas departments, since these are now being operated at a considerable loss. The whole position, therefore, is clearly one in which it is not possible for every one to benefit and the best solution, the report says, would appear to be a just compromise based on the maximum advantage to the city as a whole.

Another section of the report advocates, among others, the following course that might be pursued:

"A supply to the company for distribution on its system to lighting and

small power users, thus taking full advantage of the existing distribution system and giving a security of a steam standby for the lighting system.

"A supply direct by the power commission or the city to the larger power users. This would involve only a simple and comparatively inexpensive distribution and the cost of power could be a minimum instead of its having to carry heavy charges detailed above."

Separate Circuits.

Another paragraph of interest in the report was the following: "It appears quite possible that some satisfactory arrangement might be made with the company on the basis of its separating its lighting and power circuits, maintaining the steam standby for the lighting only and charging it to lighting only, and supply power to all motor users at the cost price of the hydro-electric supply plus a fixed and agreed percentage for the use of its circuits and the maintenance thereof and for administration and general purposes."

In conclusion, the report contains the following summary:

"The common stock of the company has not been taken into account in any of the calculations or conclusions."

"The company gave every possible assistance to facilitate the investigation."

"The total cost of power production in 1920, including capital charges, administration and office expenses, was 2.8 cents per k. w. h. generated, or \$39 per horse power year."

"The average cost delivered to consumers was 5.8 cents per k. w. h. sold."

"The average price received, including the street railway, was 6.1 cents, excluding the street railway, 8.5 cents."

"The cost of maintaining the steam standby plant only would be approximately \$68,000 per annum."

"The cost of hydro-electric would be 1.34 cents, plus the cost of the steam standby plant, .522 cents, total of 1.866 cents."

"Under the present conditions, the only possible saving due to the purchase by the company of hydro-electric power will be the cost of operating the power station, since all other costs will remain practically the same."

"It follows that each ten per cent reduction in the maximum price for hydro-electric power, i.e., 1.866 cents, would, if allowed pro rata to the consumer, only

give a reduction of 1.6 per cent on the present average charge.

Benefit From Cheaper Power.

"The greatest benefit to the city as a whole will come from lower power rates rather than from lower lighting rates."

"If the maximum is to be gained from the new source of power the question of the division of the lighting and power circuits should be very carefully considered."

"The company's existing circuits will not be able to carry a large increase of power (motor) load without large additional expenditure."

"The suggested method of securing the greatest benefit: By supply entirely through the company, by supply through the company and partly by the city or the power commission."

"Attention is called to the possibilities that would be created by the supply of cheap power as shown by comparisons with other cities possessing it."

"The peak load of the power company in 1920 was 3,760 horse power. The private power plants in St. John and district use an additional amount of power of approximately 12,000 horse power."

"This is some indication of the large field available for cheap power."

Mayor Schofield pointed out that one consideration that was not taken into account in the report would be the conservation of coal by the use of hydro-electric power. This saving would be quite an item.

Big Havana Bank Fails

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Havana, April 10.—The Banco Nacional de Cuba suspended payment yesterday. The doors remained closed, the bank taking advantage of the liquidation law recently adopted by congress.

The institution has been in difficulties since the drop in sugar prices which caused the recent financial crisis in Cuba. It was formerly fiscal agent for the government and according to reports in usually well informed circles, owes the national treasury about 20,000,000 pesos.

AWARDS \$30,000 FOR FOOT.

Jury Gives Boy \$25,000 and Father \$5,000 for Auto Injury.

A jury before Supreme Court Justice Finch awarded \$25,000 to Vincent Albano, six years old, of 509 West Forty-first street, New York, and \$5,000 to his father, yesterday, in a suit against the J. F. Tapley Company, book publishers of 381 West Thirty-seventh street. The boy was sitting on the curb near his house one night last August when the defendant company's automobile started after the driver had left it and ran over the boy's foot, cutting it off at the ankle.

The testimony showed that the chauffeur left the power on and the machine ran into a brick wall 500 feet away and stopped. The boy was in a hospital for eight months. The defense was that the truck was started by children.

On Saturday evening members of the Star theatre staff gathered at the home of the manager, A. B. Farmer, in honor of Mrs. Harry McDonald, who had been forced on account of ill health to resign her position as pianist of the Star, which she had held for several years. During the evening a cut glass vase was presented to Mrs. McDonald on behalf of the staff of the theatre. S. U. Buchanan, the well known local tenor, sang many delightful selections.

A BOND FOR \$100
\$100 or more invested in a "Canada Permanent" Bond for ONE YEAR will earn interest at FIVE PER CENT. per annum, payable half-yearly. A higher rate is paid on longer term investments. Interest begins the day the money is received, and the Bond will be made to become due on any date the investor desires.
The Bonds are issued in small sums and for short terms to enable those of moderate means to obtain a high-grade security yielding a fair return and still have their funds available within a reasonable time. Small amounts should not be allowed to remain idle when they can be employed to such good advantage as by investing them in these Bonds.
The Corporation has been issuing these Bonds for nearly half a century. They are a first charge against its assets, which amount to over \$38,000,000.
Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation
New Brunswick Branch, 63 Prince William St., St. John, N. B.
ESTABLISHED 1855

Head Office Changes Address
On and after March 28th our Head Office, formerly at 136 St. James Street, Montreal, will be located at
171 St. James Street,
MONTREAL, QUE.
JOHNSTON AND WARD
105 Prince William Street,
ST. JOHN, N. B.

GREEK GIFT TO BRITAIN.
London, April 11.—The Greek White Cross Society, which was organized to provide marriage gifts to daughters and sisters of Greek soldiers who gave their lives for their country, has signified in a notable way its appreciation of the British soldiers who died while serving with the Salonika Army during the war.
Through M. Spiros Matsoukas, its founder and president, the society placed in the hands of the British Ambassador at Athens a sum representing 21,612 12s 10d, with a request that it should be distributed in marriage gifts to the daughters of British soldiers who died on the Macedonian front. The gift has now been transferred by the Treasury to the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation has decided to distribute it in sums of £22 to daughters married their father's death.
The passengers, under quarantine on Partridge Island, were all well according to reports received last night. A service was conducted yesterday by a Rumenian priest for the Roman Catholics amongst the passengers. The priest is one of the passengers under quarantine on the island. He is unable to speak English and he conducted the service in his own language.

RSE INVESTMENT SERVICE
Fraser is to New Brunswick
what steel is to Sheffield — the "Key" industry. For more than forty years it has bulked larger and larger in the industrial development of the Province.
Its extension may be judged from the fact that in three years its output has risen from \$3,000,000 to \$10,000,000 per annum; the number of its employees from 3,000 to 7,000; its wages and salaries from \$2,250,000 to nearly \$6,000,000. To-day it is New Brunswick's largest industry.
Now, it is said in Sheffield that "there is always gold for steel," meaning that Sheffield people are always ready to invest their money in the basic industry of the city.
In the same way, because of the magnitude of the Fraser enterprise and its importance to the Maritime Provinces, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia money should have as large an investment interest in the Company as possible.
The 8% Bonds of Fraser Companies, Limited, which we are now offering at 99 and interest, to yield 8.10%, are a sound and highly attractive investment.
Write now for prospectus and full particulars.

Royal Securities Corporation LIMITED
24 64 Prince William Street - ST. JOHN, N.B.
Montreal Toronto Halifax Winnipeg Vancouver
New York London, Eng.

Save the exchange charged for U. S. dollars
Save the import customs duties
Buy
RUGGLES TRUCKS
Made in Canada by Canadians
Municipalities, merchants, farmers, and manufacturers should investigate the
RUGGLES standard line of Motor Trucks

STANDARD UNITS
Continental Red Seal Motors
Clark Internal Gear Rear Axle
Brown-Lipe Transmissions
Stromberg Carburetors
American Bosch Magnets
Extra Heavy Hydraulic Pressed Steel Frames
Alemite Force Feed Lubrication

STANDARD MODELS
RUGGLES Model 3, 1½ Ton, Chassis, Seat and Solid Tires - \$2,845
RUGGLES Model 4, 2½ Ton, Chassis, Seat and Solid Tires - \$3,695
RUGGLES Model 5, 3½ Ton, Chassis, Seat and Solid Tires - \$4,875
F. O. B. LONDON, ONT.

RUGGLES 1 Ton Rapid Delivery \$2,300
F.O.B. LONDON, ONT.
equipped with standard express body, canopy top, pneumatic cord tires, electric lights, electric starter and horn, full length running boards and rear mud guards

"There's a RUGGLES for every purpose"
21
RUGGLES MOTOR TRUCK CO., LIMITED, LONDON, CANADA
Canada's Largest Exclusive Truck Builders

Durable Economical Clean
Bedroom Floor Covering
Make Your Rooms More Attractive
Linoleum, Floor Oilcloth and Feltol offer you a most economical and easy way to replace shabby and worn-out rugs or to cover up old floors. Every room can be made beautiful and attractive.
LINOLEUM
Floor Oilcloth and Feltol
lighten housework—for they are easily kept clean by use of damp cloth. They are sanitary, for their hard surfaces will not harbor germs. They are springy to the tread and quiet. Their low first cost and their durability make them the most economical Floor Coverings.
Right now Linoleum, Floor Oilcloth and Feltol may be purchased at lower prices than have prevailed for years. Your dealer will gladly show you a large range of designs as well as a wonderful choice of Rugs of Linoleum and Floor Oilcloth.
To-day it is important in order to give employment to Canadians that you insist upon getting Made-in-Canada Goods. Be sure, therefore, that you get Floor Coverings that are made in Canada by Canadian workmen to suit Canadian climatic conditions.
What Linoleum is
Finely ground cork, scintillatingly combined with linseed oil, embedded in a base of selected burlap, makes the most durable of sanitary washable floor coverings. Wears like iron.
What Floor Oilcloth is
Selected pigments are applied, layer after layer, to burly burlap. Pattern is then printed and surface coated with wear-resisting varnish.
What Feltol is
A new process felt base floor covering made under a similar process to Floor Oilcloth. Most moderately priced sanitary floor coverings.
For sale at all leading Dry Goods Houses, Departmental Stores, Furniture, House Furnishings and General Stores throughout Canada.

