

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 30, 1922.

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KEEP TO THE ISSUE

The Standard would have the citizens believe that the New Brunswick Power Company will distribute the Musquash current at 6.22 cents per kilowatt hour. A more dishonest propaganda could hardly be undertaken. The power company has made no statement as to the price it would charge, although invited over and over again to do so.

The 6.22 cents is the price at which Messrs. Kirby and Phillips say the company could distribute the current if it were content to pocket the loss on its street railway and gas plant and deprive some of its preference stock of dividends. These gentlemen point out clearly that to come off with a whole skin the company would have to charge 10.17 instead of 6.22 cents. Does the company say, or the Standard on its authority, that it is ready to lose the difference and give the people the current at 6.22 cents? Not at all.

But there is more to be said. Is not the New Brunswick Power Company's distribution system carrying its peak load now? If the market for electric current is to be expanded, must not the system be enlarged and improved? For its street railway the company needs more equipment and other improvements. The whole would involve a very considerable expenditure. What kind of a deal with the city in that regard would the company want? The moment the city council begins to think about doing business with the company it must face conditions which would tie the city up to the company for years to come, without any assurance whatever of getting the full benefit of the Musquash development.

Consider on the other hand the prospects under civic distribution. The present market for electric current, apart from the street railway, is 4,900,000 kilowatt hours. If the city buys 10,000,000 kilowatt hours from the hydro-electric commission, at the substation at Fairville, it can sell the 4,900,000 kilowatt hours at 6.88 cents and have at least an additional 8,000,000 to give away if it desires. We are told that it cannot sell the 4,900,000 kilowatt hours at the outlet because the power company is in the field as a competitor. This is quite true, but how long would the company be an effective competitor? Moreover, the moment cheap light and power are offered, the market will begin to expand. To doubt this statement is to show an utter lack of faith in St. John. When the city is able to sell 8,000,000 kilowatt hours it can make the rate four cents. What the power company ever give a four cent rate? The figures given by Messrs. Kirby and Phillips show that if any citizen believes it will sacrifice the difference between 10.17 and 4, he is due to have his head examined.

Nobody contends that the city can at once dispose of all the electric current it can buy. That would be a most foolish assertion; but, given the supply and a low rate, the market would rapidly expand, the city would get more industries, and the grip of the power company upon the city would be broken.

It is quite useless for the power company or the Standard to try to create an impression that the agitation for cheap light and power has its source in the dislike of anybody for the power company. The company does not figure in the case at all. It is a matter between the city of St. John and the hydro-electric commission. Anything the power company may have to say is worthy of polite attention, but the interests of the people are the issue at stake.

THIS IS AWFUL.

Mayor Schofield and his colleagues at City Hall have suddenly become a gang of desperadoes, in the opinion of the New Brunswick Power Company. The Standard views the horror with which the long-suffering company has made this startling discovery. The mayor and his gang are seized with "sanguinity." They are red. They are bloodthirsty gentlemen out on the trail of a gentle and law-abiding corporation. They are determined to loot the company and get away with the swag, and in order to evade punishment they seek legislation at Fredericton to give the color of legality to their acts of spoliation. Premier Foster is an accessory before the fact, and in league with the gangsters, for in the legislature "he announced his intention of moving next Wednesday to suspend the rules to enable a bill relating to the N. B. Power Company to be brought in."

It is not stated whether the mayor and commissioners are after that \$2,000,000 of common stock or the gas plant, but their conduct is so reprehensible that the Standard can hardly contain itself. The situation is grave. Here is a public spirited company preparing to relieve the city from the disastrous necessity of accepting cheap light and power, and its benevolent intentions are like to be frustrated. Really, the mayor and commissioners should reflect upon the possible results of their freebooting policy. What would happen to this unhappy city if they alienated the affections of the power company?

THE MENTAL DEFECTIVES

Hon. Dr. Roberts has announced that a report of a mental survey of the province will be tabled in the legislature. In his address on Tuesday he pointed out how a lack of care for the mentally deficient is responsible for much vice and crime, for the spread of venereal diseases, and for a very heavy expenditure to keep up institutions for the diseased, the criminal and the hopelessly unfit. The remedy lies in dealing with mental defectives when they are young, and in accordance with the needs of each case, and in the establishment of an institution for the hopelessly feeble-minded, in order that they may be trained to the limit of their small capacity to be as nearly self-supporting as possible, and at the same time prevented from reproducing their kind. There are many grades of mentality and all cannot be treated alike, but only when we have learned to give some measure of intelligent care to these unfortunate will we be doing our duty to society at large. In connection with this subject the following despatch from Vancouver is of timely interest and value:

"Out of every hundred persons in British Columbia, seven are imbeciles, thirteen are sub-normal, sixty are normal and twenty are brilliant, according to statistics submitted to the health bureau of the board of trade by Miss A. J. Dauphinee, supervisor of special classes in public schools here."

If in New Brunswick there is even one imbecile to every hundred persons, is it not obvious that one of the great needs of the province is an institution for such persons; and that all forms of mental disease should be discovered and recorded in childhood, in order that all defectives might be given proper supervision at home or under special care?

REDUCING THE DEATH RATE.

Dr. Roberts, medical health officer in the city of Hamilton, Ontario, made a statement before the board of health of that city last week to show what a well directed and continuous public health policy can do for a city. A report of his statement says:

"He informed the board that a comparison of figures between the years 1906, when he became medical officer of health, and 1921 showed there had been a great decrease in the death rate. In 1906, with a population of 61,648, the total number of deaths was 1,024. In 1921, with a population of 118,232, the total number was 1,472. Had the rate of 1906 prevailed the total number would have been 1,970. Similar figures could be produced regarding infant mortality. Taken from a financial point of view and capitalizing each person at \$1,000, the estimated saving was \$498,000, as the deaths have been reduced by 498, compared with the figures of 1906. But doctors, nurses and hospitals bills should also be considered, and with these included Dr. Roberts ventured to say that the saving was easily one million a year, to say nothing of anguish and tears. He thought the reduction in the death rate remarkable."

It is worthy of note that in the same statement Dr. Roberts reported that ninety-eight and one half per cent. of the city's milk supply was pasteurized and he would like to see the other one half a half per cent. similarly treated. The experience of Hamilton may be the experience of St. John. The death rate and especially the infant death rate may be largely reduced. Next week's case-finding campaign should do much to reduce within a short period the death rate from tuberculosis.

PROHIBITION OF GUNS URGED TO END CRIME

(New York Times.) Government control of firearms and of ammunition as one way to decrease crimes of violence was suggested yesterday by Supreme Court Justice Isaac H. Kapper in imposing a sentence in the Minnesota (L. J.) Court House. He criticized severely the present lack of restriction.

"Hardly a day passes," he said, "that we do not read of hold-ups and robberies by armed men. Pistols are the cause. The case with which the originally inclined obtain revolvers is the evil to which must be ascribed the prevalence of crimes of violence."

"Just so long as the gunman and highwayman can possess himself of a pistol just so long must we expect hold-ups, robberies and murders. The manufacture and sale of firearms which can be concealed upon the person should be stopped."

The Federal government can materially aid by an appropriate interstate commerce embargo. Pistols and their cartridges are no more a fit commodity for general sale than is the manufacture of poison. If pistols are useful and needful in police and army service, let the government alone manufacture and distribute them under the strictest control. I should say that, with this idea carried through, violent crime would shortly be materially lessened, and within a reasonable period of time would be substantially disappear."

Judge Kapper's opinion was delivered when he sentenced Pasquale Viola to not less than five years nor more than ten years in Sing Sing. Viola was convicted of manslaughter in the second degree, having shot and killed Joseph Coppillo last Christmas Day at Rockville Centre, L. I. Viola, a World War veteran, said Coppillo had taunted him with being a "sick man." Viola had tuberculosis of the lungs—adding that he could take the war veteran's wife away from him.

DAFFODILS

When I went out at peer of dawn,
And crossed the dewy hill,
The sun arose and tossed to me
A golden daffodil.

And at the highest pitch of noon,
As I passed o'er the plain,
The sun was there to give to me
A daffodil again.

And as I paused beside the gate,
Happy at toil's reprieve,
I saw between the quiet trees
A daffodil a eve.

And ere I drifted off that night,
Down placid slumber streams,
The round moon rose and flung to me
A daffodil of dreams.

CLINTON SCOLLARD
LIGHTER VEIN.

A doctor brought a dyspeptic farmer a big brown pill. "I want you to try this pill at bedtime," he said. "It's a new treatment and if you can retain it on your stomach it ought to cure you." The next day the doctor called again. "Did you manage to retain that pill on your stomach?" he asked eagerly. "Well, the pill was all right so long as I kept awake," said the farmer, "but every time I fell asleep it rolled off."

No Room For Her.

When the car left the terminus a very stout lady, clad in furs, was hanging on to a strap for dear life. A very small man, who was wedged in on the seat, struggled to his feet, and in quite the old-world manner offered his seat to the ample lady. Smilingly she thanked him, and then looking rather bewildered, said: "Thanks so much! But where did you get up from?"

Wonderful.

A school teacher who had been telling a class of small pupils the story of the discovery of America by Columbus, ended with the words: "and this happened more than 400 years ago!"

A little boy, his eyes wide open with wonder, said, after a moment's thought: "Oh, what a memory you've got!"

MUNICIPAL DISTRIBUTION AND THAT ONLY

(Contributed by Hardware Clerk's Association.)

Judging by the interest shown at the meeting recently held in the Pythian Castle, the citizens of St. John will stand for nothing but municipal distribution of the Musquash power, and any lengthy discussions showing how the power might be distributed through the Power Company will only be a waste of time, both for the hearers and the speakers. Too much time already has been lost by bringing up all kinds of questions that have done nothing but serve to delay activities. It is useless going back over ground already covered. It has been shown that by municipal distribution the citizens can secure lighting and power at a great deal lower than can be offered by the power company, and furthermore, every citizen knows that no private corporation can reduce its rates each year, and at the same time wipe out the capital charges and leave nothing but tip-keep costs for the consumer to pay for. It is up to the voters to support to the limit the candidates who have declared themselves heart and soul in favor of municipal distribution. The delay must be a start on the road of progress sometime, and now is the time. Vote only for candidates who are out and out for municipal power, and in this way our city will make a start to place itself on an equal footing with the western cities, so far as light and power is concerned.

The following has been published before, but it will serve to refresh our memories of what was done in Ontario during the war period, when all private corporations were increasing charges, but the municipalities were reducing theirs.

London.
1919—4.8 cents per k. w. h.
1914—4.8 cents per k. w. h.
1915—3.8 cents per k. w. h.
1916—2.8 cents per k. w. h.
1917—2.4 cents per k. w. h.
1918—2.4 cents per k. w. h.
1919—2.4 cents per k. w. h.
No wonder that the citizens of the Ontario towns are well satisfied with municipal distribution of electric current.

No wonder that the citizens of St. John are insisting that they be given the same opportunity to obtain cheaper light and power.

WATER MAINTENANCE.

At the close of 1920 we reported a surplus of \$38,000.00. This amount was by order of common council voted to reduce the general city assessment and was therefore not available for the purposes of the water department.

In January the common council ordered that instead of assessing for Sewerage and Fire Hydrant maintenance, the expenditures for these services, estimated at \$30,000.00, be a charge upon the Water Revenue.

Our estimated revenue was placed at \$28,000.00, a decrease of \$18,000 from previous year. After providing \$118,500 for interests and sinking fund (\$7,000 more than in 1920) and \$30,000 for sewerage and fire hydrant maintenance, the sum of \$84,500 was left for the maintenance of the water department, the cost of which in 1920 was \$102,400.00.

With the loyal co-operation of both inside and outside staffs and without reducing wages we reduced the general water maintenance expenditure from \$102,400.00 to \$82,113.00, making possible a surplus of \$2,387.03 from water revenue. After paying \$23,444.39 expenditure on sewerage maintenance and fire hydrants the sum of \$3,662.64 was available for general city purposes.

Receipts.
Assessment, 1921 \$123,168.23
George Moses, contractors for the above work, lost his life by an explosion of dynamite which had been stored in a shed erected near the highway bridge. A criminal enquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of the man was held in the court of the coroner. As a further result of the sad happening window glass in a dozen or more houses was shattered, which damage was promptly provided for by Mr. Moses. Under the terms of the contract the city was held free from any liability. Other expenditures chargeable to sewerage construction were as follows: Douglas avenue, \$42,111.88; Clarence street, west, \$64,443; Germain street, west, \$443.88; Water street, west, \$48,148; old Adelaide road, \$329.52. Sewerage Maintenance. Catch basins \$8,700.14 Main sewers \$7,849.19 General \$7,849.19 Fire hydrants \$7,849.19 After due consideration and with a view of centralizing the work of the department the office of the commissioner and staff was removed in July to the departmental building on Carleton street. The change has proved to be beneficial, inasmuch as a closer supervision and better co-operation has been possible. It also relieves the crowded condition of city hall.

YEAR'S WORK OF THE WATER DEPT.

Commissioner Jones Submits Sixty-sixth Annual Report to Council—Showed Surplus After Paying Cost of Sewerage and Water Maintenance.

Commissioner Jones has submitted the sixty-sixth report of the water and sewerage department, being for the year ended December 31, 1921, said in part—The most important work carried on during the year was the 86 inch reinforced concrete pipe from South Bay Road to Spruce Lake, a distance 21,704 feet. Besides the laying of the pipe Venturi Meters were placed and the service pipes along the line were renewed. The total expenditure to date and on account of this work is \$329,535.14. There still remains unpaid the sum of \$83,548.61 withheld from the contractors until acceptance by the city after satisfactory tests are made.

Much yet, however, remains to be done before it will be possible to get the full benefit from the expenditure already incurred. It will be necessary to lay a 24 inch pipe from Barnhill's corner to the reservoir and a smaller pipe from there along Prince street to Watson street as originally planned. This would complete the renewal of all the cement lined sheet iron pipe which cannot be depended upon much longer, and give west side practically a new system.

The other works done under bond issue during the year were as follows: Douglas avenue service pipes, etc., \$6,714.42; Winter street twelve inch main renewal, \$5,436.97; Celebration street twelve inch renewal, \$9,970.10; Harrison street ten inch main renewal, \$3,901.77; Prince William street sixteen inch main renewal, \$4,944.40; Tower street six inch main renewal, \$1,724.98; Old Adelaide road eight inch extension, \$1,237.47.

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Expenditures.
Labor and salaries \$ 82,113.00
Toursing car 860.00
Paints 1,022.27
Workmen's Compensation Board 2,000.00
Street repairs 892.83
County taxes 1,662.41
Sundry expenses 12,763.69
Sundry supplies 10,722.88
Interest and sinking fund 118,500.12
Prince William street sewer 1,019.28
Sewerage maintenance 20,741.98
Fire hydrants 6,808.78
Unexpended balance 3,662.64
\$282,546.72

Water Assessment. Summary for 1921.
North \$ 61,827.78
East 97,886.83
Simonds 478.03
West 14,451.90
Lancaster 11,607.69
Discount 7,888.18
Net Total \$183,394.97

On this assessment \$183,394.97 was paid to the close of the year. \$15,240.74 remaining unpaid, about 8-1-2 per cent. of the total. There was also received from arrears \$11,948.70, making total receipts from water assessment \$164,103.93 an increase of \$1865.60. The receipts from the sale of water by meters and agreements, including steamships supplied, were \$69,668.94 against \$72,845.54, a decrease of \$10,186.60.

Sewerage Construction. Twenty-five meters were installed and thirteen taken out. The following is a list of the number, kind and size of meters now in service:
Leading mains 3 6,181.39
Distribution mains 8,407.35
General 11,644.32
Service pipes 46,331.57
Interest and sinking fund 118,500.12
Prince William street sewer 1,019.28
Sewerage maintenance 20,741.98
Fire hydrants 6,808.78
Balance 3,662.64
\$232,546.72

The contract for deepening Newman brook and for building concrete arch was completed last summer at a cost of \$19,822.98, and at the present time the department of public works is filling in over the arch preparatory to the removal of the highway bridge crossing Adelaide street, thereby making possible a continuous street and the drainage of many acres of land and also serve as an outfall for the sewerage of Portland Place and of the Shamrock grounds, now owned by the city, through which two streets running north and south are protected. Metcalf, Victoria and Newman streets can also be extended from Adelaide street to the proposed streets, and sewerage via Newman Brook culvert.

Health Means Dollars and Cents to You

If you are losing weight, have frequent colds, tire easily, have slight hacking cough, indigestion, consult visiting specialists FREE at HEALTH CENTRES:

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On the 4th, 5th and 6th April.

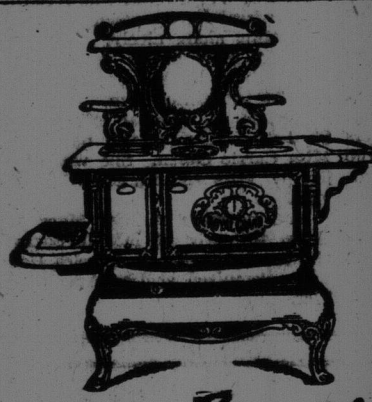
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LOCAL NEWS

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St. Luke's Church tonight, Rev. F. S. Dowling will speak to night.

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Robertson, Foster & Smith,
Philip Grannan, 565 Main St.
Duval's, 17 Waterloo Street.
Geo. W. Morrell, Haymarket Sq.
Quinn & Co., 415 Main St.
C. H. Ritter, 320 Main St.
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P. Naze & Son, Ltd., Indian town.
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