

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

THAT'S THE QUESTION DISCUSSED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITIZENS ON SATURDAY.

MR. MOFFETT PRESENT.—SUBMITTED A PRICE.—IT IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION.—SHALL THE WATERWORKS BE OURS?

A special public meeting was held in the council chamber on Saturday afternoon to confer with Mr. Moffett, the owner of the waterworks, regarding the terms on which the plant can be purchased.

In introducing that gentleman Mayor Taylor said: The question of buying the waterworks has occupied our attention for some time. On March 19th a committee met to consider it and adjourned pending a time when Mr. Moffett, who controls the sale, could be present. He is now here and we shall no doubt get from him much information for which we have been waiting. I shall not at this moment express any opinion as to the advisability of buying or otherwise, but will ask Mr. Moffett to lay before you any proposition that he may feel disposed to offer.

Mr. Moffett then spoke at some length and to the following effect: I received word from the chairman of your committee some time ago asking me to visit your town and discuss the sale of the waterworks plant. Twice at least I have been in this part of the province since then, and I have been unable to come to Lindsay on account of pressure of business, but I am glad to be here, and shall give you, as frankly as I can, such information as I think will best guide you in this matter. I am willing to sell this plant. I am not anxious to sell it. Its operation is now a matter of history. We built it six years ago. We built it well. Every part of it profited by our experience in other places. All was made full size and of best material. At the outset we had the ill-fortune to have some litigation with the town and felt considerably discouraged. At that time the Canada Life Assurance Company took hold of the plant. They held \$50,000 of our debentures and the Bank of Hamilton \$10,000. There was then made an offer to the town that would have been greatly to its advantage. The bank offered to discount their stock 50 per cent. We offered to cancel ours entirely and the Canada Life was ready to drop theirs several points, so that the price at which the works could have been bought was very low. It was, however, rejected. That time has gone by. We added \$7,000 in improvements and the plant now stands us at about \$70,000. I state this as a basis on which you can consider the offer I shall make. The reason I am not anxious to sell is because the works are now paying their way. At the outset, as in any undertaking, our revenue was light. Our takers were few. Soon we secured a \$1,000 contract with the G.T.R. and gradually our income increased till as I have stated we now pay expenses and interest on debentures, but as yet no dividend has been declared to stockholders.

Mayor Taylor—What rate of interest have you been paying?
Mr. Moffett—Six per cent. until recently.
Mr. Smyth—Is the interest all paid to date?
Mr. Moffett—Yes. The plant is now paying \$4,200 over expenses of running. That is a little more than the interest on \$100,000 at 4 per cent., a rate which you can secure. These figures can be readily verified by the books in our office here. My statement of first cost is according to an affidavit made by me before the attorneys of the Canada Life company and is thoroughly sincere and reliable. The works cost \$70,000. I shall ask you \$75,000 for them. I am willing to sell at that price. If I do not I shall go on operating them to the best of my ability. I am confident that I can make a little money out of them after this. Our service is increasing and I am now able to get money at 5 per cent. So that I am justified in expecting to make some money out of the plant. You can make more than I can. In the first place you will get a lower rate of interest than I can, and besides that you can increase your takers by having all wells in objectionable places filled up. That is done in other towns with a view to increasing the service. You now pay \$3,290 hydrant rental. If you buy for \$75,000 and get a 4 per cent. rate of interest you will pay \$3,000 a year. I am quite sure you can operate at \$1,000 profit. Taking that from the \$3,290 you are now paying and your service will cost you \$2,290 a year. As time goes on you ought to so increase your revenue that fire protection would not cost you anything.

Mr. Conolly—Does \$2,000 mentioned as expenses now include repairs?
Mr. Moffett—Yes; wages, repairs and all other expense.
Mr. Smyth—How long will a plant last?
Mr. Moffett—Experience shows that the plant proper is practically good for all time, say it any rate one thousand years. Parts of systems taken up after 35 years show no signs of deterioration.
Mr. J. D. Flavell—Does that apply to the stand-pipe?
Mr. Moffett—Yes, it will last for an indefinite length of time.
Dr. Burrows—The oldest one in America is as good as new.
Mr. Smyth—How about the boilers?
Mr. Moffett—They will certainly require to be repaired, and in a reasonably long time replaced by new ones. This applies to all the pumping machinery.
Dr. Burrows—The filters would have to be increased if our service expanded. The water is not fit to drink as it is. There is now too much ammonia in it.
Mr. Moffett—According to experts the water is fairly good, though not perfect. It makes a great difference what the source of the ammonia is.
[Here Dr. Burrows insisted at some length, and with sundry fanciable terms in chemistry, that our citizens imbibed more than water from the taps.]
Mr. Jas. Graham—Did the Canada Life actually pay \$67,000 for the waterworks stock held by them?
Mr. Moffett—Yes.

OUR DOOM PRONOUNCED.

French Statesman Foresees the Extinction of Native Americans.

Surely a Frenchman ought to be recognized as an authority on the question of a declining birth rate. France is the one nation where the birth rate has steadily decreased until at last the deaths outnumber the births. Since 1890 there has been an annual loss of something like 20,000 population in France. It is a Frenchman of science, Arsene Dumont, who predicts the destruction of the American people.

In the journal of the Paris Statistical society he reports the result of his study of the vital statistics of Massachusetts. In spite of the efforts made in New York and other states, it is an expending fact that Massachusetts alone collects trustworthy and comprehensive vital statistics, and it is on these that foreign statisticians rely for information as to the tendencies of American life. Yet Massachusetts is hardly representative. She has an uncommon proportion of foreign born people, and they are more absorbed in the manufactures than the people of other states. The proportion of the two sexes in that state is unlike the proportion of the west and south, and many important conditions are peculiar.

Mr. Dumont's study of the birth rate in Massachusetts is not encouraging as to the future of Americans. He says that marriages among "American born" reveal a steady diminution of the birth rate. The cause of this he finds in the principle of democracy. This develops individualism in each person to live his own life for himself, to obtain all the pleasure there is in life, whether intellectual or material. He maintains that as they do not propose to miss the chances of personal development Americans or any republican people will not burden themselves with children. He says there is a poison in republican civilization, and the more intense republicanism becomes, the more acute individualism is. Eventually, he asserts, this must destroy the race and its culture. He says republics might escape this fate if they would submit to the rule of science.

It is strange that a French scientist should dwell on the declining birth rate of Massachusetts and make no mention of that of his own country. At the beginning of the century there were 33 births for each 1,000 of population in France. In 1850 it had declined to 27, and in 1895 to 23. At the same time the birth rate of Germany and Austria remained at 38; that of England at 37, and that of Italy had increased from 37 to 38. The great German general throughout France, and Mr. Borillon says it means the disappearance of the French people.—Washington Star.

Have Helped Thousands.
Few people realize the volume of business transacted through the want columns of a newspaper. It is to the great public what the exchange is to the financial world. Thousands obtain employment annually, find business chances, meet men with whom they afterward engage in lucrative business, and in a thousand other ways benefit themselves through the expenditure of a very small sum. The little ads. are tireless toilers for every department of life. Some poor man or woman in need of employment reaches them, and a little want ad. is inserted in the paper. It meets the eye of someone who is seeking just such a person, and as a result employment follows.

The little three lines or more of print talks to thousands. Perhaps the business man desires to employ a man or woman. He has no other method of reaching them except through the want columns of a paper. He puts it in, and soon the place is filled, usually by a competent person, as there are always many to select from.

Thousands of people owe their place in life to these little creations of type. Because they are seen every day the world has come to realize their importance, but the past has proved them to be a friend of rich and poor alike—a herald of business to hundreds. John Wannaker, this country's closest student of advertising, is quoted as saying that the best position for a display advertisement in a newspaper is always closest to the want ad. page, for all the people read them.—Denver Times.

A Little Too Far.
"There is such a thing as overdoing your part," declared a man of the law who now has the knowledge gained by much experience.
"Shortly after I began practice in the west I was called upon to defend a man who had drawn a revolver on another and threatened to kill him. The accused did not have a character above reproach, but the prosecuting witness was also shady in reputation, and I made the most of this fact. I pictured him as a desperado of the most dangerous type, a man that was a constant menace to the community and one who would recognize no other law than that of force. Such men as he, I insisted, made necessary the organization of vigilance committees and injured the fair name of the west among the older communities of the country."
"The jury returned a verdict of guilty and my man was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. As soon as court adjourned the foreman of the jury came to me and said: 'Young feller, you spread it on too thick. After that there rip snortin' speech of yours we couldn't do nothin' else 'an what we done.'"
"I don't understand you, sir."
"You don't? Why, we found the damned gerloot guilty cause he didn't shoot."—Detroit Free Press.

Eminent Egyptologist—Have you deciphered that rare document we found in the pyramid?
Associate—No; it will never be deciphered, but we know what it is. It's a doctor's prescription, evidently dropped by an American tourist.—Philadelphia Record.

The tunnels of the world are estimated to number about 1,143, with a total length of 514 miles. There are about 1,000 railroad tunnels, 12 subaqueous tunnels, 90 canal tunnels and 40 conduit tunnels, with aggregate lengths of about 350 miles.

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—(On Tuesday of last week Freddie, the 6-year old son of J. W. Cowie of Oshawa, was drowned in a cistern, which had been left uncovered.

Free Medical Advice

You need a doctor many times when you don't call one. You suffer pain in fifty forms and yet won't call the doctor, because you hope that the pain "will go away after a while." And, too, you know by experience, that that first visit of the doctor is generally followed by many others, with their inevitable consequence of a big bill "for professional services." You don't know what to do for yourself or what to take.

Eminent Physicians

in the United States? You can. The physician is right here. He has an office in the building, he has a staff of correspondents to assist him, and anyone and everyone, who needs medical advice is invited to write to him. If it's his baby's health or mother's or the health of any member of the family you may write about it, sure of a careful reading of your letter, sure of a conscientious diagnosis of your case.

Sure of a Cure

If cure is possible. Every letter will be held as a strictly confidential communication. Remember these facts: We offer you medical advice from one of the most eminent practitioners in the United States, whether our medicines suit your particular case or not. We offer you this advice at the cost of the two cent stamp which it will take to bring your letter to our office. Address the Medical Department, Dr. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.



OLDENBURG, No. 223,

Will stand for service during the season of Monday night, Wednesday night, Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday, all day, Monday's Hotel, Lindsay.

OLDENBURG is a rich dark brown color, no white, stands 16 hands, strong, with in thin condition 1,400 pounds. Was bred by Cornelius Bros. of Garmisch, Germany. He was imported from Germany in 1891 by A. B. Heall of Greeley, Delaware county, Iowa. He stands on good sound feet, has broad, flat clean legs, beautiful head and neck, short coupled back, coupling into very long, strong, high knee and hock action, which is so necessary in a gentleman's carriage horse, and which when found in the market, combined with an otherwise a good horse, commands fabulous prices. The great German coach horse is probably the purest breed of horses in existence to-day, originating from the importations of the best Arabian stallions made by the German government more than three hundred years ago. All horses in Germany are under the supervision of the German government and must be inspected by the government inspector and if condemned by him must be castrated. The regulations consist of pure breeding, uniform and correct type, so that by the breeding of the best of horses the German government owns and supports at the present time a large stud of these horses and annually expends \$200,000 in the improvement of their horses. These horses have been bred so long in one line of pure breeding (over 300 years) that we must expect bred on all kinds of natures. After 15 years of close connection with these horses it has been our experience that they do this. Many of their half bred colts within the last 10 years have been shipped to Europe and sold at prices ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. Parties having colts to breed can make no mistake in using this grade high stepping speed coach stallion at the low fee for which he is offered.

OLDENBURG, No. 223, sired by Cornelius Bros. of Garmisch, Germany. Sire Magnet No. 1, Oldenburg St. R., dam Oldenburg State II, sired by Balust. For extension of pedigree refer to the German Hanoverian and Oldenburg Coach Horse Stud Book. TERMS.—\$10. Wm. McGill, Manager. W. J. Wroughton, Owner.

...Fire... Insurance

Risks accepted on good Town, Village and Farm Property in first-class companies at lowest rates.

R. C. CORNELL, 8 WILLIAM ST., MONEY TO LOAN.

REMEMBER

You can get such an education in BOOKKEEPING or SPORTSMAN and TYPEWRITING in from FOUR to SIX months at the Peterboro Business College

as will enable you to fill a good situation. This is being done every day at the P.B.C. For particulars address, PRINGLE & MCCREA, Business College, Peterboro, Ont.

CARTER'S

We are always after the overstocked manufacturer with cash; this explains the great secret of our Bargains.

BARGAINS, BARGAINS.

- Parasols—We have some very special lines to show you. All coverings are warranted by the manufacturer and the handles are so odd and pretty that they are sure to please you. Call early and secure first choice; they are here from 25c to \$4.00.
Ornate and Muslins—We have them in handsome designs and they are the latest production of English, French and American manufacturers and at prices that will make them move out quick. The following prices are special, 24c, 20c, 15c, 12c and 10c.
Prepare for the long warm summer by selecting a nice pair of Shirt Waists with detachable collar and cuffs in all the new and up-to-date patterns in Prints and Muslins. We have already repeated our order for these goods. We guarantee to fit any figure. The following 4 lines are special, \$1.25, \$1.75 and 2.00.
Just to hand 1,500 yards of 36 and 40 inch plain and fancy, two tone effect Dress Goods in black and colored. This lot was made to sell at 35c and 40c, your choice... 25c
Handsome Shot Check and Plaid Blouse Silks, bought at a great sacrifice, and to clear them out quick we offer them at 40c, 50c and 75c.
If you have not seen the Moore brand Print you should do so at once, over 25 inch wide, weight 4 1/2 oz. to yard, every piece guaranteed fast colors. Only to be had from us and the price is only 10c.
34 inch Grey Cotton... 3c
35 inch Steamloom... 5c
Plaid Gingham... 5c
17 inch Roller Towelling... 4c
Ladies' Black Cotton Hose... 5c
Ladies' Undervests... 5c
72 inch Mill Sheeting... 15c
Ladies' Plain and Fancy Belts... 10c
Ladies' Black and Colored Capes... 60c

TWO SPECIALTIES FOR DRESSMAKING NOW IN STOCK—FEATHERBONE and LIP DRESS BINDING.

M. J. CARTER, Lindsay, Ont.

ROBT. NEILL,

IF YOU WANT

Style, Comfort and Durability try a pair of R. NEILL'S BOOTS or SHOES. See Our Window for Holiday Footwear

ROBT. NEILL, Kent Street, Lindsay

Carter's Improved Mammoth Long Red Mangel.

There is no other root crop grown which produces so large an amount of desirable cattle food for winter feeding as the MAMMOTH LONG RED MANGEL. Over 2000 bushels per acre have been grown. To secure the best results good seed must be sown. Carter's Mammoth Mangel is exceptionally fine, being selected from well-shaped roots. Growers who have used it for years past prefer it to any other Long Red Variety. Has a distinct appearance, roots are massive, straight and regular in size, and of most excellent feeding and keeping qualities. For sale by

E. GREGORY, LINDSAY, BOWMANVILLE, OSHAWA

BRITTON BROS. JEWELERS and OPTICIANS, PRACTICAL WATCHMAKERS, ALSO OFFICIAL INSPECTORS OF WATCHES FOR G.T.R. TIME SERVICE. Waltham and Elgin... Watch Companies having reduced the prices of their Watches we have followed suit, and can supply these goods at prices lower than ever before. WE ARE Showing the LARGEST STOCK OF WATCHES ever shown in Lindsay. Inspect these goods. BRITTON BROS. OPTICIANS LINDSAY'S LEADING JEWELERS. What's the place for... FOR... BARGAINS... 10,14... 2,18 1-3... ANDERSON, AGENT & CO. Job Department