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10,4,19 T. J. STINSON

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may1

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Patrons of the Brigham telephone in Bentinck are warring against the company over the increased service rate proposed to be made. The Railway Commission has ratified the new rates, but a number of the users are having the phones taken out rather than to give the advance. In the telephone business, as well as in other lines, the cost of construction and maintenance have advanced since pre war times, but buyers of service never take kindly to increased charges. For a $15 service under the old schedule, the new rate will be $17.50. The war is now on, and while the discontent is general, there is no certainty as to who will remain out—Durham Chronicle.

A Sarnia preacher says that hell is right here on earth. But does he have to live in Sarnia?

BUSINESSCARDS

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PRINCE ARTHUR LODGE, No. 333, A.F.& A M, meets in the Masonic hall. Armstrong's Block Flesherton, every Friday on or before the full moon. Peter Muir. W. M R. G. Holland, Secretary.

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Hydro At Cost Means Costly Power

W. S. Murray, a prominent United States electrical expert, after investigation Ontario hydro and private producers of electricity in Canada, handed in his report to the American National Electric Light Association and this has now been made public. It is illuminating to the users of hydro in this province and gives rise to the query, why? How is it that private companies can produce electrical energy cheaper than our much-vaunted electricity at cost, publicly-owned hydro system? A Commission of Inquiry, such as is suggested, would probably discover an answer to this query.

In his report to the association, Mr. Murray expressed the opinion that the principles of public-owned utilities as applied by the Ontario Commission "could find no place" in the United States.

The private United States companies in the Niagara district, he found, are supplemented by steam power to a far greater extent than those in Canada, and yet furnish power forty per cent. cheaper to consumers than the Ontario systems. He also reported that consumers in the Province of Quebec obtained better service from private companies than people served by the Ontario commission at a cost of 32 per cent. less.

For 1920, the report said, "the average cost of power delivered to the customers of the Toronto Hydro Electric Power Commission was 25 per cent. greater than that to the people of Montreal, and was 25 per cent. greater than to the people of Buffalo.

The population served in the Canadian Niagara district he placed at 1,200,000, compared to 1,500,000 on the United States side of the border.

In his summary of conclusions, Mr. Murray said in part:

"Power is supplied in Ontario from the Government owned and controlled system in associate with the Hydro Electric Commission to be superior in kind to that supplied by the privatly owned electric utilities of the United States, must be more adequate, more reliable and cheaper. The facts show, however, that the electric utilities of the States hold more power in reserve and sell more energy per capita served, that by that token they can claim a greater reliability of supply and that the supply is cheaper to the consumer.

"The building of new power plant facilities under the auspices of Governmental ownership, as shown in the case of Nipigon and Chippewa, both in respect to policy and cost, is not to the economic interest of the people."

A considerable portion of the summary of conclusions consists of argument against ownership generally, and does not specifically refer to the Hydro Electric Commission, although the argument is based on Mr. Murray's investigation of that commission's system,

In the section of his report dealing with Quebec electric service, Mr. Murray says in part:

"The number of people within reach of Hydro-Electric service in Ontario is 1,180,300, while in the St. Lawrence Valley of the Province of Quebec this number is 1,100,000.

"The analysis shows that the average cost of power to the people of Quebec is 32 per cent. less kilowatt hour generated than the cost to all the people receiving Hydro-Electric power in the Province of Ontario, while it is 27 per cent. less than to the consumers in the Canadian Niagara district, whether they are served by Government or privately owned electric utilities.

"The private companies in Quebec deliver 84 per cent. energy per capita than does the Hydro Electric Power Commission to its consumers in Ontario, while the generating capacity available per 1,000 of population is greater by 89 per cent than that available upon the lines of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission in Ontario."

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Manure.

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Will sell any machine separate

—G. F. Brackenbury, Flesherton

Eugenia Plant Is Criticised

(Owen Sound Sun-Times)

There is a general feeling, that is becoming more or less chrystalized, that there should be a thorough investigation of the whole Eugenia power system with a view to making economies in the administration and operation of the power division For some time past the opinion has often been expressed that there is a great deal of waste in that plant, and that this waste is being reflected in higher costs for power to the municipalities concerned.

Some statements have been made recently that the Eugenia plant is very much over manned compared with the Orillia Power Plant for instance. It is also claimed that there are many experiments made that eat up a lot of money. A full investigation by experts, not in the employ of the Hydro, but favorable to public ownership, should be made at once. Almost every municipality connected with the Eugenia plant have had their rates raised, and there has been a natural desire to know why, and to have some real opportunity to talk the matter over with a view to effecting economies.

There is also a general impression that the officers of the Hydro Commission those men who direct the affairs from Toronto, are just a bit too arbitrary for men who are there to serve the people They are not put there to act as Czars, or battalion sergeant-majors, but to give service and give it with the greatest despatch.

There are frills in connection with the Eugenia plant that the users of power have to pay for, and that the said users are neither interested in nor parties to. The aperation of a pheasantry at Eugenia may or may not be chargeable to Hydro, but if it is the municipalities should know it. It would soon become a big bone of contention.

There should be an effort made to get all municipalities concerned to make a joint application for a general investigation with a view to eliminating waste, if there is any, and to have the plant run at the least possible outlay. If half the men could do the work, only half should be kept on the job.

AN INVITATION

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Feb 15 —T. J. STINSON, Prop

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