

Kirkland Lake's First Power Came from Plant at Charlton

T. Plowright, Northern Ontario Power Co. Describes How Lines First Came to Kirkland Lake; Outlines Entire Power Situation of Area

Mr. Plowright has visited frequently in Georgetown with Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Anthony, through whose courtesy this office obtained a copy of the Kirkland Lake Northern News, from which this is reprinted.

Kirkland Lake's first power came from a small plant located at Charlton, said Tom Plowright, of the Northern Ontario Power Company, addressing the Kirkland District Mining Electrical Association last week.

The Charlton plant was built in 1914 and was operated by Peter Parr and was taken over by the Northern Ontario Light and Power Co. in 1918 and kept in service until 1923.

At the Charlton plant there were two Swedish generators of approximately 1,000 horse power putting out 2,400 volts, and transmitting 11,000 volts to Englehart and 33,000 volts to Kirkland Lake. The Tough-Oakes Burnside mine was the only producer in the Kirkland Lake area at that time.

As the power load out-grew the capacity of the plant the company, in 1916, built its first power line from Cobalt to Kirkland Lake, a distance of 80 miles and costing approximately \$500,000, a big outlay for one small customer. The Cobalt area was then the main source of 60 cycle power.

Cobalt's First Power
Cobalt's first power, Mr. Plowright explained, was generated by gas by the Cobalt Light and Power Co. The first water power was established at Hound Chutes about 1908, and was followed in 1912 by the Matabichouan plant and the Fountain Falls plant in 1915. The power from these plants was transmitted to Cobalt, and to the Brady Lake sub-stations and from there to the various mines and towns. Mr. Plowright said two companies sold power in the early days and contracts were not signed until power was delivered at the point to be serviced.

This led to sharp competition and both companies, having competent line crews, two lines to one property would sometimes be under construction. The first to be in to the point to be serviced won the contract. It was also a standard practice in building sub-stations to provide what

was termed a "snake room" to accommodate the line crews.

In conjunction with supplying power, hydraulic air was also delivered to the mines in this area. Apart from air made at Ragged Chutes, four 500 cubic feet capacity compressors were maintained. Two were located at Cobalt, and two at Brady Lake. Pipe lines carrying the air ranged from six to twenty inches in diameter. Pressure available at the mines stood at 105 pounds.

The Ragged Chutes hydraulic air station was unique, the speaker said, in that it was one of two existing on this continent, the other being in British Columbia.

The shaft carrying the water pipes was 299 feet deep, the drift 899 feet high. Near the end of the drift was the air chamber. At the intake or collar of the shaft water passed through a number of pipes 48 feet in length. These tubes, or pipes, were operated by means of a hydraulic lift for the purpose of increasing or decreasing the chamber air pressure according to the varying heads of water.

Due to the decline in mining at Cobalt in 1927 a pulp mill was built at Halleybury to absorb surplus power. As Kirkland Lake grew the use of this plant terminated in 1929.

In 1923 the mining at Kirkland Lake was not very encouraging from the power viewpoint. So serious did this situation become thought was given to removing the lines and sub-stations

from the Kirkland area. But in 1924 a silver-lining began to show through the gloom and a second line was built from Cobalt to Kirkland Lake. In 1928 the first line was replaced by a heavier one. In this year, also, Indian Chutes were taken over from the Great Northern Power Co., and their lines serving two closed down mines in the Timmins section were dismantled and brought to Kirkland Lake. Kirkland Lake now had three lines of 60 cycle power supply. To meet further demands for 60 cycle power 25 cycle power was introduced. In 1927, and a converter was installed. Sub-station transformer capacity was also increased.

Mr. Plowright said it was late in 1927 when he reached Kirkland Lake and in that year it was a tough job to keep ahead of the power demands. "There was many a night I was ready to say goodbye to Kirkland Lake," Mr. Plowright said.

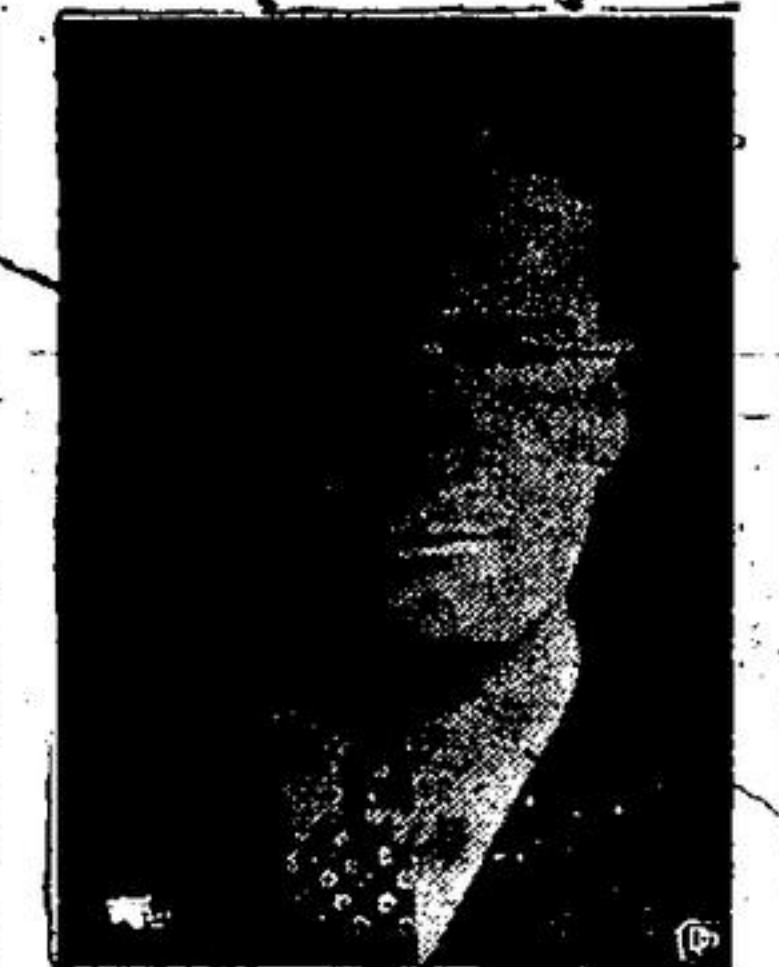
Problems Met
But the problems were met and he stayed on and watched Kirkland Lake grow, and with it the demand for yet more power. In 1932 a second 25 cycle line was projected and in 1934 a connection was made with the Hydro Electric Power Commission plant at Abitibi. Only last year two more converters were installed in the Kirkland Lake substation, thus increasing the converted power capacity another 5,000 horse-power.

Mr. Plowright gave a short description of the power plants serving this area and included Indian Chutes, Matabichouan, Fountain Falls, Hound Chutes, the two Cobalt sub-stations in the Timmins area four plants transmitting power to a central sub-station at Schumacher. The first plant in that area was at Sandy Falls, later a plant was located at Wawatlin, still later Lower Sturgeon was added, all on the Mattagami River. In 1924 the Quinze power plant came into service. Other plants described by Mr. Plowright were: the Upper Notch plant on the Montreal River, the Canyon Plant on the Abitibi, 170 miles from Kirkland as measured by the length of the power lines.

From this plant the first line was built through to serve Noranda and now extends far into Quebec's hinterland where it feeds five sub-stations delivering 12,000 volt power to consumers. In 1927 25 cycle power was brought to Kirkland Lake and the two were tied together by a synchronous frequency changer. Today there are four lines carrying 25 cycle power, and three lines carrying 60 cycle power to this municipality and its mines. "Few towns in Canada are as well assured of their power supply," Mr. Plowright said. In all, the nine power plants serving this area have an ultimate capacity of 100,000 h.p. In all, more than 1,000 miles of power lines make up the vast network that supplies the Kirkland Lake and adjacent territory

with power.

Mr. Plowright made one appeal to his audience. Due to the complications in operating and restoring interrupted services much time is lost answering central phone calls. "Every time an operator answers a call one or two minutes are lost. If those interested would wait from seven to 10 minutes before putting in a call much valuable time toward the restoration of services would be gained," he said.



E. G. BURTON

Who has been appointed Administrator of Retail Trade by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Mr. Burton is general manager of the Robert Simpson Company, Limited, of Toronto, and comes to his important post with a wide experience in the retail field.

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Treasurer's Sale Land for Taxes Town of Georgetown County of Halton

BY VIRTUE of a Warrant issued by the Mayor of the Town of Georgetown, bearing date of the 14th day of July, 1941, a sale of lands in arrears of taxes in the Town of Georgetown will be held at the Municipal Office in the Town of Georgetown at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon on the 28th day of December, 1941, unless the taxes and costs are sooner paid.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the list of lands for sale for arrears of taxes has been prepared and the said list may be seen at the Municipal Office, Georgetown, and the said list is being published in The Ontario Gazette on September 8th, 1941, one insertion only.

Notice is also given that it is the intention of the Council of the Town of Georgetown to purchase any of the said lands for which the amount offered does not cover the taxes and costs thereon.

Dated this 3rd day of September, 1941.

P. B. HARRISON,
Treasurer.

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STABILIZATION OF PRICES AND WAGES

Your Country asks your loyal support of this Wartime Measure

TWO NEW CONTROLS have now become essential in Canada's wartime design for living. These are:

(1) Control of Prices
Commencing November 17, 1941, there may be no increase in the prices of goods and services generally unless absolutely necessary and authorized by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

(2) Control of Wages
No employer, with certain limited exceptions, may increase the basic wage rates paid to his employees unless authorized by a Board on which the Government, employers and employees are represented. But after February 15, 1942, every employer with the same exceptions, will be obliged to pay a cost of living bonus and to adjust this bonus every three months.

Action Necessary to Stop Inflation
This Government action has been taken to prevent the inflation we knew in the last war, and its subsequent depression, unemployment and suffering.

Every housewife knows that prices are rising, and rising prices, unless controlled, will make it more costly and difficult to finance the war. Rising prices, unchecked, will spread confusion in industry and trade; will hinder production and proper distribution of supplies; will make the cost of living rise more rapidly than wages and salaries; will lessen the value of savings; will result in hardship for almost everyone, and especially those with small incomes. And the result of uncontrolled inflation, after the war, when prices drop, will again be depression and unemployment. Prices cannot be controlled without control of wages. Excess profits are, and will continue to be, under rigid control.

Coverage of Wages Stabilization Order
The Order is applicable to the following employers:

- 1—Every employer normally subject to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.
- 2—Every employer engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war, or war supplies, or the construction of defence projects.

- 3—Every building trades employer with ten or more employees.
- 4—Every other private employer with fifty or more employees.

The Order does not apply to employers in agriculture or fishing, or to hospitals, religious, charitable or educational associations operated on a non-profit basis.

Wage Provisions
Except on written permission of the National War Labour Board, no employer may increase his basic wage rates. This permission can only be given in cases where the Board has found the wage rates to be low. Wage rates which are unduly high will not have to be decreased, but in such cases the Board may order the employer to defer the cost of living bonus.

Cost of Living Bonus
Every employer covered by the Order must pay to all his employees except those above the rank of foreman a wartime cost of living bonus. Effective November 15, each employer already paying a bonus under PC 7440 of December 16, 1940, shall add to such bonus an amount based on the rise in the cost of living index for October 1941, above the index number used to determine the current amount of the bonus.

Effective February 15, 1942, each employer who has not been paying a cost of living bonus must begin to pay a bonus based on the rise in the index between October, 1941, and January, 1942, unless ordered by the Board to base the bonus on the rise in the cost of living over a longer period.

The bonus is calculated on the following basis: For each rise of one point in the cost of living the amount of the bonus shall be 25 cents per week, except for male workers under 21 years of age and female workers, who, if employed at basic rates of less than \$25.00 per week, shall receive a bonus of 1 percent of their basic wage rates. These bonuses will be adjusted regularly every three months.

Administration
The Order will be administered by five regional boards under the direction of a National War Labour Board. Labour and employers will be represented on each of these boards. Watch for the announcement of these boards to which inquiries concerning the application of the Order should be directed.

Whole-Hearted Support Required

Your Government knows that this policy, as it affects labour, industry, commerce, and agriculture, demands a degree of restriction to which Canadians are not accustomed, and is directly a wartime measure. It will demand self-discipline and self-control. It will need the whole-hearted support of everyone who has the well-being of his fellow citizens at heart. But by loyal co-operation, Canadians can have much more assurance that the fears, sense of insecurity, the suffering and profiteering which inflation always brings, will neither interfere now in the winning of this war, nor in the recovery and reconstruction of Canada and the Canadian way of living after the war is over.

Issued under the authority of
Hon. N. A. McLARTY,
Minister of Labour

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