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**NOTES AND COMMENTS**

Stouffville is to be congratulated on the life and energy shown by its Horticultural Society. We look for big improvements in the town again this summer as a result of the organization.

Tommy Church, M.P., and for many years Mayor of Toronto, alone held up in the House of Commons, the bill to increase the capital of the Bell Telephone Company. Now the Toronto Telegram is putting him in the class of heroes with the boy who stuck his finger into the hole in the Dyke and saved Holland.

The Town of Uxbridge through the municipal council, planted maple trees on all its streets last week, where old ones had died out, or in vacant places. This is an act worthy to be emulated in Stouffville. Our town would be more beautiful and inviting if more shade trees were planted. The council in co-operation with the Horticultural Society should take up the question of tree planting.

Taxes returned and uncollected in the town of Uxbridge, last year totals \$3,157 according to a return by the collector to the municipal council. This amount is unduly high for a small town of 1600 people. The situation indicates that too many people are unable to find employment in which they can earn a comfortable living or that the tax rate of 54 mills as imposed last year, was an undue burden on many of the citizens. This year, Uxbridge has been able to reduce the rate four mills.

The Financial Post recently printed figures to show that hydro electric power is being furnished in the Province of Quebec by privately owned companies, cheaper than it is furnished here in Ontario under public ownership. Following close onto this comes the announcement that electric light in Toronto is to be advanced in price, and the Commission is out, with big space in the newspapers, to show that they are justified in their action. They deal with every phase of the question excepting the vital one of "too much overhead." We haven't any doubt but that hydro electric rates in Ontario would be materially reduced to a figure below those quoted in the Province of Quebec if the overhead of the big Ontario Commission and the Toronto Commission were reduced to the same careful operating cost as the Quebec company maintains.

Whitby Gazette—In Gananoque, recently the Town Council engaged a firm of outside auditors who sent in a bill of \$1,373.73, and the Reporter the town's only newspaper, states that the only surprise about the audit was the bill, as only a few minor errors were pointed out, with no evidence of dishonesty in any particular. The town now faces a deficit of \$700 as the result of the audit, and of course it must pay. In previous years the town got its auditing done for less than half the amount charged by the auditors. The town of Whitby had a similar experience a few years ago, and while it is only fair to state that as the result of the auditors' report a more up-to-date book-keeping system in the municipal offices was installed, the bill, which was close on \$1000 was considered very high for the amount of value received.

Coming up from Toronto the other night, says Editor Duncan of the Wharton Echo, I blew myself to the luxury of riding in the chair car. It costs 70c. extra. In the smoking compartment beside myself were two young men and a young woman, I won't call her a lady. The three were smoking cigarettes. I do not fault the boys but the girl went down in my estimation 100%. Why? If it were O.K. for the boys, why measure the girl with a different yard stick? If it sounds like a fair question, doesn't it? Well, to be perfectly frank, yes, but somehow or other I can't.

I do not like thee, Mr. Fell  
 The reason why I cannot tell  
 But this I know, and know full well,  
 I do not like thee, Mr. Fell.  
 Anent to this question, I heard a sermon in the Presbyterian church a couple of years ago, by a former pastor. In the course of it, he made reference to some of the modern tendencies. In speaking of women smoking, he said it had no particular attractions for them, nor did they enjoy it, but do it for the reason that they think it so "devilish smart." And that's the truth of the whole matter.

**HYDRO ON THE FARM**

(continued from page 1)  
 pasteurization tank and a 1/4 h.p. motor on the bottle washing machine. Two hot water tanks were heated by electricity, in addition to other motors and its general use in the house and barns.  
 The farmer and rural dweller generally, according to F. A. Gaby, chief engineer of the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario, has become generally familiar with the uses and possibilities of electricity. At first he thought of it merely as a light-

ing agent, but now he sees its possibilities of greater service.

"The appliances", said Mr. Gaby, "that are so helpful to the city dweller, such as washing machines, irons, ans, etc. are of even greater help to the farmer's wife; but in addition the farmer can make use of a large number of devices which are even more labor-saving than those used in the city, such, for example, as water pumps, cream separators, churns and milking machines which can all be operated by quite small motors."

"Where electrical service of greater capacity can economically be installed, additional machinery, such as buzz and drag-saws, choppers, root pulpers, ensilage cutting boxes and threshers, for which the farmer usually employs auxiliary power can be operated electrically."  
 News and sometimes novel uses of electricity are frequently being discovered, according to Mr. Gaby. He added that the shortage of farm labor, was, to a noticeable extent, being overcome by the use of electrically driven devices.

Many Ontario farmers even cut their wood by electricity, some of them selling an amount of this fuel in adjacent centres, thus making enough money to pay for their "juice."

He instanced, in addition, the way that power was giving a fresh impetus to many a little local industry, declaring that in almost every rural power district there were power-using industries, such as brick yards, tile yards, cheese and butter factories, gravel plants, stone plants, quarries, chopping mills and flour mills.

Several old-fashioned portable sawmills had been supplied with electricity.

The supplying of power to the farm and rural communities of Ontario has not been simply a casual and spasmodic performance on the part of the Commission. It has been a definite policy of service, although from the point of view either of the amount of power distributed or of the capital expenditure involved, the distribution of power to the power districts must always be a relatively small proportion of its activities.

A scattered population at long distances from the source of supply make relatively high annual charges for the capital investment in the necessary transmission and distribution lines. Only a small return can be secured from any capital invested; the operating costs, due to the distances to be covered, are excessive; the load per mile of distribution system is small; the load factor is low and the demand irregular, being controlled, in part, by weather conditions which affect most farmers in a given locality in a similar manner at the same time.

But in spite of these handicaps to the distribution of rural power, the Hydro has already formed 153 "rural power districts" with definite boundaries, of which 107 are receiving service.

A rural power district roughly 100 square miles in area, is not a set geographical district; but depends on the economical distance which may be served from a central distribution centre.

At present there is a total of 2250 miles of rural distribution lines,

serving some 19,000 customers. Of these 6,500 are more or less isolated farmers, the other 12,500 being agricultural in the main, but closely grouped in hamlets or other small communities.

As a working basis of distribution in a rural district the Hydro Commission has had to require three farm contracts or their equivalent per mile of line.

Compare this with the scores of users and the amount of power used per mile of distribution line in such a city as Toronto, and you have an idea of the problems which the commission are meeting in bringing Niagara power to the far-flung farmers of lower Ontario.

Mr. Gaby explained how the government has helped in giving the rural communities a service that helped to put living on a basis that approximated that of their urban brothers and sisters.

"The government", he said, passed legislation to provide for grants in-aid of the capital cost of the installation of rural transmission lines. At the present time this grant-in-aid is made to the extent of 50 per cent of the primary and secondary equipment. In other words, the government pays half the capital cost of the lines and equipment necessary to deliver power from the distributing centre to the property of the individual consumers.

"The grants-in-aid thus given make it possible to extend hydro-electric power service to those engaged in and connected with agricultural pursuits in less densely populated districts where otherwise such service would not be financially feasible."

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