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**BRITISH SUPREMACY
AND
CANADIAN SELF-
GOVERNMENT**

1839-1854

BY J. L. MORISON, M.A., D. Litt.
Professor of Colonial History in Queen's University,
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THE UTILITIES UNDER FIRE

**BUT THE CITY COUNCIL WITH-
HOLDS ACTION**

In Order To Give the Commission a Chance to Defend Itself—The Aldermen Divided on The Matter.

The Public Utilities Commission was in the limelight again Monday night, at the meeting of the City Council, when Ald. Graham brought forth his by-law to repeal by-law No. 56 so as to place the gas and water departments back under the control of the city council. The by-law was given its first reading, when the council went into the committee of the whole, but it was finally decided to report progress. Several of the members of Council asked that members of the commission be given a chance to give an account of their stewardship before deciding on whether the question should be put to the electors.

When the matter was brought up, Ald. Corbett was the first to speak on the question. He said he had given the matter much consideration, and that he had also secured the views of a couple of the members of the commission. Certain charges had been made against the Commission and it had been given no chance to make an explanation.

For instance, Ald. Graham had made the charge that his paving work on Montreal street had been held up by the Utilities Commission. He did not consider it would be fair for the council to take action in the matter until members of the commission had been heard on the matter.

Ald. Litton remarked that the members of the commission were aware of the fact that the matter would be taken up by the council at this session, and held that they should have been present to defend themselves.

Ald. Graham said he had informed R. F. Elliott, the chairman of the commission, that the matter would be taken up at this session. Ald. Corbett felt that the commission should receive an invitation to attend the council meeting and discuss the question.

Ald. Litton said he was in favor of having the electors vote on the water department, but was not so much in favor of the gas. The gas was affiliated with the electricity, and he could not see just how they could be separated.

Ald. Smith said he wanted to place himself on record as being in favor of having the question so before the electors. He felt that these two departments were getting too far away from the people while under the control of a commission. People were not taking the interest that they should. They were clamoring for a change, and he felt that it was only right that the electors should have a chance to vote on the question.

Ald. Chown said that the question had been put to the people a couple of times, and each time the commission had been sustained. The gas and electricity were linked together, and it was hard to get them apart. He was not ready to vote on the matter where they were getting off at.

"The place to get off at is here," remarked Ald. Graham. He said he had asked the manager of the commission to get Montreal street ready for the paving, and he had stated he had no money for the work. Ald. Graham declared that the council had never refused the Commission money. He further declared that under the present system, the commission was digging up streets two and three times. The commission was charging more for gas, and the gas was very poor at that. Then again the commission had piled up a great deal of expense in opening an office on Princess street, in opposition to the merchants. Collections were being made every month, and this was also adding to the expense. As to giving the commission time to explain, he did not think the commission had anything to explain.

Mayor Newman, as a member of the commission, said he considered the proposal an slap against himself too. He considered that the commission this year was on a far better basis than ever before. As to the work on Montreal street, he said the Commission would be ready for this in three weeks' time. The commission had kept ahead of the Board of Works in its work, and he asked that the commission be given fair play.

Ald. Simmons said that the council and the commission was always bucking each other, and as a result work was held up. He thought it would be much better to have the work for gas and water undertaken at the one time. It had been reported to him that 25,000 gallons of water was being pumped into the gas tank daily and not charged up against the gas. He declared that the work on the tank was disgraceful.

"It is neither round, square, or oval," he remarked, and the aldermen broke into laughter.

"Worse than the streets," said one of the members of the council.

Ald. Jones said the citizens had been promised pure water with the installation of a new pump, but he declared that the water this year was worse than ever. It was time the city council took over the plant and considered a scheme to get pure water from Loughboro Lake.

Ald. Graham said his department had been hampered in its work all the time by the commission making holes in the roads for their work.

Ald. Patterson asked that the commission be given fair play. It should be asked to meet charges made. If these charges were found to be true, he would favor putting the commission out of business.

Ald. Litton wanted to know if there would be sufficient time to get the question before the electors if it were put off for another meeting, and it was shown that from three to five weeks were required to prepare the by-law.

Ald. Graham declared that when the vote on the question was taken the last time, the electors had been confused by the ballot.

Ald. Mills said he thought Ald. Graham was justified in bringing in the by-law, but he thought the commission should be given a chance to meet charges. He believed the electors would put the commission out of business if everything was not satisfactory to them.

It was finally decided, on motion of Ald. Mills, that the council, to report progress on the matter.

WANT BECK TO BE RETAINED

**AS HEAD OF THE ONTARIO HY-
DRO POWER COMMISSION.**

The Kingston Public Utilities Commission Passes a Resolution—R. F. Elliott To Attend Uniform Rates Conference.

The Kingston Utilities Commission unanimously endorsed Sir Adam Beck as head of the Ontario Hydro Power Commission. At a meeting on Monday afternoon the action of Chairman R. F. Elliott, in writing a letter to Mayor Church, Toronto, on the 23rd inst., urging that Sir Adam be retained, was approved. Chairman Elliott's letter which was sent as lettergram is as follows:

Kingston, Oct-23rd, 1919
Mayor T. L. Church,
Toronto, Ont.
Am strongly of the opinion that Sir Adam Beck should be retained as head of the Hydro Power regardless of who reigns at Queen's Park. In my humble opinion it is not essential that he should be a member of Parliament, only appointed by it. Let Beck go on working in the interest of the masses—not as leader of any party, head of Hydro and Hydro only.

Public Utilities Commission,
(Signed) R. F. Elliott,
Chairman.

Chairman Elliott announced that a conference would be held in Toronto on the 29th inst. of eastern Ontario municipalities at which the question of uniform rates for power would be discussed and Kingston was asked to send a delegate. The chairman himself was appointed delegate to the conference. Mr. Hewitt moved that Kingston join the uniform rates association and the motion was carried.

The manager reported an addition of 300 new gas services and authority was given to purchase 100 meters. Applications for the extension of water service were considered and permission was given to place a hydrant on Brock street on the understanding that it was the last that would be installed free of charge.

The new gas holder is to be connected up for use in January next. G. Y. Chown called attention to the fact that no statement had been presented by the secretary since July 1st last and asked that a statement for July, August and September be forthcoming for the next meeting.

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COMING TO QUEEN'S.

Lieut. T. H. Bissonette Joins the Biology Department.

Lieut. T. H. Bissonette, formerly of the staff of the Regina Collegiate Institute, has accepted a position in the biology department of Queen's University, Kingston. He will commence his duties at once. Lieut. Bissonette enlisted in October, 1916, with the Queen's University battalion. He saw service in France and was gassed during the big Hun drive in Picardy in August, 1918. He joined the staff of the local collegiate in January, 1914, teaching botany, agriculture and chemistry. He is well known as a hockey and soccer player. He was a member of the Queen's Allan cup team and Queen's provincial champion soccer team.—Regina Leader.

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