

MEMBERS OF CIVIC COMMISSION MAKE COMPLAINTS TO COUNCIL

Two Suggest That They Might as Well Resign If New Body Is Not Trusted and Clothed With Power to Function Properly—Commissioner Wigmore Points Out Where Council Saved \$4,000 in Final Cost of a Civic Distribution System — Ferranti Transformer Tender Recommended.

Complaints that the council did not seem to be willing to trust the civic commission and it might as well resign were voiced by at least two of the members of the commission at a special meeting of the council, in committee, yesterday afternoon. In answer to this Commissioner Wigmore pointed out that the stand taken by the council that all matters must come to them for approval had already resulted in a saving of over \$4,000 in the final cost of the distribution system.

Representatives of the Packard and Ferranti firms were at the meeting and given an opportunity to speak, the committee recommending to the council the approval of the acceptance of the Ferranti tender by the civic commission.

Major Fisher in opening the meeting referred to a telegram which he had received from the Toronto office of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association as follows: "Re civic trans; former purchase, seven firms making high grade transformers in Canada. Respectfully urge business be retained in this country."

Major R. A. McAvity said he had received a similar telegram. He at the same time said the civic commission were not clear as to what their duties were and felt they should be given a freer hand in carrying out the work of providing a distribution system.

F. T. Weymen, representing the Packard Electric Co., was then heard in connection with the purchase of transformers. He claimed the order should be given to a Canadian firm as this would mean the employment of men in this country. He also stated that if the order went to an English firm delivery was likely to be later and it would be harder to get parts and there was a loss of 4 k.w.h. in the Ferranti meter than in the Packard. In connection with the latter item it was pointed out the loss would fall on the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, as the current was measured on the low tension side.

J. E. Graham, representing the Ferranti Meter and Transformer Co., took exception to the telegram of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. His firm was a Canadian one with an English connection, the Canadian General, Canadian Westinghouse and Packard were Canadian firms with an American connection and he thought it would be better business to deal with the firm with the English rather than the American connection. So far as delivery was concerned his firm was in a position to live up to its promise.

The Ferranti firm had recently sold 375 transformers to the Ontario Hydro Commission and had built larger transformers than those wanted by the local commission. Replying to the criticisms about difficulty in getting parts he pointed out that no company kept parts on hand for a transformer of this size and his company would be in as good a position as any to supply them if needed.

Report on Transformers.
The mayor then read the report of the civic commission in connection with the transformers as follows:

"The Power Commission of the City of Saint John met on the 15th inst. and considered the tenders for the transformers referred to them by the City Council and the Commission adopted the following resolution:—

"That the tender of the Ferranti Motor and Transformer Company for \$20,700, for three transformers should be accepted, and that the amount of expenditure to be authorized by the Council to pay for the transformers be increased by adding \$500 to cover inspection of the transformers before shipment; making a total of \$21,200."

After reading the report the mayor said he was prepared to move for its adoption, if no other member of the council did so.

Commissioner Wigmore said his objection to the former recommendation was that it was proposed to buy the most expensive machine when Mr. Kribs would not say it was any better than the one which could be bought at a lower price, and he thought the delay had worked out very satisfactorily.

W. L. Harding took exception to the statement and said that so far as he personally was concerned, while the commission had asked for an amount not to exceed the price of the highest bidder it did not follow that that was the machine which would have been purchased.

Commissioner Wigmore said the recommendation of Mr. Kribs was certainly to purchase the Canadian General Electric transformers.

Major McAvity said that if Mr.

Kribs did make that recommendation it did not mean the commission would have bought them.

Commissioner Wigmore—Will you state it was not the intention to buy the Canadian General transformer?

Major McAvity—Not if we could get a better price from the Canadian Westinghouse, and on further inquiry and information, which we now have we might have bought the Ferranti.

The Council's Impression.

Commissioner Thornton said the council were certainly given the impression that the Canadian General bid was to be accepted, and it was not the intention of the commission, why did they ask for more money than was needed.

Commissioner Bullock moved the report of the commission be received and their recommendation to purchase three transformers at a price not to exceed \$21,200 be approved. This was seconded by Commissioner Wigmore and adopted.

Major McAvity then said the members of the civic commission would like to have an expression of opinion from the members of the council on the situation, as it was impossible for the commission to function under the resolutions as passed by the council.

Commissioner Thornton pointed out that one member of the council was not present and all should be when this matter was taken up. He thought it would be better for the commission to send a written communication to the council stating their grievance in detail before the conference was held.

A. M. Rowan thought the suggestion of Commissioner Thornton was a good one, and said he was not expecting a round table talk at the present meeting.

Major McAvity also thought the idea of sending a written communication was a good one. It was in their minds to co-operate with the city council. The estimate for the sub-station had been made up and they wanted a vote for the full amount to enable them to carry on and know they would have the money and the work would be done.

Commissioner Thornton said the council could hardly be expected to vote on a mere estimate. The resolutions governing the commission called for them to prepare plans and specifications for a distribution system and then call for tenders. When they did this he did not think there would be any difficulty in getting the money for the work.

Commissioner Wigmore.
Commissioner Wigmore said there was no disposition on the part of any member of the council to hold up the work. It had been their intention to come to the council, however, for authority for each item in the same way as they had come for the transformers. They felt they could not function properly until the whole amount was voted.

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Mr. Flood—On what basis do you vote a bond issue for the council?

Commissioner Wigmore—Estimates are prepared by the engineer then tenders are called for.

Mr. Flood: That course would double the work of the commission, which as you know receive a very small remuneration, and I think the transformers would have been bought for the same sum if the commission had been given a free hand.

Commissioner Bullock said that out of the discussion on the former report of the commission had come a new call for tenders and a lower price for the transformers. If the commission desired a vote of \$80,000 for a sub-station they should call for tenders the same as the council would but they must not expect the council to vote a bond issue unless they did that.

Mr. McAvity said this was all very fine but the commission should be given some authority before getting a detailed estimate as it would cost money to get this.

Mr. Harding: That is why we should get together and talk matters over, we should get around the table and the council let us know what they want us to do.

Commissioner Wigmore thought that all the authority needed was to get an engineer and Major McAvity asked

NEW CARDINAL



Monsignor Giovanni Bonzano, above, papal delegate to Washington, has been appointed cardinal at the pope's recent consistory.

on what authority, to which the commissioner replied, "come to council and get it."

Mr. Flood said he thought Commissioners Wigmore and Thornton were under a misapprehension. The voting for an estimate of \$79,000 did not mean that much money had to be spent, as bonds would only be issued on the actual expenditure.

Commissioner Thornton.

Commissioner Thornton said it was no use talking on a proposition like that as he would not vote for it. There had been various estimates on the cost of a distribution system and before money was voted tenders must be called for. Commissioner Wigmore took the same stand and stated there would be a hold up until the council was satisfied.

Commissioner Bullock said there were several boards in the city handling public money and the nearest to the present situation was that of the general Public Hospital, who, when they needed money for extensions called for tenders and then came to the council for the money.

Major McAvity said that was quite right but he understood the civic commission was to be an independent body and if the council did not trust the commission and its engineers then they had better resign and a new commission be appointed.

Commissioner Thornton pointed out the commission was not independent of city hall for the mayor was a member.

Herbert Phillips pointed out that the commission was really another department of the city government, under present conditions, and he thought it should be like the others, under the control of a commissioner and not an unpaid commission. He also pointed out that there was not the same conditions here as in Ontario, where the commission was an elective one and directly responsible to the people.

Mayor Favors \$79,200 Vote.

Mayor Fisher thought the commission must be independent or it could not function and the vote of \$79,200 should be passed.

Commissioner Thornton asked what would happen if the cost exceeded that figure and Mr. Flood said they would find that out before spending a cent, to which Commissioner Thornton replied that if there was some way of relieving the members of the council of their responsibility in the matter he would be willing to hand the money over to the civic commission.

Mr. Flood asked what knowledge the commissioner had of transformers, and he replied that he had voted for their purchase on the advice of the city electrician and there had been \$4,000 saved.

Mr. Flood: Are you an authority on buildings?

Commissioner Thornton: No but I am on tenders when they come to this council.

Major McAvity: Then I take it the commissioner has no confidence in the engineer who prepared the estimate or the commission.

Commissioner Thornton: Let us get down to facts. If I had a case in court I would not employ the same lawyer as my opponent. Mr. Kribs is here for the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, the party who are selling to the city, and why should we employ him.

Mr. Phillips asked if the council would be willing to vote a sum of \$2,500 for preliminary engineering work in preparing specifications and plans.

Mr. Flood: Only three members of the council were present at this stage it was decided to adjourn until Thursday afternoon.

A Question of Genealogy.—Robert Stevens—"I've a question to ask you."

Leo Besselman—"All right, shoot."

Robert—"If a boy is a lad, and the lad has a stepfather—"

Leo (deeply interested)—"Go on."

Robert (walking slowly away)—"Does that make the lad a stepfather?"—The Christian Evangelist (St. Louis).

CASTORIA
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DIED

ASHIE—At her mother's residence, 315 Germain street, on December 18, 1922, Helen Anna Ashie, daughter of Maude and the late Edwin Ashie, aged nine years, leaving a loving mother, two brothers and two sisters to mourn.

Funeral today from her mother's residence. Service at 2.30 o'clock.

CARD OF THANKS
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Blizard and family wish to thank their many friends in Wickham, Queens Co., and also in St. John, for sympathy and kindness shown to them during their recent sad bereavement.

MR. AND MRS. CHAS. BLIZZARD, WICKHAM, QUEENS CO.

Four Times Five Are Twenty-- Christmas Suggestions

That's what you'll find listed below and every one is acceptable for Christmas morning.



1.—Fur Coats, finely fashioned from all the favored furs and every one bearing the Magee label. There's Canadian Mink, Siberian Grey Squirrel, Hudson Seal, Electric Seal, Muskrat, Raccoon and others.

\$145—\$175 and all the way to \$725.



2.—The smaller Furs such as Capes, Stoles, Scarves, and Chokers in almost every fur that is marketed. Priced at \$10—\$15—\$25 and all the way to \$250



3.—The Frocks are indescribably nice. No use to mention all the colors here but we will mention the materials. There are flannels, tricelines, twills, Georges, crepes and velvets. The price? All the way from \$20 to \$56.50.



4.—Woollen Coats? To be sure! Take your choice of the plain fuzzy woolly ones in raglan effect or the Fur trimmed ones. The Furs are Seal, Raccoon and Mink. The only difference is the price of the fur. The quality is just the same all through, \$25 to \$65.



6.—Ladies' Scarves are here in great variety. They're all silk and every conceivable color and combination of colors. Priced at \$2.75, \$3.50 and \$4.50.



7.—There's an Umbrella here for every gown or frock. The colors harmonize. Get the idea? You may take your choice of the kind of handle you wish, too. Priced from \$5.00 to \$12.00.



8.—You Juniors who intend to spend many evenings on the ice this winter should have a Skating Hat. Just the thing for these crisp, cold, biting evenings. \$2.00 is the price.



9.—The whole effect is spoiled unless you get under the right kind of a Hat. There's the Magee Special, the Berkeley, the Borsalino, the Velour—all standards. Take a closer look at the Velour—that's the REAL Hat for Winter. Enough different shades so you can't go wrong. Priced at \$4.50, \$5.00, \$7.50 and \$9.00.



10.—There aren't any better Gloves made than we have here at Magee's. Your choice of English, French or Canadian Makes in Cape, Suede, Chamois, Buckskin and Pigskin all the way from \$1.50 to \$5.50.



12.—The recognized brands are here in all the recent stripes, checks, dots and colors—Arrow, Forsyth and Tooke. "Better Shirts for Longer Wear" \$2.75 to \$4.50.



13.—Whoever saw a well-groomed man without a clean handkerchief. And there are so many men who have hardly enough. After this Christmas see that HE has enough so he won't have to worry. Real linen, too, if you want them. \$1.15, \$2.25 and \$5.50.



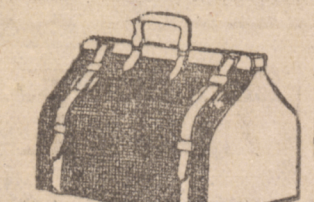
14.—There's a Christmas Special here in Overcoats. The kind that you can defy almost any kind of weather with. Belted backs or plain, kimono sleeves, plaid backed woollens of quality. The Christmas specials are \$29.00 and others from \$35.00 to \$55.00.



15.—When she "blows" and when she snows, a muffler comes in at just the right time. We have them in silk or in wool, just as you wish. \$1.75 to \$3.00.



16.—Of course he has plenty of socks—and at the same time he is always looking for some. Let us suggest to you some "two Steeples" in boxes of three pair, or any other kind that you may desire. \$1.25 and \$1.50.



To you who "a-traveling go" during these Christmas holidays there is nothing more acceptable than a Club Bag. They are here in Black and Tan in the better class of cowhide leather. Priced at \$18.00 and \$20.00.



19.—Neckties or cravats, call them what you will, the quality and the attractiveness are the same if you get them at Magee's. He never has had enough cravats so one or two more are sure to be welcome. Some are priced at \$5.00 and from there to \$3.00.

18.—Some people will tell you that Walking Sticks are not the vogue, but that makes no difference—they are—and if you choose your stick from the array shown here you will be correct.

20.—The Christmas spirit that pervades this whole establishment is exemplified in the suggestions we offer here. Incidentally, all we ask you to remember is that the name MAGEE guarantees every purchase. WE must be satisfied that YOU are satisfied.

"I Now Feel Fine"

Mrs. P. G. Murdoch, Box 433, Portage la Prairie, Man., writes:

"I was troubled for years with biliousness, constipation, kidney and liver troubles. I tried many different kinds of medicine, but nothing did me much good until I tried Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills. I now feel fine, but am never without these pills in the house. Dr. Chase's Ointment has relieved my husband of piles, from which he used to suffer badly."

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