

The Jarvis Record

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3, 1920

THE GAS SITUATION

General Superintendent Braden's Address to the Jarvis Council, Why They Are Asking Increased Rates For Gas.

Gentlemen:

We are here for the purpose of bringing to your attention the present natural gas situation as it affects the people of Jarvis and to ask that consideration be given to the adjustment of rates and the establishment of an equitable price proportionate to the present cost of discovering, producing and distributing natural gas.

The fuel problem is one of Ontario's most vital questions, for the province as a whole possesses no well established source of fuel supply which is adapted for general distribution in all localities.

The larger towns and cities of the province are supplied with gas, either manufactured or natural. At the present time most of that portion of Ontario bordering on Lake Erie and extending as far north as St. Catharines, Hamilton, Galt, London, Chatham and Sarnia, is being supplied with natural gas. This ideal fuel is being used in approximately 80,000 homes, which would mean that about 400,000 people are depending on natural gas for one purpose or another.

Were it not for natural gas, the people of Jarvis would have to depend on coal, wood or other fuel for cooking and heating, as it would not justify the installation of a manufacturing gas plant for the small number of consumers in your municipality.

It may be of interest to mention that there are approximately 200 domestic users of natural gas in Jarvis and immediate vicinity, and as five is generally conceded to be the average number of people in a home, it follows that there are about 1,000 people depending on natural gas for almost their entire fuel for cooking and heating. As \$100 is the average investment for gas equipment in each home, consumers in Jarvis have \$20,000 invested in gas burning appliances, which equipment would have to be thrown to the junk pile if the natural gas supply were allowed to become exhausted or if an adequate supply was not maintained gas users would have to duplicate their investment in auxiliary equipment.

There are two parties to the gas question: First, the public, who pay the bills and for whose comfort and convenience it is necessary to maintain an adequate service for as long a period as possible; second, the producers, who shouldered the hazard of the initial discovery, and on whom, by further search, lies the burden of maintaining the supply, and to whom, with the distributor, the public must look for effective service in the future. It is a matter of regret that the general features and difficulties incident to this particular form of service are not better understood by the public.

In the early days of the natural gas and oil industry the supply was thought to be inexhaustible. Even after companies were organized and large sums of money spent in the drilling of wells, the construction of transporting and distributing systems, and developing the market, its real value was not appreciated by either the producer or consumers. It has been stated by many men of authority that more natural gas has been wasted than has ever been saved and utilized, a fact that we all regret, but only too late, and we see ahead the end of our natural gas supply.

Regardless of the fact that the producing gas companies have greatly increased the number of wells drilled each year, there has been a heavy decrease in the amount of gas produced, and, judging from past developments, it is not likely that natural gas will again be produced in such quantities as to be a competing commodity with coal, wood or other solid fuels for general heating purposes.

The gas remaining to-day in the fields of Ontario is of no benefit to the consumer without efficient service and this cannot be given unless a price, fair and just, in the face of existing conditions, is charged for the commodity. Service stands equally important with supply. They go hand in hand, for either is worthless without the other.

Several important problems must be effectively solved in treating the remaining supply of natural gas so as to secure the greatest and longest

benefit to the natural gas users of Ontario.

First is the obligation of all classes of consumers to conserve and more effectively use this ideal fuel. There is one way and one way only in which natural gas will ever be conserved, and that is by the establishing of a price that will make its conservation worth while.

Second—The quantity of gas to be secured from the present gas fields depends greatly on the management of the wells. A field to yield its maximum production must be handled with extreme care, otherwise the water will drown out the field. Perpetual vigilance must be exercised against waste in the production and distribution of gas, a waste possible in a multitude of ways.

Another factor to be considered apart from the conservation of the remaining supply of the present fields and one that may rank of even greater importance is the possibility of discovering new fields. Considerable parts of Ontario have been tested and condemned as gas bearing territory, yet there are possibilities of opening new sources of supply by persistent exploration, but wildcatting for new fields is hazardous and costly.

Exploration for natural gas should be encouraged on the part of everyone. However, the present producing companies, because of their established business and the immense investment in wells, pipe lines, distribution mains, etc., will expend by far the most money, time and energy in work of this character, for new gas fields mean a longer life to their business.

Since the hazards are greater than in any other mining enterprise, the profits ought to be correspondingly greater. This element of profit is the only incentive which impels men to engage in so speculative an enterprise. If, in the aggregate, this amount of profit does not measure up to the hazards in business, the men will cease their work of prospecting and put their capital in safer enterprises.

Therefore, a high rate of profit, which will induce men to prospect continuously for natural gas, brings about the condition that more people can use gas and represents a distinct saving to the community.

With reference to the low rate at which natural gas has been sold in the past would say that while the fields were new and the supply abundant, the home and factory were served with gas at prices lower than the cost of other fuels. Thus the gas producers and distributors shared with the gas using public the benefits of their discovery. Whatever earnings were made by the companies, a greater amount was saved by their customers which would otherwise have been expended for more costly and inferior fuel.

Under the regulations of the Ontario Natural Gas Act, the remaining gas in Ontario fields is to be conserved for domestic use and for such industrial purposes as artificial gas is ordinarily used for. Therefore, the returns to the gas producers and distributors will be very much restricted.

The United States Fuel Administration in the Department of Home Economics at Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio, conducted a long series of experiments in an endeavor to determine the value of natural gas as compared with other fuels and the following relations were found:

- Natural gas at \$1.12 per M. is equivalent to coal at \$6.50 per ton.
- Natural gas at \$2.00 per M. is equivalent to gasoline at 17 cents per gallon.
- Natural gas at \$2.20 per M. is equivalent to electricity at 3 cents per K.W.H.
- Natural gas at \$2.40 per M. is equivalent to coal oil at 15 cents per gallon.

These relationships represent the value of natural gas for cooking only, and the reason for the rate being so high in comparison to coal is the fact that so much of the coal is wasted in starting and stopping the fire.

In other words, natural gas at 45 cents per M. for cooking purposes is the equivalent of coal at \$2.50 per ton, electricity at 6/10 of 1 cent per K.W.H., or coal oil at 2.7 cents per gallon.

The Ontario Department of Mines reckon that one ton of coal is equivalent to 24 M. cubic feet of gas for heating purposes. Therefore, natural gas at 45 cents per M. is equal to coal at \$10.80 per ton, which, as you know, is about one-half its present value, to say nothing of its cleanliness or convenience.

The war has produced abnormal business conditions and the marked increase in the cost of producing and distributing gas has been wholly beyond the control of the company, but, nevertheless, has resulted in such a diminution of the earnings of the company as to seriously curtail further drilling and development work unless granted some relief through increased rates.

The costs of all materials used in the natural gas business has increased and it is altogether probable that still further increases will be made.

Wages of employes have been increased and may be increased still further. This is to be expected, be-

cause the cost of living has increased to such a marked extent that the management of gas companies cannot and should not refuse reasonable increases of wages to meet living conditions as well as to meet competitive labor conditions.

For some time past the officials of this company have given a great deal of thought to present-day conditions affecting public utilities, and at this time they can see nothing in sight that will better the existing conditions.

During the past five years gas companies as well as other public utilities, whether privately or municipally owned, have been operated at constantly increasing costs, and, except in a few cases, have been compelled to continue to sell their product at prices that were considered fair and reasonable years before, when present day prices were never dreamed of.

During this time our company has endeavored to furnish an adequate gas service to our consumers and to do so has continued to drill and operate new wells, lay new lines, etc., each year and to carry on development work as before the war, regardless of the great increase in the cost. However, the time has now come when it will be necessary for the company to get some relief in higher prices for the gas, or they, for financial reasons, will have to reduce expenses to a minimum and cut out the investment of additional capital in new wells and pipe lines.

After a good deal of consideration as to the question of rates, would say we have come to the conclusion that a uniform rate during the entire year would be more equitable than a low winter rate and a high summer rate, for the following reasons:

First—The smaller household undoubtedly uses a more uniform amount of gas during the entire year than a large household, who uses large quantities of gas during the cold weather for heating; consequently, a uniform rate is more advantageous to the smaller user, as a careful analysis of our books show that 75 per cent. of a year's consumption of gas is during the six months between November 1st and May 1st and 25 per cent. during the remaining months.

Second—The uniform higher rate during the winter months must tend to enforce a more careful use of gas than a cheaper winter rate, which will make a better supply for all consumers when the demand is the greatest, and will also prolong the life of the gas fields.

The Dominion Natural Gas Company and its associated companies are now supplying natural gas direct to 23,686 consumers in this section of Ontario at the following rates:

11,361, or 48%, at the rate of 80c net.
4,238, or 18%, at the rate of 75c net.
950, or 4%, at the rate of 70c net.
350, or 1%, at the rate of 50c net.
4,100, or 17%, at the rate of 45c net.
1,900, or 8%, at the rate of 40c net.
400, or 2%, at the rate of 35c net.
390, or 2%, at the rate of 25c net.
23,686 100%

(Continued on next page.)

Treasurer's Sale of Land for Arrears of Taxes for the County of Haldimand.

By virtue of a warrant issued by the Warden of the County of Haldimand bearing date the 9th day of September, A.D. 1920, and to me directed for the collection of arrears of taxes due for three years and over upon the lands hereinafter mentioned and described, being in the County of Haldimand. There are therefore to give notice that unless the said taxes, together with all costs and charges be sooner paid I shall on

Saturday, 18th Day of December, A.D. 1920

At the hour of Ten o'clock in the forenoon, in the COURT HOUSE IN THE TOWN OF CAYUGA, in the said County, proceed to sell by public auction the said lands or as much thereof as shall be sufficient to discharge such arrears of taxes and costs and charges incurred.

VILLAGE OF CAYUGA—Joseph McCarthy, Owner—Part Lots 1 and 2 North of Mohawk St. Taxes \$116.75, Costs \$15.75—Total \$132.66.

VILLAGE OF CAYUGA—Charles Henry, Owner—Lots 14, 15 and 16, South Talbot St. Taxes \$70.29, Costs \$15.75—Total \$86.04.

VILLAGE OF JARVIS—Temperance Hall, Part Lot 7, Village of Jarvis, N. W. H. & Ft. Dover Plank Road, 138 1/2 ft. Taxes \$22.78, Costs \$13.60—Total \$36.38.

LEVI WERNER, Treasurer,
County of Haldimand.

Dated at Cayuga, September 16th, 1920.

GO TO J. W. NORMAN
The old Veteran
Boat and Shoe Repairing Store for Prompt Service.
MAIN STREET, JARVIS
Opposite the Presbyterian Church

WM. GRIFFEY
DECORATOR PAPER HANGER
A large assortment of Wall Paper patterns, including a large number of high grade patterns at right prices.
JARVIS ONTARIO

If you buy out of town and I buy out of town what is going to become of our town? The dollar you spend in Jarvis will eventually "Come home to Boost."

JARVIS' BUY-AT-HOME CAMPAIGN

Read these articles with care, they may present something you have not thought of before. Patronize the home merchants, whose ads. appear here. They are your neighbors and will treat you right. The money you spend with them stays in circulation in Jarvis and neighborhood and benefits the town.

Service is The Measure of a Bank's Usefulness

We think we give the best. Our facilities are at the disposal of all who appreciate courteous consideration and the best terms consistent with sound banking. We are always glad to be consulted.

BANK OF HAMILTON, Jarvis-Nanticoke
J. H. BROWN, Manager.

Bring Your Old Shoes to Me for Repairs

I will make them look like new. These are the days when it is necessary to cut down your expenses. I also have a fine line of men's and ladies' shoes to select from.

J. W. NORMAN
The Old Veteran Shop.

Seldom Will You Find a Combination

of grocery and bakery giving the service and quality of goods I do. I do not fear competition of any nature because the groceries and baked goods I sell cannot be duplicated anywhere.

D. C. ALLEN, Grocer and Baker

A Drive to and From My Garage is an Economy Drive.

If you spend some money with me you will save money. If I attend to your car it will render a faithful accounting. Oils, Greases and Accessories.

E. W. ANDERSON, Garage

Pocket Billiards is a Recreation

It aids digestion. Come in and try it. My shop is clean and sanitary. If you need a shave, haircut, shampoo or massage you will get the right kind of service here. A full line of smokers' supplies and tobaccos always kept in stock.

WM. HODGES
Barber and Tobacconist.

MARKETS NEEDED BY THE FARMERS

Presence of Thriving Cities Near By, Important to Residents of Country.

MERCHANTS DO THEIR PART

Town and Rural Community Are Dependent Upon Each Other—Co-operation Alone Brings Prosperity to Both.

(Copyright.)

Residents of towns and cities everywhere are beginning to realize more acutely the fact that, except under very unusual conditions, their communities will prosper and develop only in proportion to the prosperity and development that comes to the farming sections which surround them. Realizing this fact, commercial clubs and chambers of commerce have in recent years been devoting as much of their attention to developing the country districts as they have to securing new industries and attracting new residents. They know that as the country about the towns become more thickly settled and as the farmers become more prosperous the more money will be spent in the towns and the faster these towns will grow. It is largely for this reason that the residents of the towns and cities have been doing more and more to aid the farmers in growing bigger crops and in improving marketing conditions. The towns and cities have contributed more and more liberally toward the building of good roads in the country districts and have paid a large part of the expense of maintaining agricultural experts to assist the farmers in growing bigger crops and getting more money out of their crops when they are placed on the market.

Not One-Sided Proposition.

But this is not a one-sided proposition. If the city is dependent upon the country, so is the country dependent upon the city. What the farmer raises is worth absolutely nothing to him unless he can sell it at a price that will pay him a fair return on the money and time invested in its production. The farmer, without markets, would be in the same fix as a storekeeper without customers. In almost every case the farmer is de-

When It Comes to Supplying the needs of this community in the line of Groceries and Dry Goods. We feel proud to state that our lines cannot be surpassed. A complete line of everything kept in stock, and the service we at all times extend to our patrons is deserving of your patronage.

MILLER BROS.,
General Merchants

Always at Your Service

Anything in the line of Real Estate, Fire Insurance, Loans & Conveyancing will be given the strictest attention by me. If you're considering the sale of your home or farm see me.

GEO. L. MILLER,
Real Estate and Insurance.

There is no need to Go Out of town or send your money to mail order houses for anything you need in the line of Groceries or Dry Goods. I aim to keep the latest styles as well as the best goods at the right prices on hand. If I haven't it in stock I will get it.

J. A. BURWASH,
General Merchant.

I have just opened up and have taken the agency for the Farmers Cockshutt line of farm implements, also the Adams' make of wagons. Come in and get my prices on anything you may need, and I will assure you in advance of every courtesy possible in my line.

FRANK ROSS, Implements

I Have Said It Before and Say It Again.

You can get better prices as well as quality in footwear at my store than in the city. My stock is of the best quality. Also carry a good line of harness, whips, etc. Bring in your harness now for repairs.

A. H. LANGRAN,
Saddler and Shoes

If You Have a Blowout, Stone or if your tires need re-treading bring it to me and I will show you how to save money on your tire bills. I have a complete vulcanizing and tire repair plant, and the service rendered is your guarantee of good work.

J. W. MORRISON
The Repairman

In the Line of Groceries

I always aim to keep my stock fresh and clean. You can always return anything you buy from me that is not satisfactory. I carry at all times the choicest cuts of beef, pork, lamb, in fact, everything in the meat line. I solicit your patronage, guaranteeing to service in advance.

THOS. HARRIS,
Groceries and Meats

General Hardware Needs

At C. T. Carter's. Everything in Hardware, Builders and Contractors Supplies, Farm Needs, etc. You can depend on any line of Hardware you purchase from me. Coal Ranges, Coal Oil Stoves and Heaters always kept in stock. Full line of Paints.

C. T. CARTER, Hardware

GERARD HEINTZMAN

CANADA'S GREATEST PIANO AND PHONOGRAPH.

Direct from the factory to your home. Sold, delivered and guaranteed by

C. S. MCCARTER,
District Representative, Jarvis, Ont.

Get your next job of paperhanging, painting or decorating done by me.

My long and wide experience in Jarvis is your guarantee of a service well rendered. I also sell wall papers of every description. Look over my samples before buying elsewhere.

WM. MACHELL, Paperhanger.

Buying Furniture in Jarvis

You will find my prices right, and I stand back of every piece of furniture I sell. My Undertaking Parlors are well equipped for service—night or day. Call me up or come in and see me.

IVAN W. HOLMES,
Furniture and Undertaker

I Am Always Prepared

To do all kinds of Sheet Metal Work, Trimming and Spouting. If I do your work you will be sure it is done right. No job too big or too small. I am always prompt and my prices as well as service is right.

W. A. OWEN,
Plumbers and Tinmiths

In the Line of Meats

You cannot beat the OLD VETERAN SHOP. Everything I have in stock is "proven best by every test." I invite your patronage with the assurance that you will be satisfied. Carry a good line of all vegetables in season.

E. MACHELL, Meat Market.

Pure Drugs Are Essential to health.

We carry a full line of 100 per cent. pure drugs—and medicines. Big line of toilet articles and sick room supplies and everything usually carried in a first-class drug store. Buy in Jarvis.

JARVIS DRUG STORE

General Hardware Needs

At C. T. Carter's. Everything in Hardware, Builders and Contractors Supplies, Farm Needs, etc. You can depend on any line of Hardware you purchase from me. Coal Ranges, Coal Oil Stoves and Heaters always kept in stock. Full line of Paints.

C. T. CARTER, Hardware

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