

TURNING THE FIRST SOD FOR THE MUNICIPAL POWER LINE



Mr. J. H. Fryer of Galt.



Mayor Oliver of Toronto, and Sir James Whitney.



Hon. Adam Beck.

Municipal Power Line

IN October, 1902, there was a meeting in the town of Berlin, at which municipal representatives discussed the question of electric power from Niagara Falls and the effect it would have on the various communities. During the ensuing six years there have been many meetings and much agitation. "Cheap Power" was the cry. In July, 1905, a permanent Hydro-Electric Commission was formed with the Hon. Adam Beck, of London, as chairman. Representatives of the Western Ontario municipalities formed an association known as the Niagara Power Union. Both these bodies have given much attention to the problem and wisely waited for private enterprise to prove that Niagara power could be economically and scientifically carried long distances and sold at a reasonable price. When this was demonstrated, they undertook, with Government backing, to build a transmission line of their own which will take power from Niagara and distribute it to a selected list of municipalities "at cost."



Mr. Fryer, President of the Niagara Power Union of Municipalities, turning the first sod for a power line, which is to distribute Niagara Power all through Western Ontario.

The undertaking was formally begun on Wednesday of last week when the president of the Power Union turned the first sod on a park in the city of Toronto. A meeting was held in one of the Exhibition buildings and speeches were made by Hon. Mr. Beck, chairman; Sir James Whitney; Mr. W. K. McNaught, M.P.P.; Mr. P. W. Ellis; Mr. Joseph Oliver, Mayor of Toronto; Mr. J. W. Lyon, of Guelph; and Mr. J. H. Fryer, of Galt. This is probably the first time in municipal history that a considerable number of municipalities combined in a financial undertaking whereby they take all the risks and receive all the profits of an industrial enterprise. It is expected to cost three and a half millions.

When the new transmission line is completed, all the municipalities which it serves will either construct local distribution plants or acquire those already in existence. In Toronto, the city will undertake its own distribution in opposition to the Toronto Electric Light Company. No person in the latter company seems greatly disturbed, however, probably because in five years there will be room for two.



Mr. G. G. S. Lindsey.

Senator Kerr.

Mr. B. E. Walker.

Mr. Morang.

Sir Charles Moss.

Dinner given by the Publisher to Editors, Advisory Board and Authors of "Makers of Canada."