

would know when the vote was taken the number we could depend upon. If you all submit at the same time we would have an accurate idea of the number who would join.

A Delegate.—If the city of Toronto felt they could take the whole of the power, and sent independently and asked for it and became responsible, then afterward for instance the others joined, is there some plan for distributing the financial burden?

Mr. Beck.—The Commission will have a staff of accountants and they will from time to time adjust the proportion of the expenditure to be borne by each municipality.

A Delegate.—The liability, too?

Mr. Beck.—Certainly. They are for no other purpose. As you know the Bill enables us to enter into contracts with railway companies, street railways or electric companies.

A Delegate.—Independent of the municipality?

Mr. Beck.—Yes. Take a suburban road. We can make a contract with that road; a contract that should produce a profit. That profit goes to the credit of the municipalities. Take the city of London, a contract with the Western Traction Co. The profit would go to the credit of all the municipalities participating in it, not to London alone.

A Delegate.—You are the bankers for all?

Mr. Beck.—Yes, and the agents. We will secure power as cheaply as we can, ready to put on the transmission line and transmit it. In case we buy power from the developing companies at a price and you accept it, then it is another matter whether we shall arrange with an existing company for the use of their poles and wires to transmit the power. Our object will be to get it there as cheaply as we can.

A Delegate.—Do I understand you to say that the transmission company is entirely different from the developing company?

Mr. Beck.—Yes.

Mayor Coatsworth.—I think we should do something first. We don't know where we stand. The movement has taken distinct steps. There was first the appointment of the Municipal Power Commission, then the Hydro-Electric Commission. Subsequently the report came out of the Hydro-Electric Commission. Then our deputation at Toronto waited on the Government. The passage of the Bill by the Government followed, and here we are to-day prepared to go on with the scheme. I'm glad we