

Company and entirely too obvious to mention, that the latter part of sub-section 4 prevents the City from taking advantage of the powers given it in the preceding sub-section. All doubt as to this is removed by reading sub-section 5. To make the matter quite clear, sub-sections 1, 4 and 5 are hereinafter cited and on examination the ambiguity and inconsistency becomes at once apparent.

Sub-section 1 reads as follows: The Council may from time to time pass, alter and repeal bylaws—

- (1) "For purchasing, acquiring, constructing and operating and maintaining any waterworks, gasworks, and electric light works, whether the source of supply or the power required be situate within or without the limits of the City, and regulating the conditions and terms under which the same may be supplied or used, and any materials, plant and building in connection with the same or appurtenant thereto, and for leasing and extending same."
- (4) "For supplying water and light to the citizens, persons and corporations, whether resident or not within the City of Vancouver, and to any municipality adjacent to the City of Vancouver; and for the recovery of moneys due for water rates, or for the supply of water to consumers; for rates and for supply of light to consumers, and the enforcement of payment of such moneys or rates by making the same a charge on the lands of the owners or tenants using the water or light and enabling the same to be recovered in the same manner as overdue taxes; Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be held to impair or prejudice the rights now vested in the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited or the New Westminster and Burrard Inlet Telephone Company, or the Vancouver Gas Company, by any Statute in force or requirements under any agreement or agreements with the City; 1904, C. 62, S. 7.
- (5) "Provided that the Council shall not, with the exception hereinafter stated as to tramways upon unoccupied streets of the City, pass any bylaws for the purpose of purchasing, acquiring, constructing, operating or maintaining any works similar to those now carried on by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited, or the Vancouver Gas Company, or by virtue of which the City will become a competitor in the business carried on by such companies, or either of them, until the Council has by bylaw fixed the price which they will offer for the property of the company or companies whose operations will be thereby interfered with, nor until thirty days have elapsed after such notice of such price shall have been communicated to such company or companies."

CITY HAS NO DESIRE TO ABROGATE OR EVADE

It will be seen at a glance from the foregoing that, at the present time, the City of Vancouver is undoubtedly prevented from making any move that would, in any way, interfere with the business now carried on by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited. Just why this should be, the citizens of Vancouver are at a loss to know and cannot understand. The British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited has an agreement with the City with regard to its street railways and the City would like to lay great stress upon the