

tickets on their line of railway. It is asserted by three North Toronto citizens who happened to be present when the Metropolitan Railway Bill was before the Committee of the House that the Committee of the North Toronto Council were not making much effort to defeat the Franchise Clause of the Bill that affected North Toronto, and it was even asserted by one of the Town Councillors, (who was on that Committee) that one of his fellow-members had been "hob-nobbing with the other side, and that the town had been sold," which has, undoubtedly, left the impression on the minds of the friends of North Toronto that there were "some mysterious influences at work."

Some four or five weeks ago a paragraph appeared in two local papers and one city paper, to this effect:—

"The North Toronto Council has abandoned the Suit against the Metropolitan Railway Company."

As the Council had not authorized any of its members to give such information to the Press; and, had not then determined to abandon the Suit, but, on the contrary, up to the time of receiving the report of the Special Committee (which was appointed to interview Mr. Christopher Robinson, Q.C.), determined to proceed with the Suit.

After reading the announcement in the suburban and city papers that the Suit was abandoned, I was more than surprised, and on meeting two or three of the Town Councillors I asked them if they had seen this startling piece of local news? They replied at once that it was a barefaced falsehood, and had been handed out of the Metropolitan Electric Railway power house, first to the York Gazette and then echoed through the columns of the Toronto World, until the sweet and comforting moral of news, to the Metropolitan Railway Company, was spread far and wide, both by word of mouth and by the Press; principally, however, were the "glad tidings" disseminated through the Press, and otherwise by personally interested parties.

When the above false statement was concocted by the "interested parties" referred to, and handed out to their two favorite papers, the York Gazette and Toronto World, for publication, immediately thereafter I was approached, on two separate occasions, by two persons, neither one of whom did I

suppose at the time was in collusion with the other, in the two business transactions they wished me to invest a few thousand dollars of my capital in, in the following way, namely: one of the two gentlemen invited me to join with him in a contract, and become responsible for \$25,000, and the other gentleman wanted me to buy his \$2,000 worth of Stock (at a reasonable discount), in the Metropolitan Railway Company, and twelve thousand dollars' worth of land in Glen Grove, North Toronto, at one time belonging to the Metropolitan Railway Company, both which enterprises, before witnesses, I consented to embark in, provided I was legally and safely secured in the first named undertaking, and as to the second transaction I would expect the title to be made perfect to the railway stock and land. I investigated, along with the Solicitors of the owner of the Metropolitan Railway Stock and Glen Grove Land, and negotiations were broken off on this deal on account of the Metropolitan Railway Company commencing negotiations themselves to buy the same stock and land instead of me doing so. In the matter of becoming associated in the Contract for the Extension of the Metropolitan Railway from Richmond Hill to Newmarket, the gentleman with whom I was to be associated in the work accompanied a friend of mine to Z. Leach, Esq., of the firm of Blake, Leach & Cassel, Solicitors, in my behalf, and explained to him that I had been offered a joint interest in the Contract for the Extension of the Metropolitan Railway to Newmarket, and that the Road was to be completed for the 1st July, 1897. Mr. Leach listened to this "supposed" Contractor's statement, as to what he was prepared to do in connection with the Contract with the Metropolitan Railway for the Extension of its Road to Newmarket, and he said that his estimates were all made out for the Materials and Plant to go on with the Work of Construction, and that he knew perfectly well that we would complete the Contract satisfactorily to all parties concerned. Mr. Leach then instructed this gentleman to go on forthwith and make his arrangements with the Bank, and that after I was safe-guarded in every possible way as a partner in the Contract, that I would be promptly handed to put up the first \$25,000 in cash.