

interested municipalities when private bills were presented by companies asking for privileges to the streets. At the present time municipalities had to read the papers in order to get information when bills were sent to the governing authorities. He did not think this was just. Everything should be done both by the Government and the Legislature to let Montreal and other places know when companies were trying to get control of streets.

Mr. Lighthall reported that the Union received copies of all Bills, and notified municipalities where affected.

Mr. Honoré Gervais, K.C., M.P., who was present, said that a strong deputation should be sent at once to Ottawa to look into the project of the Terminal Company to operate in the streets of Montreal. He said that this company had a bill which was pernicious in every way. It was asking vast powers in the streets. The bill was the worst that he had looked into for a long time past. He also stated that Sir Wilfrid Laurier had already been asked to postpone the consideration at this company's bill till such time as Montreal could send delegates to discuss the affair. He understood that Sir Wilfrid would grant the request.

Several other speeches were made in reference to the rights of Montreal and other municipalities controlling the streets and thoroughfares. It was pointed out that the streets belonged to the taxpayers. In other cities they rented the streets to big companies at very advantageous terms. The revenue from companies was in many cases so large that it went far towards maintaining civic administration. In Montreal, however, no such custom existed. When a big company desired to use the streets it either went to the Legislature or the Parliament. The City Council was not consulted. This whole proceeding was manifestly unjust.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

After some further discussion the following important motions were adopted:

On the motion of Mayor Lussier, of Bordeaux, seconded by Mr. F. S. Maclellan, K.C., Alderman of Westmount, it was resolved:

"That at this meeting, composed of representatives of all municipal councils in the vicinity of Montreal, it is hereby resolved that in all bills introduced into Parliament or the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, relating to the placing of poles and wires for electric light, heat and power purposes, and all public utilities, anywhere in the vicinity of Montreal, a section should be inserted and form part of such bill requiring the previous consent of the Municipal Council to such works, similar to the amendment introduced by Mr. Honoré Gervais, M.P., in the bill of the Canadian Liverpool,

and Western Railway Company, to wit, as follows:—

"Nothing in this Act, or in any other act, shall authorize the company to construct or operate, whether overground or underground, any telegraph or telephone lines, or any other lines, either directly or indirectly, for the purpose of distributing electricity or any other energy for lighting, heating or other purposes, or disposing of surplus power generated by the company's works, and not required by the actual undertaking of the company, upon, along, or across any private property, or highway, or public square or place, without first obtaining the consent expressed by by-law of the municipality having jurisdiction over such property or highway, or public places, and upon terms to be agreed upon with such municipality."

It was also resolved, on the motion of Mayor Davier, of Montreal West, seconded by Mayor Desaulniers, of St. Lambert, as follows:

"That any fresh works entered into under existing charters shall be made subject to the same clause as Mr. Gervais has had inserted in the Canadian, Liverpool, and Western Railway Bill, and that a public act to this effect be passed."

A third resolution, proposed by Ald. Hyde, of Westmount, and seconded by Mayor Deschamps, of Lachine, was to the following effect:—

"That in the event of the Government of the Province of Quebec not being able to accede to the request of the municipalities to adopt an amending act compelling all companies holding charters from the Legislature of Quebec to submit to the control of municipalities all further work they desire to do within the municipalities, the Government be requested to appoint a commission with powers of control over all works, rates, services, etc., on the lines of the Railway Commission of Canada, or similar lines."

Moved by Mayor Desaulniers, of St. Lambert, seconded by Mayor Dunlop, of Outremont:

"That this meeting of the municipalities of the Island of Montreal and vicinity, unanimously tender to the cities of Montreal and Maisonneuve and the town of Delorimier, their offer to support them in any steps they may consider necessary to protect the rights of the said Cities and Town in the matter of the Montreal Terminal Railway Bill; and that if desired a delegation be arranged to proceed to Ottawa for such purpose."

Moved by Alderman Hyde, of Westmount, seconded by Mayor Desaulniers, of St. Lambert:

"That copies of the resolutions adopted at this meeting be sent to all of the Municipalities of the Province, with a request that these resolutions be adopted by the various Councils in support thereof."