

A De'legate.—Does an enquiry for power on the part of a municipality involve any liability on the part of that municipality? Who pays the cost of making the estimate?

Mr. Beck.—As soon as the municipalities enter into contracts they assume the costs involved. Previous to that I think we are working in the interests of the Government.

Mr. Coatsworth.—We have served our notice in Toronto. The Commission has asked us to get information as to how much power we want. Mr. Beck says to-day if we send back word to them that we are willing to accept we have assumed no liability, but if we want to make another calculation, that is at our own expense. After that they will make an estimate at no expense to us.

Mr. C. B. Smith.—Mr. Chairman,—I have read somewhat carefully a large number of communications to the press; most of them anonymous; others giving actual names. Just a few days ago I went through these letters to see the points they had attempted to raise, to see whether there was anything worth answering in them. To my mind there is nothing of importance to answer yet. At the same time there are questions which might tend to confuse the lay mind, and these may be referred to briefly. Mr. Wright, of the Electric Company in Toronto, in a criticism in which he referred to their lighting rates, had said their own rates were 8c. per k.w. hour, and the Commission's 7½c. This was a misstatement. As a matter of fact their rates are 8c. for residential but 12c. for business, and those estimated on by the Commission were 5c. for house and 6c. for business lighting. Mr. Hawkins, of Hamilton, was quoted as saying that the rate shown in the report was very high, that they were selling power in Hamilton at \$12.30 per h.p. The only explanation of this is that he refers to selling power on motor capacity where it is known a customer does not use nearly the capacity, only a part of the power being used. Mr. Richmond, at one time an employee of the Commission, had showed animus because he had been dismissed. He commenced with a calculation of 50,000 h.p. plant at Niagara Falls, then writing off 10,000 h.p. because he said we had not allowed for a spare machine. As a matter of fact the estimate was 60,000 h.p., with one spare machine. Mr. Richmond stated in his letter to the press that he had not read the report. Then also he made a wrong impression by stating that he was aware of the intentions of the Commission. Beyond his own work he knew nothing of the estimates of the Commission or anything else. He never was in the office except to get his pay. The editor of the Canadian Engineer,