

The Directors now advert to the charges made for Gas to the Corporation and to private consumers.

In the Report of the Special Committee it is admitted, as above stated, that the price in Boston for the public Lamps is about the same as in Montreal. The Boston Gas Works have been in operation since the year 1834, and there has been no indication of dissatisfaction there in regard to the price.

The whole of the communications of this Company with the Corporation, in reference to the rate charged, have had reference to the charges made in Boston, *because it was considered by the Corporation that Boston was a fair criterion.* And the Corporation having selected Boston for a criterion, it may reasonably be asked, but without the hope of receiving an equally reasonable reply: Wherefore should the persecution that has been raised against the charge be contemned by the Corporation, who, it must be supposed, are desirous of acting on a principle of justice, and have invoked information from Boston, as a means of deciding the fairness or unfairness of the charge made by the Montreal Gas Company?

(From the Report of the Directors to the Shareholders.)

REMARKS IN ANSWER TO MR. EDGE'S PROPOSALS.

The Letter of Mr. Thomas Edge, Manufacturer of Gas Meters and Gas Fittings, of Westminster, is a singular production to be brought forward. The offer made by Mr. Edge, of erecting opposition Works for the Corporation (even if he were more capable than the Corporation of Montreal of expending £50,000 on a very hazardous speculation,) was made in ignorance of facts—even of the difference between sterling and currency, and the expenses attending the laying down and completing Gas Works in this country, and the Directors consequently attach very little importance to such an offer. Mr. Edge is a manufacturer, and if he could prevail upon the Corporation to give him a *carte blanche* for the erection of *good and extensive Gas Works*, upon the flattering but delusive idea, that the money would not have to be paid for seven or fourteen years, the Directors entertain no doubt as to what would be the issue. At the present value of iron, and with the streets to put in plight after being trenched for laying the Pipes, the Corporation Gas Works might supply their Public Lamps, but the present Gas Works would stand, and could be worked at a rate (although it might not be a remunerative one) that would, to use the expression of the Special Committee, “No doubt be of advantage to private individuals, however much it might injure the existing Company, OR FAVORIZE THE EFFORTS OF THE CORPORATION FOR A REMUNERATING REVENUE, should it embark upon the enterprise.”

It is perhaps useless to advert to the reference Mr. Edge has made to “*his towns*,” that are lighted with Gas. He speaks of *two whole towns*, but he does not give the size or population of those towns. It is believed that one of them is a town of the Island of Guernsey; and it is so small and unimportant a place, that the Directors do not even know the name of it. A sum of £4000 or £5000 sterling, might be ample to supply such a place with Gas; but when it would be found that a sum of £40,000 or £50,000 had to be laid down (and £6000 thereof would have to be expended in restoring the streets to their former condition) another cause for a little hesitation would rise up. But let us go a step further, and let us see what claim Mr. Edge has to join in the outcry against the Montreal Gas Company. He states that his charge is 10s. per M. cubic feet, and is it not notorious, if we may believe the statements that have constantly been made in the newspapers of this City, that the charge in many towns in England, is 4s. 6d. per M. cubic feet? If such is the case, why is there the discrepancy between that charge and Mr. Edge's? This question was put to Mr. Edge, by the Secretary of this Company, and see how unsatisfactory is his reply. “In reply to your observation that my charge of 10s. appears unreasonable, while in some towns in England, you say it is only charged at 4s. 6d.—It was only at Sheffield, during a ruinous opposition, that the charge was so low. It is now agreed by both Companies, that it shall be 6s. 8d. in future.”

It is for the Shareholders, and for the Public, should the matter go before them, to say whether the question has been candidly answered.