

A Revelation

Of Affairs in the Town of North Toronto.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE LEADER AND RECORDER.

MY DEAR SIR,

I know that you feel it your duty to expose all wrong-doings in connection with the Councils within the County of York, and you have not even overlooked the misdoings of the County Council. Therefore, I claim your assistance in giving publicity to a brief review of transactions in which the old County Council of York were concerned in granting to the Metropolitan Electric Railway Company an additional fifteen years' franchise through the town of North Toronto, just as the members thereof were about retiring from office, to give place to a Council to be elected, under the new system adopted. The result of the action of this expiring Council was a Protest of the Town of North Toronto against the passing of any by-law or execution of any agreement which may extend the franchise of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company beyond the period to which they would originally have been entitled under by-laws and agreements existing previous to 1894. The Town Solicitors (Messrs. Bull & Werrett) were then instructed to commence legal proceedings forthwith, and the late Mayor, John Fisher, Esq., obtained the following Opinion from Christopher Robinson, Q.C.:-

Toronto, Dec. 2nd, 1896.

"I have considered the question submitted to me as to the right of the County of York, by their By-Law recently passed to extend the time for the completion of the Metropolitan Street Railway to Richmond Hill, from 30th November, 1896, the time allowed by the county by-law, passed on the 30th November, 1896, to the 31st May, 1897."

"By by-law 712, passed on 6th Feb-

ruary, 1896, the County abandoned Yonge Street, as they were authorized to do, to the different Municipalities through which it runs; and this by-law, as I understand, has come into force."

"It seems sufficient to say that I think it at least doubtful whether, after such abandonment, the County has any power to grant the extension. The position of the Railway, and the authority over it since the abandonment, not having been provided for, will, it appears to me most probably require to be settled by Legislation; and, it would be advisable, I think, in the meantime to obtain the Opinion of a Court as to the validity of the recent by-law and agreement by the County, which on its face seems clearly to intimate a doubt as to their jurisdiction."

"(Signed), C. Robinson."

This Opinion encouraged the North Toronto Council, through ex-Mayor Fisher, to authorize their Solicitors to enter the Suit in Court, which has been supposed, all along, to have been done.

In the meantime, between Mr. Robinson's Opinion, given on 2nd December, 1896, and the meeting of the Local Legislature in February, 1897, the Metropolitan Street Railway Company were preparing their Bill, praying that an Act be passed providing for certain Amendments to the Acts relating to the Company, and for an extension of the powers of the Company. Before the Railway Committee of the House had this Bill presented to them for consideration the Metropolitan Railway President and Manager, approached the Committee appointed by the North Toronto Council, and assured them that if they would not offer any opposition to the Bill of the Company, they should have a reduction made in the price of