

7 GEORGE V, A. 1917

Be it therefore resolved, that the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, composed of representatives duly appointed upon the boards of management of the municipal utilities, petition the Parliament of Canada to either repeal the said Act or to so amend it as to provide that none of the rights, powers or privileges granted by the said Act shall be exercised within any municipality in the province of Ontario without the consent, expressed by by-law of the council of such municipality.

And that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honourable the Prime Minister of Ontario, and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, with a request that they strongly urge the Federal Government to make the necessary changes in this Act as it is an infringement on the rights of the municipalities of this province.  
—Carried.

ST. THOMAS, February 6, 1917.

Moved by....., seconded by .....

Whereas the city of St. Thomas owns and operates all of its public utilities including Hydro-Electric power and energy, and has a large amount of money invested in the same, all of which utilities are operated for the benefit of the people of the municipality;

And whereas the streets and highways, within the city, are built and maintained by the municipality at the expense and for the benefit of the people as a whole and not for the special use or benefit of any private corporation, and no such corporation ought to be allowed to make use of the same for its own private undertakings without the consent of the council of the municipality;

And whereas "The Toronto and Niagara Power Company" in the year 1902 obtained an Act from the Parliament of Canada being 2 Edward VII, chapter 107, by which it was granted extraordinary rights on, over and along and across the public highways of the municipalities of Canada, which legislation was passed without the knowledge or consent of the said municipalities; and was also granted other extraordinary powers for the production, sale and distribution of electricity, which powers, if exercised now, would be in direct opposition to the rights of the people within any of the Hydro-Electric zones.

And whereas although fifteen years have elapsed since the granting of the said charter, nothing has been done by the said company towards carrying out the powers and privileges so granted to it, and in the meantime large sums have been spent and a vast amount of liability incurred by many of the municipalities of the province of Ontario, in the installation of Hydro-Electric power:

Be it therefore resolved that the municipal council of the city of St. Thomas petition the Parliament of Canada to either repeal the said Act or to so amend it, as to provide that none of the rights, powers or privileges granted by the said Act shall be exercised within any municipality in the province of Ontario without the consent expressed by by-law of the council of such municipality.

And that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Federal and Provincial members for this county and to the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario.

The committee adjourned.