

CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

WINNIPEG, MAN., 4th JULY, 1891.

*His Worship, the Mayor, and Council of the City of  
Winnipeg:*

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to submit herewith my report on Electric Railways.

The report has been compiled from information obtained during visits to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Dubuque; Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Lynn, Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

My observations were chiefly directed to the "overhead trolley" and "storage battery" systems as those which would probably be most suitable for Winnipeg.

Statements of the cost of construction, operation and maintenance of both systems are given. These estimates do not pretend to absolute accuracy for any particular place or set of conditions. It will be understood that they are intended to show a comparison of the two systems only. The questions of the values of street railway franchises is one which it is most difficult to show by any set of figures or comparative statements. The values of franchises depend as much upon the enterprise and good management of the street railway companies as they do upon local conditions, population, grades, climate, etc.

Some instances might be given of railways in cities of large and dense population which are not doing one quarter of the business of railways similarly situated in other places.

My thanks are due to the officers and engineers of the several cities, electric railway and manufacturing companies, from whom I experienced the greatest kindness,