



## THE BLOOR STREET VIADUCT WILL GIVE TORONTO A GREAT CENTRAL MIDWAY FROM DUNDAS

### Statement to the Ratepayers of the City of Toronto by the Toronto Electric Commissioners Relative to the Civic Hydro-Electric Enterprise.

The Toronto Electric Commissioners, who have been charged since May last with the administration of the civic hydro-electric enterprise, have as commissioners nothing to do with municipal politics and as such commissioners they cannot take any part therein.

In view of the fact, however, that a bylaw to provide funds for the completion of the enlarged work is to be voted upon on Monday next, it appears to be an obvious part of their duty at the present time to submit an authoritative explanation of the progress and anticipated outcome of the enterprise in order that a sound judgment may be formed by the ratepayers upon the business merits of the venture. With the sanction and authority of the municipal corporation of the City of Toronto, the following statement is therefore made public.

It is to be noted in the first place that the statement has been prepared for the benefit of the public at large, and not for the sole and exclusive benefit of engineers. Hence technical terms and descriptions are avoided as far as possible. The object of the commissioners is to set forth in simple terms, capable of being understood by laymen, the boundaries, the essential features and the anticipated outcome of the undertaking. The statement, therefore, will deal:

1st. With the distributing plant now in course of construction.

2nd. With the operating services now partially established, but which cannot in the nature of things be completely organized until the completion of construction work, and

3rd. With the competitive and general economic effects resulting therefrom.

#### 1. Distributing Plant:

The plant includes a terminal station on Strachan-avenue to take delivery of electric current from the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, eight sub-stations at various points in the city to provide for the district distribution of the current, the necessary system of interstation feeders, a complete system of distribution to provide for the commercial power and light needs of the whole city, including the lighting of every street and providing facilities to be availed of as may become necessary for the lighting of every house and warehouse,

a limited direct current system to provide for the special needs of a certain class of power consumers, a complete equipment for lighting the grounds and buildings of the exhibition and for meeting the requirements of exhibitors, and an initial installation of 13,000 services with meters.

The layout thus briefly described is based upon a recognition of four underlying obligations, viz.:

(a) That of providing for the whole requirements of the municipal services of the city.

(b) That of providing for the reasonable requirements of all classes of citizens without discrimination in favor of any particular class.

(c) That of providing a distributing framework capacious enough to allow in the most economic manner, within the limits of the service demands, and of the growth of the city, for the growth of the demands that will be made upon the plant by reason of extensions from time to time of the city limits, and by reason of the independent growth of the service demands.

(d) That of providing a plant, which viewed as a whole will represent the last word in, and the highest reaches of, electrical efficiency.

There can be no dispute as to the value and economy of the policy thus outlined. If proof were needed it is found in the single pregnant circumstance that at the time of the inception of the undertaking there were 280 miles of streets within the municipal limits of the city, while to-day the streets measure 324 miles, the difference representing a growth of over 40 per cent. This growth may be taken as an approximate index of the growth of the probable demand that will be made upon the commission under the conditions now prevailing.

A plant strictly adapted, and limited in its essential features, to the probable demands arising out of the old conditions would have proved a costly investment to the city. By adopting the principles of adaptation mentioned above, a very high degree of construction economy and service utility is being realized.

On the 31st of May last, when the commission, having completed its organization, took over the responsibility of administration, the expenditure, including the commitment obligations outstanding at that date, amounted approximately, excluding interest, to the sum of \$1,000,000. At the 30th of September last—the date as from which a careful estimate was prepared of the cost of completing the enlarged undertaking—the total expenditure including liabilities in respect of outstanding contracts and contingencies, but excluding interest, amounted to approximately \$3,000,000. The total gross cost of the completed undertaking, as defined in a report recently made to the city council, after making ample provision

for contingencies, is \$4,500,000. It is the practice of the city hall in framing debenture bylaws to add 10 per cent to the amount of the estimated expenditure to provide adequately for all contingencies involved in selling the debentures. Hence to cover the estimated expenditure of \$4,500,000 authorized by the city for the issue of debentures to the total amount of \$4,950,000. Of this amount \$2,750,000 has already been authorized by bylaw, leaving an amount of \$2,200,000 to be authorized by the bylaw now before the ratepayers.

The necessity of adapting the plant to the larger area of the city and to the increased requirements of the citizens and the municipal services, together with certain modifications necessitated by the principles above mentioned, explains the increase in the total gross cost of the plant now under construction over and above that of the plant originally provided for.

It is expected that the whole of the construction work will be finished by the end of 1912, and when that stage is reached the city will be in possession of an unsurpassed modern electrical distributing plant, complete, efficient and economical.

It is worthy of special notice that the construction work is being carried out by means of labor employed directly by the city in the first place, and by the commission at present. There are, therefore, no large contractors' profits absorbing any part of the expenditure. The whole cost of the work is being distributed among Toronto workmen for wages and as far as possible among Canadian factories for equipment. Hence the citizens will derive the double benefit of participating in the wage division of the construction cost and in the decreased cost of the resultant lighting service.

There has been some comment on the fact that much of the wire is strung overhead; that some of the poles being wood are by contrast with the cement poles unsightly; that there are not sufficient cluster lamps; that the lights in the street lanterns are sometimes dim; that one side only of many streets is lighted; and that the obscured glass of the lanterns absorbs too much light to the detriment of the general effect. On these and kindred questions it may be broadly said that the commission, from the beginning, has endeavored to adopt at the beginning every improvement without regard to cost that may be suggested, would amount to a policy of luxury and extravagance far beyond the requirements of the city, the interests of consumers, or the sanction of sound finance. Such a policy would deserve to meet with the strongest condemnation of the ratepayers and of all who have the credit of the city at heart, while by the cordliness of unnecessary luxuries would thereby increase the service rates and thereby deprive consumers of the immediate

financial benefits they are most properly relying upon. Such an undertaking would cost too much to compete effectively with a company having chiefly overhead construction. A beginning must be made in a rational way, having regard to the special requirements and conditions of the leading business sections; and as the undertaking becomes established on a satisfactory paying basis and attracts to itself the full confidence of the public in an increasing business, improvements will follow on a progressive plan without laying any undue burden on the city or the consumers generally. When all the substitutions are in full operation there will be no complaint about the adequacy of the light, and when all the streets are completely equipped with lanterns the city will be one of the best lighted in the world with a soft diffusion of light proceeding from the obscured glass that will be most agreeable to the eyes. The efficiency of the plant as a whole must be judged by the final finished product upon completion—not upon the partial operating services carried on under great disadvantages when it is only about two-thirds done.

Notwithstanding these temporary disadvantages the city now is better lighted than ever before and the overhead work is a very great improvement upon the best that preceded it. The city, unfortunately, has not full control over its own streets, in consequence of which the pole lines could not always be located as the commissioners desired and much delay has been caused. By this time next year, however, there will be no city on this continent better, more artistically or more economically lighted, and there will be very few, if any, that can be compared with it.

The residents of special districts who desire special street lighting services or equipment, may obtain the same and pay the extra cost on the local improvement plan—i.e., the extra cost will be assessed on the property benefited, over a twenty-year period—provided the proposal to do so is approved by the ratepayers on Monday next.

The commissioners' accounts are regularly audited and upon completion of the plant, they will be published in the usual way.

2. The Operating Services: The rates now in force for commercial and household lighting average from 30 per cent to 40 per cent below the old scale of Toronto Electric Light Company rates. The Toronto Electric Light Company has made corresponding reductions already, so that all light consumers of the city—whether or not the civic enterprise is in a position to supply their needs—are now enjoying the benefit of these large reductions.

The savings in the rates for municipal services will also be large—not less and possibly much more than that above indicated. One immediate result of this is that the city has already sanctioned a much higher street lighting standard than that formerly adopted.

As the services are extended, the rates will fall. The extensions will follow three distinct directions, viz.:

(a) With the enlargement from time to time of the municipal boundaries of the city, there will be a corresponding increase in the service demands on the enterprise.

(b) The cheaper rates and the progressive reductions thereof will lead to a substitution of electric light for gas and oil, and will greatly increase the consumption of regular users of electricity for both light and motive power.

(c) The application of electric utility to household labor services such as sweeping, suction cleaning, heating, washing, ironing, mangle, sewing, cooking, etc., which as yet is only in its infancy, will greatly stimulate the demand for electricity.

That these factors will insure a steady and continuous growth of business, leading in turn to periodic reductions of rates, is as certain as anything can be. The fact of the matter is, the field is hardly invaded yet. There are to-day between 7,000 and 8,000 houses, warehouses and other structures within the city limits that require to be lighted by some means. There are probably not more than 25,000 of them at the outside that use electricity. This means that, without allowing anything for the increasing range of application, only about 30 per cent of the field is occupied.

The distribution year by year of the maintenance and overhead charges, over the steadily increasing output that these conditions insure, means an automatic series of reductions in price that will greatly stimulate consumption and ultimately yield a level of prices of incalculable economic benefit to the community.

3. The General Economic Effects: These may be shortly summarized in their application to the interests of:

(a) Consumers.

(b) Taxpayers, and

(c) The Toronto Electric Light Company.

As to consumers: The competing efficiency of all commercial users of light and power will be greatly strengthened by the diminishing cost of the requirements. Household consumers may look forward with every confidence to ample supplies of cheap light, insuring well lighted homes, to many of the most exacting household services, with the effect of greatly helping the solution of the difficult and vexatious question of the well-to-do, and with the further effect of greatly lightening the burden of domestic labor for those who are unable to employ help. And these effects of well-lighted homes and transformed domestic conditions will, with the extension of the uses of domestic electric appliances in the near future, be accomplished at a less cost per household than inferior light alone cost prior to the establishment of the civic plant.

(b) Re Taxpayers: Taxpayers will bene-

fit by a substantial improvement in the quality of street lighting, and by a reduced cost of pumping in connection with the waterworks and sewerage departments. It may also well be that the increased competing efficiency in business circles attendant upon the progressive lowering of rates may contribute to such an improvement in the general conditions of prosperity and to such a diffusion of the fruits thereof that the streets and parks of the city may be lighted on a much more liberal scale than has heretofore been felt possible, without adding a single dollar to the net burdens of the community.

Further and negatively, it must be noted that the taxpayers will not be called upon to bear any part of the burden of repaying the debenture debt, or of defraying the interest thereon. The commissioners will pay to the city treasurer from time to time such funds to meet the interest charges, and in addition thereto they will also pay to the city treasurer from time to time sinking fund contributions, which, being invested by the city in interest bearing securities, will amount to a sum sufficient to extinguish the whole debenture debt by the date of the maturity thereof. It is to be emphasized that this is not a picture, but a true statement of the necessary course of events provided that the enterprise is capably administered and properly supported by the public.

(c) Re the Toronto Electric Light Company: It may well be asked, however, whether these benefits which to some extent are now being reaped, but which to a much larger extent will be reaped in the future, have been secured or will be secured at the cost of wrecking the Toronto Electric Light Company. Such predictions were freely made in connection with the inception of the enterprise. They have, however, not been fulfilled, nor is there the least danger that they will be fulfilled. The Toronto Electric Light Company has made no default in its obligations, and the majority of its shares recently changed hands at a very satisfactory price. The fact of the matter is, as has already been shown, that the whole field occupied by the Toronto Electric Light Company and the civic enterprise is less than one-third of the total local field that is open to them. There is ample room for diligently tilling this field for the Toronto Electric Light Company to go on and prosper.

The simple principle that an increase in business makes possible a decrease in price, insures the well-being of the Toronto Electric Light Company, a fact that the future will amply demonstrate.

Very Conclusion: There is only one further point to be noted, and that is that the best interests of the city and the citizens call for the completion of this important work, and it is the hope of the commissioners that the necessary public support will be given it on Monday next.

Signed on behalf of the commission, P. W. Ellis, Chairman.

Toronto, Dec. 28, 1911.

### CONSUMER HAD SLIM CHANCE WITH OLD-TIME PACKERS' POOL

In the Rare Old Golden Days They Divided Territory in Scientific Fashion, Fixed Prices and Allotted Business—Mystery Shrouded "Postoffice Box 247."

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—(Can. Press).—Direct evidence that a packers' pool was in existence from 1893 to 1898, and that it, after suspending operations two years, assumed "control of the country's fresh meat business, to-day was given in the packers' trial by Henry Veeder, who admitted that he acted as secretary of the organization. It was the first positive testimony offered regarding the existence of the old pool which, it is said, met under the name of "Postoffice Box No. 247" every Tuesday afternoon on the fifth floor of the Counselman Building, Chicago, to fix the price of fresh beef, agree on the price to be paid for cattle and allot among its members the amount of meat to be shipped into the different centres of distribution.

Henry Veeder, who is a son of Al-

bert H. Veeder, the attorney for the packers, followed his father on the stand as the second witness called by the government. His story of the inside workings of the old packers' pool was not half finished when court adjourned. He admitted many of the material allegations made by counsel for the government in their opening address to the jury.

#### On Scientific Basis.

Between 1893 and 1898, the pool members were Armour & Co., Armour Packing Co., Cudahy & Co., G. H. Hammond & Co., St. Louis Dressing and Provision Co., Morris & Co., and Swift & Co., according to Henry Veeder. In 1898, Schwarz-Child and Sulzberger entered the combine, the witness said.

He described the meeting held every

Tuesday, at which, he said, reports of the past week's business of the members were received and the allotment of the next week's business was divided on a percentage basis.

The witness said the country was geographically divided into five sections, each known by a letter of the alphabet, and that each of the members of the alleged pool was similarly designated, to prevent publicity.

Altho practically all the facts he testified to referred to business transacted by the packers prior to 1907, a period not covered by the indictment against the defendant packers, the government considers him a valuable witness.

#### BRANTFORD'S POWER TROUBLE.

BRANTFORD, Dec. 29.—Brantford was crippled here to-day thru lack of power, while last night the city was in entire darkness. Several of the larger factories were unable to operate certain of their departments, and subsidiary steam power was pressed into service where possible. Not a street or radial car moved all day.

The breakdown of the Cataract plant at Devere's Falls was the cause.



IDA EMERSON  
With Robinson's "Cruise Girls," at the Gayety next week.

#### STIRRING TIMES AT CAPITOL

Tariff Changes and Coming Presidential Fight the Issues.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(Special).—Sweeping changes in the tariff will be proposed by the Democratic majority in the house as soon as it gets to work next month. The Republican administration have also big changes now in process of being framed up, based on reports from the so-called tariff commission. But the Democrats will not wait for the administration bills—they have the majority and they will go on their own lines. The leaders of the Democrats have decided on sweeping reductions in the tariff, and a revenue tariff as against a wing of that party, who want many of the main items in the present tariff placed on the free list. Within six weeks the whole United States will be in the greatest tariff ferment it has ever experienced.

On top of all this are the stirring movements in evidence in either party over their respective presidential candidates. Woodrow Wilson, in all likelihood, against Lafolette, two moderate men, against the old-liners like Taft, or Roosevelt, or Harmon (a Democrat).

The most marvelous thing of the situation is the strength of progressive ideas. Any man in the limelight to-day is a revolutionary (say Taft as an

example), compared to what he was eighteen months ago. The big interests are getting the shake-up of their lives.

#### HIS THOUGHTS OF MOTHER.

To do the rounds of a commercial hospital may not seem a desirable assignment for a newspaper reporter, and indeed fifty patients in the Elmhurst Free Hospital for Consumptives, as well as seeing much that is sad and pathetic, I have also seen a great deal to cheer the heart. Patients are be-

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ing brought back to health and fitted for the activities of work. Many are the wishes that possess the patient. One finds a beautiful home touch in the remark of one patient, who said: "I came here a year ago, and am now considered a graduate and able to do some work every day. I have some cough, but my lungs are making progress. My mother is alive and I was her chief support and I am anxious to get well and get work for her sake."

#### \$9.00 TROUSERS FOR \$2.95.

Owing to a mistake in Hobbart Bros. & Co.'s ad in last evening's paper, the lines of trousering up to 39 were quoted at \$3.50. The ad should read—"Trousers from \$6 to \$9 will be sold on Saturday and Monday at \$2.95, made to measure."

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