

"By By-law 712, passed on 6th February, 1897, 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), "O. ROBINSON."

When the Local Legislature met in February last, the Metropolitan Company were busy getting their Bill ready for presentation to the Railway Committee of the House, and the North Toronto Council had appointed their Committee to be present when the Metropolitan Company's Bill came up for consideration. As I said in my Letter published last week, in The Leader and Recorder, the President and Manager of the Metropolitan Company approached our Committee, and assured them that if they would not offer any opposition to their Bill we should at once have a reduction made in the price of tickets on their line of railway. It is admitted by all who were present while the Bill was being discussed before the Committee of the House that our Committee was exceedingly docile and teachable, and even the M. R. C.'s indefatigable lobbyist smiled complacently while he was associating with one of our Committee, who was constantly hob-nobbing with the promoters of the Bill. When Premier

Hardy was waited upon a few weeks ago by a Committee of the North Toronto Council, to get relief or redress, he bluntly told them that they and their advocates were napping while they were before the House Committee, and that if they had been half awake, and had done the kind of lobbying their opponents did they would not now be mourning over their lost opportunities!! This is a sad commentary on the way business is rushed through the Local Legislature, and an admission on the part of Mr. Hardy that good and smart lobbying usually carries the day!!!

It is a noteworthy fact that while the Parliamentary Committee, who did this business so acceptably for the M. R. C., number *sixty-eight*, only four of that Committee were deputed to hear the arguments—pro and con—and when the vote was taken the other members of the Committee were brought in from an adjoining room, like *innocent sheep* "to go it blind,"—or else that they had everything out and dried for them beforehand; and, the latter must have been, undoubtedly, the case, for the Metropolitan's friends were offering to bet two to one that the vote would go in favor of the Metropolitan, as it was pretty well understood the day before the vote was taken, that the majority of the Committee were "fixed," and it was known a day ahead how the majority would vote!

This is meting out Justice with a vengeance, in the year of Jubilee, to her Majesty's truly dutiful and loyal subjects by our Local Legislature!

I did hope to finish the narrative of the situation that the Metropolitan Railway has placed the few remaining citizens of North Toronto in; but I find from the length of this letter, that I will have to say as the story-writer says:—"To be continued in the next paper."

A. H. ST. GERMAIN.

North Toronto, 1897.