

Many Changes for Power Proposition

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ter some jockeying for position a compromise was made that this kind of rail should be placed on streets where the pavement was a permanent one or soon to be permanent, but a T rail upon other streets.

The city asked that the company pay the space known as the devil strip in case of a double track and two feet outside of the track. The company said one, and a compromise was made on 18 inches.

The next matter referred to the backing of the company and again Mr. Jones guaranteed to furnish the names of the people behind them before the second reading of the bill.

The next clause caused what seems to be the end of the railway part of the power scheme. In explanation it may be said that in cities where there is a high voltage it has been discovered that the electric street railway is putting the water and sewer pipes out of business. Mr. Speakman referred to instances where the sewer pipe was absolutely porous from the effects of the current. This is caused by the return current to the power house. The city desired to avoid this and the mayor insisted that the city put the street in such a way that the company should be responsible for any damages incurred.

The city engineer suggested a return cable to the power house.

Mr. Thorold, speaking for the company, thought that would be asking too much of the company and urged that the usual precautions should be taken.

The city solicitor thought they might not be sufficient.

Mr. Thorold pointed out that this could not be avoided without unusual expense. The same conditions would exist if the city put in the plant. It might destroy the city pipes, but a city street car service would be quite as unsatisfactory.

As a compromise it was suggested that the chief electrician of the Hamilton and Cataract Power Co. should be communicated with, and his suggestion referred to the company.

While the city engineer was putting down the terms of the compromise, Mr. Budd informed an enquirer that work would be started at once and that there might be some results by next autumn. He had already been working on the scheme for a year. He could not tell about the street railway, because the mills were behind with their orders.

"In case of damages, who pays?" asked the mayor. That was in reference to the compromise already made, and the answer to that question put the street railway proposition out of the running.

Mr. Jones: "We're not."

Mayor Cameron: "If the city is to be responsible, then I buck it to the very end. If I am driving and run into a man on the street and injure him then I pay the damages."

Mr. Paradis asked if the city would not be willing to place itself in a position similar to other cities.

The mayor didn't care what happened to other cities, but he did object to the city of which he was mayor having to pay damages caused by other people.

Mr. Jones: "We are not at all struck on the street railway propo-

sition."

The Mayor: "Are you prepared to talk power without the street railway?"

Mr. Budd said they were. His people were prepared to build the street railway if the city wanted it. They had the money, but that was not a necessary part of the proposition. They were indifferent about it.

It was then understood though this had been abandoned entirely, yet it was practically abandoned by both parties.

Mr. Thorold made some objection to having a sub-station for the delivery of power in two parts of the city. The company would come down to the city 4,000 volts strong. Would the city permit them to go through the city with such a load?

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Ald. Watson pointed out that if natural gas should be discovered it would mean that the company would cut rates outside of the city to meet

competitors, but not in the city, so that power would become cheaper outside of the city than inside.

Mr. Jones declined to say what the company could produce it for. The mayor thought that it should not cost the city more than 10 per cent. above the producing price.

Mr. White when asked the cost of power at the station gave it as his opinion that power was delivered for \$60. Undelivered it would be \$54.

Mr. Watson referred to power from the gas producers.

Mr. Alexander had had some experience with gas and wouldn't recommend it.

Ald. Watson asked about the natural gas proposition.

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