

Northwest. Before this can be realized, however, she must be placed in the position of being able to offer inducements to manufacturers and other community builders and to successfully compete with cities to the east and south of her; she must be freed of the bonds, shackles or fetters of her pioneer days, and for that very reason the citizens of Vancouver, through its City Council, are requesting the Legislature of 1917 to so amend its charter as to enable it to furnish cheap light and power to its citizens and the surrounding districts.

AN ILLOGICAL SUGGESTION SOMETIMES MADE

The suggestion has been advanced from time to time that the clauses of which the City is complaining were inserted by the Legislature of twenty-two years ago for the purpose of safeguarding the Company against competition and thereby protecting the investor or capitalist. This argument, however, is neither logical or sound and it is not given much credence by anyone who has a thorough knowledge of the situation; in fact, this whole theory is exploded when one stops to think that the Government granted the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited, and which the City is now seeking, to the Western Canada Power Company a few years ago. This is a very large corporation and was organized for the sole purpose of competing with the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited in the sale of electric light and power in and about Vancouver.

NO COMPETITION AT THE PRESENT TIME

Of course, the Western Canada Power Company does not compete at the present time because of an arrangement entered into with the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited under which the latter company purchases a large block of power at a price of three-tenths of a cent per K.W. hour (which power is resold to the citizens of Vancouver at the exorbitant price of 11 cents per K.W. hour), and under which the party of the first part (the Western Canada Power Company) agrees not to enter into competition on any domestic lighting or power. It is reasonable to assume, however, that no such arrangement did exist and that the Government had no reason to suspect that any such arrangement would be entered into when the charter was granted to the Western Canada Power Company. The Government, on the contrary, would naturally suppose that this Company would become a competitor of the British Columbia Electric Railway Company Limited; and when the capitalist invested his money he knew full well that there was always a possibility of competition.

ANOTHER ILLOGICAL SUGGESTION

Another suggestion that comes from the Company and its friends is that the City can, at the present time, go into the business of selling