

INTRODUCTION

The municipal ownership and conduct of popularly used public services is a subject which is receiving considerable attention in Canada. In the city of Toronto, at various times during the past few years, there have been more or less popular agitations for the acquirement and conduct, by the local municipal authorities, of the street railway service, the gas service and the electric light service. In other parts of the country there have been similar agitations, which have resulted, in the city of Winnipeg in the municipalization of the gas service, and in the towns of Port Arthur and Fort William of municipal telephone and other services. Other municipalities, including Brockville, Kingston, Woodstock and several smaller places have also undertaken enterprises of various kinds.

The city of Toronto owns its own street railway franchise, which was improved and electrified, and is now being conducted under lease by a private company. Its gas and electric light franchises are in the hands of private companies, as are also extensive franchises for developing and distributing electric