

more than at present.

The Chairman said he understood the company was willing to pay through the nose if only they could get away from the harassment that they had been subjected to in many municipalities for years.

Mr. Staunton, at the request of the committee, read the following table, showing the gross receipts of the company in thirteen towns and cities:—

	Tolls.	Rentals.
Barrie .....	\$ 3,155	\$ 3,590
Belleville ... ..	3,419	7,566
Berlin .....	3,660	6,964
Brantford .. ..	6,794	14,795
Hamilton .. ..	19,824	58,749
Kingston .....	5,550	15,398
London .....	13,454	42,278
Stratford ... ..	5,057	7,136
St. Catharines ...	5,293	14,597
St. Thomas .....	4,147	9,203
Toronto .. ..	68,705	401,421
Windsor .....	5,179	15,919
Brockville .. ..	2,050	8,000

#### A Proposition to Toronto.

Mr. Staunton said the Bell Telephone Company was now assessed for \$600,000 in Toronto. If Toronto suffered a little by this bill, that should not prevent it going through, so long as the company did not escape taxation.

Mr. Staunton said the company had a proposition to make to Toronto. They were now assessed \$77,000 on land, \$478,000 on street-plant, and about \$50,000 on the switchboards, etc. The company proposed that their gross revenue in the city should be assessed on a basis of 75 per cent., instead of 60 would be \$25,000 more. That made a total of \$500,000. It would be only a few years when the tax on gross receipts would be much larger.

Corporation Counsel Fullerton protested that it was unfair to cut the assessment in Toronto, while it was increased in other places.

The Chairman—Toronto seems to be only too glad to accept this bill where they benefit by it, but when at any point they are hit a little they raise a big squeal. Toronto is gaining all along the line.

Mr. Fullerton said that Toronto wanted to be able to tax according to law; they were not asking for special concessions from the company such as Mr. Staunton had suggested. Toronto had defended the scrap iron assessment, and the company were now paying a reasonable tax. Under this bill they would again have their assessment reduced by \$150,000.

Mr. Staunton—It is not that much.

Mr. Fullerton, continuing, pointed out that the company was putting its wires underground, rendering its street plant more valuable, and resulting in an increased assessment.

Ald. Hubabrd also opposed the acceptance of the proposition of the company.

Mr. Staunton finally said he would agree to \$125, instead of \$200, per mile, and \$7.50 on the double circuit of wires for branch lines.

The Chairman, however, thought it should be \$135 per mile, and Mr. Staunton agreed to this.

Mr. Carscallen said that 15 per cent. was too great a difference in the assessment between Toronto and Hamilton.

Mr. Staunton—That's only local jealousy.

Further discussion on the question was postponed.

## CONSUMERS' GAS BILL.

WILL BE TAKEN UP AT LEGISLATURE ON THURSDAY.

Orillia's Dispute With Contractor Patriarche—Bill to Raise Debentures Set Aside Until Tuesday—St. Catharines Bill Passed.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature met yesterday and dealt first with Orillia's bill asking for power to raise debentures to pay the balance due to Mr. H. M. Patriarche, contractor for the town's electric power plant at Ragged Rapids. Mr. Patriarche and the town have had a long-standing disagreement upon the question, and have been unable to come to any understanding, in spite of frequent conferences. They are now expecting the judgment of the court as to the balance owing on the contract. The Chairman suggested a further conference between the parties and adjourned the hearing of the question until Tuesday next.

#### Consumers' Gas Bill.

The Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto asked for power to increase their capital by \$3,000,000. Mayor Urquhart was present on behalf of the city, and opposed the request, asking for an adjournment, claiming that he had only received a statement of the facts connected with the application on Friday last. The Board of Control had been in session practically ever since then considering the proposal. He thought the principle of the bill was a wrong one. A special meeting of the Council had been called for Monday to discuss the questions involved and draw up a set of necessary amendments.

Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, K.C., appeared for the company, and urged the committee not to postpone the consideration of the bill.

Hon. J. M. Gibson said it would be better to have a conference between the Mayor and the company rather than waste the time of the committee.

Mr. John T. Small represented the shareholders who objected to the increase, and would like to be heard whenever the committee dealt with the bill. The bill was laid over until Thursday next.

#### St. Catharines Bill Passed.

St. Catharines wanted power to apply \$150,000 for purchasing stock in any street railway or electric railway, and to build a high level crossing over the old Welland Canal, provided the assent of the ratepayers can be obtained. The money was raised under a former act by debentures, for general city improvements, for the power works at Beaver Dam Creek, and for the construction of sewers and roadways, but was never used. Mayor Marquis, City Solicitor Connors, Ald. Burson and Messrs. Hodgetts and Begg appeared for the city. The bill was passed, with a few minor amendments.

#### Other Committees Meeting.

The Standing Orders Committee met and passed several bills as having been sufficiently advertised, including the Kingston bill in connection with the street railway. It had been well advertised for two weeks in the papers, and posters had been put up regarding it. In addition, it was plain that it had received an unusual amount of publicity in the press.

The Railway Committee organized and appointed Hon. John Dryden Chairman. They adjourned until next Tuesday, when they will take up Mr. Lee's bill respecting the Windsor & Tecumseh Railway.