

OVER ELECTRIC PLANT.

City Wins Victory Before the
Private Bills Committee.

RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS

Premier Whitney States They
Will be Safeguarded.

Preamble of Bill of City of Toronto Approving of the Principle of Expropriation Approved of—Some Amendments Will be Made—Details to be Given To-day.

The preamble of the city's expropriation bill was carried yesterday afternoon by the Private Bills Committee, and the first stone in the way of the expropriation of the Toronto Electric Light Co. was removed. The vote was taken after a remarkable debate, in which Hon. J. P. Whitney and Mr. G. P. Graham spoke with a vigor that they have seldom excelled in the debates of the House. The rights of the shareholders will be absolutely safeguarded. The Government were not buccaneers, the Premier declared. The rights of every man, woman and child will be safe, was Mr. G. P. Graham's confirmatory assurance.

The principle of expropriation was approved by adopting the following clause in the preamble of the bill:

"Whereas the Municipal Corporation of the City of Toronto has, by petition, prayed for special legislation in respect of the several matters hereinafter set forth; and whereas the said city represents that it should be permitted to expropriate the property of the Toronto Electric Light Company, Limited, and operate the same as a municipal concern."

To-day at 10.30 details of the Government's proposed amendments will be submitted to the committee for approval.

The Case for the City.

Corporation Counsel, Fullerton, for the city, proceeded to show that the idea of expropriation of water and light plants was no new thing.

Mayor Coatsworth said they were representing the city of Toronto and serving the public interests in asking for the passing of this bill. At present they were paying almost double the price they should for electric light. If the property was worth what the company claimed, they would be paid for it—otherwise they would be paid only its proper value.

Mr. E. E. A. Du Vernet said that a certain portion of the press had hinted that the company, which he represented, were simply coming to the committee to get their sentence. To confiscate the contract would be the worst advertisement this country ever had.

Mr. Byron E. Walker said that he was not interested, nor was his bank, but he believed that there were many things which had not been thought of.

Hon. Mr. Hanna asked that some of those things might be enumerated. The department had thought of several matters, not included in the bill.

Mr. Walker did not specify, but, con-