

fining, said that there was not money enough in the world to carry out the process of the purchase of utilities by municipalities going into debt to acquire the same. This process had reduced the credit of municipal securities in Great Britain from fifth to sixth place. The financial side of municipal ownership had been a complete failure.

#### The Premier Favors Expropriation.

"As a member of the Private Bills Committee, if my voice adds any weight, I will raise it in favor of expropriation," said Premier Whitney on rising. He was loudly applauded. The Premier also gave the assurance most emphatically that the rights of every shareholder in the company would be protected. Proceeding, he said that as he understood it the question was whether the citizens of Toronto were to be allowed to say whether they wanted to expropriate this plant or not. Touching upon the references to the question as it applied to the general power policy of the Government he was very emphatic. Nine-tenths of the scare among the financial interests in England of which so much had been said had been created by the men who protested so much against the Government policy. The men across the water had heard these things in the tones of the "fat-witted men," who thought they were doing their companies and the country a service and were doing both an injury. He thought there was no occasion for hysteria over a proposition that the public should own these utilities when they had been under the laws of the Province acquiring and operating similar utilities for 50 years. "The question," the Premier continued, "is whether the people of Toronto are going to be given an opportunity to vote to say whether they are willing to purchase this property, giving what a willing purchaser would give, with anything added to what a willing purchaser would give for taking the property by compulsion."

#### The Opposition Leader.

Mr. G. P. Graham said that if the Toronto bill was put to the committee as it stood he would vote against it. The city was unwise in bringing down bills that they knew would not pass, and the result was that they aroused unnecessary opposition.

On the broad principle of the rights of communities, it was the business of legislators, who represented the people, to legislate in the interests of the greatest number of the people, but they must also keep in mind the rights of the lesser number. "I will not vote for one line in that bill that does not protect every one of the bondholders," he declared. There was danger, he admitted, of legislators being stampeded by what seemed to be popular or unpopular, but the women could assure themselves, and the men of finance could assure themselves, that the legislation proposed will not allow one line contrary to their interests.

The preamble of the bill adopting the principle of expropriation was then carried.

#### Position of the City.

Mayor Coatsworth made the following statement last night:—

"The Corporation is willing to take over the present distributing plant of the Toronto Electric Light Company at reasonable figures and save the loss which would be occasioned to the shareholders of that company by a competition which would be ruinous. There is no thought whatever of confiscation or anything of that kind. This is considered to be the desire of our citizens.

"On the other hand, if the prices, terms and conditions imposed upon the city in connection with the transfer or expropriation are onerous and burdensome upon the people at large to an unreasonable extent, the Corporation will undoubtedly act upon the authority given by the vote of last January, and install an independent distributing system, an estimate of the cost of which is now before them."

*Adopted to 11/11*