

## THEIR ANNUAL DISPUTE.

### Port Arthur and Fort William Before Legislative Committee.

"Like two big healthy boys, they get into an occasional squabble," said Mr. Hamilton Cassels, K.C., representing Port Arthur, when the twin cities at the head of Lake Superior engaged in their annual dispute before the Legislative Private Bills Committee yesterday. Mr. H. L. Drayton, K.C., was the counsel for Fort William. Mayor Matthews headed the Port Arthur deputation, while Mayor Pelletier was in charge of the Fort William representatives.

The Port Arthur bill was under discussion. The non-contentious clauses were passed with the exception of that covering Sunday cars, which, the Chairman explained, must remain to be determined on Government policy. The battle was precipitated over the street railway. Mr. Cassels maintained that all the bonded indebtedness fell upon Port Arthur, and Fort William got its service without any responsibility for debt. He explained the findings of the Municipal Board. "As Port Arthur is responsible and its credit is at stake," said he, "that city should have the chief control of the service."

The Municipal Board had decided that there should be five commissioners to control the railway, two appointed by each city and a fifth jointly. Port Arthur wanted a permanent judicial officer to preside over this Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Drayton, for Fort William, did not think the committee would interfere with the finding of the Municipal Board or the High Court. Fort William had invested \$220,000.

The committee decided to strike the clause out of Port Arthur's bill and leave the appointment of a permanent Chairman to the Railway and Municipal Board. The head offices of the railway were left in Port Arthur.

The non-contentious clauses of the Fort William bill, which followed, were approved, and the committee adjourned to enable the parties interested to confer on the matter of compensation for roadways proposed to be opened up. They will report to another meeting of the committee later in the week.

---