

# WIDER POWERS FOR COMMISSION

the private corporation, subject to the right of the municipal system to

Hydro-Electric to Have Final Word in All Disputes.

DO AWAY WITH DISPUTES.

Municipal Wires May be Strung on Existing Poles.

Power Given Commission to Prevent a Double Row of Poles on Streets — Jurisdiction Over Municipal Lines—Mr. Allan Studholme Was Misreported—Anti-reciprocity Reciprocity Resolution Coming.

Absolute jurisdiction over the erection of poles and wires and the construction of conduits is given the Hydro-electric Power Commission by a Government bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Mr. W. K. McNaught. The bill was seconded by Hon. J. S. Hendrie, and is designed chiefly to put an end to the differences of opinion between private and municipal electric companies. Hitherto the courts were the only resort where disputes arose, but under the power commission act as it will be amended the orders of the Commission will be binding upon any company. It will also give the Commission power to step in where municipalities, such as Toronto, have independent ideas as to the construction of their pole conduit systems.

One of the most striking clauses of the bill is that which gives the Commission power to order that the wires of a municipal system shall be attached to poles already erected by private companies, thus doing away with the necessity of an unsightly double line of poles on any street.

### Commission Gets Jurisdiction.

The Commission is given power to exercise jurisdiction over the location of all poles, conduits and wires of any municipal corporation. In all cases where, in the opinion of the Commission, it is desirable that conduits should be laid or maintained or lines of poles erected upon any street on which other conduits or poles have previously been placed, the Commission may order that notwithstanding any law to the contrary the poles, conduits or wires of any municipal corporation using the Commission's power may be placed at such positions as the Commission may order, notwithstanding the proximity of existing conduits or poles.

Where wires of the municipal company are placed on poles of an existing company, the former corporation must pay the private company such remuneration as the Commission may order.

### May Erect New Poles.

If the poles are unable to carry more wires, and it is in the public interest that two lines of poles should not be erected, the Commission may order that stronger poles be erected, to be used by both systems. The municipal company must erect the new poles and remove the old ones, making all necessary connections, at its own expense, and shall indemnify the existing company for any expenses in connection with the change. The substituted poles become the property of