

HYDRO AGREEMENT

CANNOT BE BROKEN

Principle Laid Down in the Stratford Case

CITY SOUGHT A REPEAL

**Mr. W. K. McNaught Protested That
Way Would be Opened to Other
Municipalities to Escape an
Agreement.**

An attempt on the part of the city of Stratford to break away from its thirty-year agreement with the Hydro-electric Power Commission, with a view to paving the way for an electric street railway which the city has desired for some time, was blocked yesterday morning when the bill respecting the Stratford Railway Company was before the Railway Committee of the Legislature. In the bill, which was introduced by Mr. James Torrance (North Perth), the city asked the Legislature to ratify and confirm a by-law passed by the ratepayers on January 1 last, and which gave power to the Stratford Railway Company to build an electric line on certain streets of the city.

When clause 15 of the agreement was reached in the consideration of it by the committee Mr. W. K. McNaught, M. P. P., protested vigorously against its passage. This clause provided for the repeal of section 42 of the old schedule which bound the city to its agreement with the Hydro-electric Power Commission, and the substitution therefor of a section which would free the city from its agreement with the Hydro-electric Commission. The new section read as follows: "The company shall obtain its power from the Hydro-electric Power Commission provided the rates are as favorable to the company as those obtainable elsewhere and otherwise."

Mr. McNaught declared this substitution of the old section 42 meant a breach of the agreement between Stratford and the Hydro-electric Commission, and "a breach of faith." If this new section were allowed to pass and Stratford was thereby allowed to escape its agreement with the Commission it would open the way for the other municipalities to escape the agreement also. He moved that the new section 42 be struck out.

President Ferguson of the Stratford Board of Trade, and Mr. William Preston, representing the manufacturers, declared that Stratford was very anxious to obtain additional railway facilities, and to strike out this clause, which virtually freed the city from the Hydro-electric contract, would be detrimental to the interests of the city.

On a vote Mr. McNaught's motion carried.
