

EXPROPRIATE RADIAL WITHIN CITY LIMITS

North Toronto Ratepayers Score Victory Over Metropolitan

A notable victory, and one which pleased the monster deputation from North Toronto immensely, was scored by the city in the Private Bills Committee yesterday in connection with the Metropolitan Railway. The principle of the expropriation of the railway within the city limits was endorsed, and the details will be arranged by a sub-committee. The committee room was crowded, and members arriving late had difficulty in getting in.

Dog-in-Manger Policy.

Mayor Church declared that all that was being asked was a fair consideration. "Fully 95 per cent. of the people in this room are in favor of the bill. North Toronto is served by this one line only. The company didn't pay for this franchise, and now there are 10,000 people there, the population having doubled in five years.

"The company is giving a deplorable service. The city is now asking for the franchise back, which didn't cost the company anything. We propose to double-track the street in the middle of the road, and then North Toronto will come into its own, and we are giving the company running rights on the road.

"Three years ago they asked the city to buy them out, but the terms weren't suitable. The company shouldn't be allowed to play a dog-in-the-manger policy."

Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, K.C., for the company, remarked this was the first time a Legislature had been asked to expropriate a portion of a railway, and to leave the balance and less remunerative portion of it to the company.

He pointed out that 24 per cent. of the earnings were obtained from the 3 1-2 miles in the city.

Lieut.-Col. Lennox at Committee.

Lieut.-Col. T. H. Lennox, M.P.P. for North York, speaking for York county, said the people he represented had never been consulted or asked by the city with respect to their rights. "We have never been asked to take any steps to urge the company to build a double track. We want branch lines all over up in the country there."

Col. Lennox asked that the committee ask the company to build a double track, and if necessary they could have a single fare, too.

Sir Adam Beck stated that he had been partly responsible for the bill before the committee as a solution of the difficulty in which the city had found itself, and he maintained that the county of York would benefit as much as anybody else. "In regard to the claim of the company that the city was taking the most profitable part of the railway, I would point out that when the people asked for a better service within the city limits the company said they could not give it because there was no money in it, and that their earnings depended on a through service."

Hon. I. B. Lucas said the justification for expropriation at all times was public convenience, and there was nothing startling in principle, provided the city was willing to pay. The committee then divided.