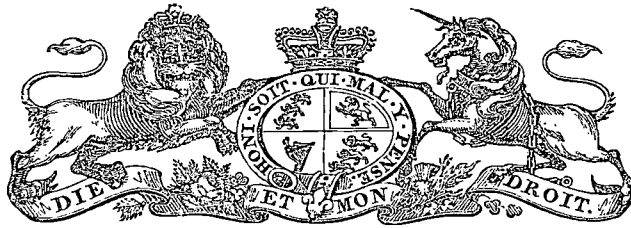


(No. 61.)



1895.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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HOBART GAS COMPANY'S ELECTRIC LIGHT  
BILL, (PRIVATE):

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS, APPENDICES, EVIDENCE, AND  
THE BILL AS AMENDED.

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Brought up by Mr. Urquhart, September 24, 1895, and ordered by the House of  
Assembly to be printed.

Cost of printing—£14.



*SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 4th September, 1895, to report upon  
"A Bill to authorise the Hobart Town Gas Company to light the City of Hobart  
and its Suburbs by Electricity."*

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE :

MR. N. J. BROWN.  
MR. W. T. H. BROWN.  
MR. CRISP.  
MR. MULCAHY.

MR. FENTON.  
MR. GILL.  
MR. URQUHART. (*Mover.*)

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DAYS OF MEETING.

12th September ; 17th September ; 20th September ; 21st September.

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WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. J. W. Campbell, Secretary, Hobart Gas Company ; Mr. Russell Allport, Civil Engineer ; Mr. C. E. Walsh ;  
Mr. T. Whitesides ; Mr. A. P. Miller ; Hon. C. H. Grant, M.L.C. ; Hon. John Watchorn, M.L.C. ; Mr.  
Alfred Mault ; Mr. R. S. Milles.

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## R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee, having taken evidence in support of the allegations contained in the Preamble of the Bill, have the honor to report that the said Preamble has been proved to their satisfaction.

Your Committee having agreed that the Preamble should stand part of the Bill, then entered upon the consideration of the several clauses.

Your Committee recommend the following amendments :—

In Clause 3, the insertion of the words “ The expression ‘ The said Corporation ’ shall mean the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart ” after “ therewith,” in line 51.

The insertion of the following new Clauses as Part VII. of the Bill :—

### POWER TO PURCHASE BY CORPORATION.

**29** It shall be lawful for the Corporation of Hobart at any time after the passing of this Act to give the Company notice of their intention to take and acquire the whole of the property and works of the said Company used in connection with the supply of gas and electricity, together with all the rights and privileges conferred upon the Company by this Act and by the Company's Act for the manufacture and supply of gas, and to compensate the Company as hereinafter provided.

The amount of compensation to be paid the Company shall be a sum to be agreed upon between the Company and the Corporation, and in the event of their not agreeing shall be determined by arbitration in the mode prescribed by the “ The Lands Clauses Act,” in cases of disputed compensation. Provided always the said Corporation shall not exercise the powers herein conferred upon them until and after the Citizens of Hobart have, by a majority of two-thirds of the votes at a poll to be taken for that purpose as hereinafter provided, consented to the taking and acquiring the whole of the property and works of the said Company as aforesaid.

**30** When the Council shall decide to take a poll of the citizens as aforesaid, they shall cause a notice of such poll to be inserted not less than Twelve times in the newspapers published daily in the City of Hobart, and in two consecutive numbers of the *Gazette* ; and such notice shall contain the following particulars :—

- I. The time and place of such election :—
- II. The property and rights to be acquired.

**31** Subject to the foregoing provisions, all proceedings upon the taking of any such poll as aforesaid shall be had and taken as nearly as may be as upon an election of Aldermen, as the case may require.

In Clause 40, the insertion of the words “ except as mentioned in Part VII. of this Act ” after “ arbitration,” in line 12.

Your Committee have the honor to submit the Bill, as amended, for the favourable consideration of your Honorable House.

D. C. URQUHART, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room,*  
21st September, 1895.

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## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

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TUESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

The Committee met at 11.30 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. Crisp, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Mulcahy, and Mr. W. T. H. Brown.

Mr. Urquhart was voted to the Chair.

The Chairman laid the Petition for leave to introduce the Bill upon the Committee Table.

*Resolved*, That His Worship the Mayor of Hobart be requested to attend and give evidence before the Committee at his convenience, and that a Message to that effect be transmitted to the Legislative Council. (Mr. Mulcahy).

That the Secretary to the Gas Company be informed of the date of the next meeting of the Committee, and that the Committee would hear Counsel in support of the Bill on that date.

*Resolved*, That the Hon. C. H. Grant be requested to attend and give evidence before the Committee on his return to the Colony, and that a Message to that effect be transmitted to the Legislative Council.

The Committee adjourned at 12.20 P.M. until 11 A.M. on Tuesday, the 17th instant.

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TUESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. N. J. Brown, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Crisp, Mr. W. T. H. Brown, and Mr. Urquhart, (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Counsel, Mr. John Mitchell, addressed the Committee in support of the Preamble of the Bill.

Mr. John William Campbell, Secretary of the Hobart Gas Company, was examined.

Mr. Campbell tabled the following papers:—Copy of the Deed of Partnership and original Act of the Hobart Gas Company's.

Mr. Campbell withdrew.

Mr. Russell Allport was called in and examined.

Mr. Allport withdrew.

The Hon. John Watchorn, having attended as requested, was examined.

Mr. Watchorn withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 1.5 P.M. until 10 P.M. on Friday next.

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FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1895.

The Committee met at 10.10 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. W. T. H. Brown, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Gill, Mr. Crisp, and Mr. Urquhart (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman laid upon the Table a Petition presented to the House of Assembly, praying that the Hobart Town Gas Company's Bill to light the City of Hobart and its suburbs by electricity be not passed into law, and referred by the House to the Committee, (Appendix B.)

Mr. Charles E. Walch was called in and examined.

Mr. Walch withdrew.

Mr. Thomas Whitesides was called in and examined.

Mr. Whitesides withdrew.

Mr. Andrew P. Miller was called in and examined.

Mr. Miller withdrew.

Hon. Charles Henry Grant was called in and examined.

Mr. Grant withdrew.

Ordered, That the City Surveyor, Mr. R. S. Milles, and Mr. Alfred Mault, be called and examined. (Mr. Mulcahy.)

Mr. Alfred Mault was then called and examined.

Mr. Mault withdrew.

Mr. Robert S. Milles was then called and examined.

Mr. Milles withdrew.

The Committee adjourned at 12.55 P.M. o'clock till 10 o'clock next day, Saturday, September 21.

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SATURDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 1895.

The Committee met at 10.15 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. W. T. Brown, Mr. Crisp, Mr. Gill, Mr. Mulcahy, and Mr. Urquhart (Chairman).

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

And the consideration of the Bill having been then entered upon, and the Chairman having put the Question—  
That the Preamble, as printed, be agreed to;

The Committee divided.

AYES.  
Mr. Gill.  
Mr. W. T. H. Brown.

NOES.  
Mr. Mulcahy.

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Committee then considered the several Clauses of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 (Interpretation), amended by inserting the words “The expression ‘the said Corporation’ shall mean the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart.”

Clauses 4 to 28 agreed to.

The following new Clauses, 29, 30, and 31, were agreed to and inserted as Part VII. of the Bill (Mr. Gill):—

“29 It shall be lawful for the Corporation of *Hobart* at any time after the passing of this Act to give the Company notice of their intention to take and acquire the whole of the property and works of the said Company used in connection with the supply of gas and electricity, together with all the rights and privileges conferred upon the Company by this Act and by the Company’s Act for the manufacture and supply of gas, and to compensate the Company as hereinafter provided.

The amount of compensation to be paid the Company shall be a sum to be agreed upon between the Company and the Corporation, and in the event of their not agreeing shall be determined by arbitration in the mode prescribed by *The Lands Clauses Act* in cases of disputed compensation. Provided always the said Corporation shall not exercise the powers herein conferred upon them until and after the Citizens of *Hobart* have, by a majority of two-thirds of the votes at a poll to be taken for that purpose as hereinafter provided, consented to the taking and acquiring the whole of the property and works of the said Company as aforesaid.

“30. When the Council shall decide to take a poll of the citizens as aforesaid, they shall cause a notice of such poll to be inserted not less than Twelve times in the newspapers published daily in the City of *Hobart*, and in two consecutive numbers of the *Gazette*; and such notice shall contain the following particulars:—

i. The time and place of such election:

ii. The property and rights to be acquired.

“31 Subject to the foregoing provisions, all proceedings upon the taking of any such poll as aforesaid shall be had and taken as nearly as may be as upon an election of Aldermen, as the case may require.”

Clauses 29 to 39 (Draft issue), agreed to.

Clause 40 (Arbitration), amended in line 12 by inserting the words “except as amended in Part VII. of this Act” after “arbitration.” (Mr. Gill.)

The Report was considered and agreed to.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

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## APPENDIX A.

*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly,  
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the Hobart Gas Company,

## SHOWETH :

1. That within three months previously to the presentation of this Petition, Notice of the intention of your Petitioners to apply for a Private Bill was published as by the Standing Rules and Orders of your Honorable House is prescribed as follows ; that is to say—

In the *Hobart Gazette* of the eleventh, eighteenth, and twenty-fifth days of June last, and of the second day of July instant.

In the *Mercury*, a public newspaper published at Hobart, in Tasmania, on the eleventh, eighteenth, and twenty-fifth days of June last, and the second day of July instant.

In the *Tasmanian News*, a newspaper published in Hobart aforesaid, on the twelfth, eighteenth, and twenty-fifth days of June last, and on the second day of July instant, and which said Notice contained a true statement of the general objects of the Bill as hereinafter set forth.

2. That the general objects of the said Bill as set forth in the said notice are as follows :—

To enable the said Gas Company to lay down, construct, work, and maintain in all public and private places in the City of Hobart and in the various suburbs thereof, and in such other places in or near the City of Hobart or the said suburbs, machinery, engines, buildings, and works for the manufacture and supply of Electric Lighting, and to supply electricity for the lighting of the localities above mentioned, and for any other purposes whatsoever to which electricity may for the time being be applicable, excepting the transmission of any telegraphic or telephonic messages.

To enable the said Company to construct, maintain, and work through, over, along, under, and upon any public or private land, and at all necessary places in the said city, suburbs, or places, such posts, pipes, wires, channels and other works and things of any and every nature and kind as may be required for the purposes aforesaid ; to lay down all necessary communications, and to break up any roads or streets, either public or private.

To provide for the incorporation of "The Lands Clauses Act" with the said Bill, and otherwise for the acquisition of any land or materials, rights, powers, privileges, or easements for the purpose of the premises.

To enable the said Company, if necessary, to call up the uncalled capital of the Company, and to borrow money for the purposes aforesaid, or to increase their capital as may be deemed necessary or proper.

To enable the Company to make all proper charges for and to enter into contracts for the supply of electricity upon such terms as may be mutually agreed upon.

To provide for the regulation and protection of the works, and the making of Bye-laws and Rules in relation thereto, and for the infliction of penalties upon persons infringing the provisions of the said Bill, Bye-laws, or Rules.

The said Bill will also contain all clauses usual in Bills of like nature, or deemed proper for enabling the said Company to carry out the works and undertaking aforesaid.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray for leave to introduce the said Bill.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Dated this 23rd day of July, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five.

GEO. CRISP, } *Directors of the said*  
CHAS. WALCH, } *Company.*

W. J. CAMPBELL, *Secretary*  
to the said Company.

APPENDIX B.

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*Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Hobart,  
18th September, 1895.*

*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly,  
in Parliament assembled.*

The Petition of the undersigned, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Hobart,

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH :

1. That your Petitioners, in the interests of the citizens of the City of Hobart, have, through the Attorney-General, brought in a Bill before Parliament to "make better provision for the supply of Light to the City of Hobart and its Suburbs," this Bill embracing the purpose of electric lighting.

2. That a Bill is now before Parliament at the instance of the Hobart Town Gas Company, asking for certain concessions and powers with the view also of lighting the City of Hobart and Suburbs by means of electricity, which Bill, if granted, would greatly interfere with existing rights of the citizens and the powers now vested in the Hobart Corporation.

3. That it is a matter of public policy that no private company should be permitted to make profit out of public necessity.

4. That your Petitioners are of opinion that the City of Hobart and Suburbs can be better lighted by electricity by the Hobart Corporation, and at a less cost, than can be done by any private company.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Hobart Town Gas Company's Bill now before Parliament may not become law, as the objects of this Bill are inimical to the vested rights and best interests of the citizens of the City of Hobart.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

J. WATCHORN, *Mayor.*

JOHN BRADLEY,

T. DILLON,

JOHN DUFF,

T. A. REYNOLDS,

GEO. HIDDLESTONE,

WM. SMITH,

J. G. DAVIES,

GEO. S. SEABROOK,

} *Aldermen.*

The Common Seal of the Mayor,  
Aldermen, and Citizens of the  
City of Hobart hereunto affixed,  
in the presence of

W. T. BIRCH, *Town Clerk.*

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## EVIDENCE.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1895.

WILLIAM JOHN CAMPBELL, *called and examined.*

1. *By Mr. John Mitchell.*—Your name is? William John Campbell.
2. You are the Secretary to the Hobart Gas Company? I am.
3. And you have been so for a very long number of years? I have.
4. How many years have you been Secretary? I have been Secretary to the Company during the past 15 years.
5. You produce a copy of the Act of Council under which you carry on business? Yes, and also a copy of the Deed of Co-partnership of The Hobart Town Gas Company, established in 1854.
6. You have a large and intimate acquaintance with the whole of the working of the business? Yes.
7. What is the capital of the Company? £110,000 nominal, paid up to £97,632. We started with a capital of £60,000, and this was increased from time to time until, as I say, it now stands at £110,000.
8. Have you spent the whole of that money on the plant for the manufacture of gas? Yes.
9. What is the character of your business, Mr. Campbell, and your gas works? The whole of the machinery of the Company is of the most modern character, and up to date in every respect. Within the last five years we have added materially to our plant, in the shape of extra storage capacity and new machinery. Within the last five years we have spent upwards of £30,000 in new machinery.
10. *By the Chairman.*—In improvements and extension of plant? Yes.
11. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Have the shareholders received any intimation that your Directors intended applying for this Bill to enable you to supply the City with electricity? Yes, on two occasions.
12. What was the first occasion? In February of this year.
13. In February of this year? Yes.
14. And in August of this year? Yes.
15. Then, information was given to the shareholders on two occasions this year, namely, in February and August? Yes, in published statements of the directors to the shareholders. In a report to the shareholders one paragraph refers to the fact that the directors were taking steps to add electricity to their lighting powers. I will read it for your information. It states:—"The directors have taken preliminary steps to promote the passing of an Act for granting the Company power to supply electric light throughout the city and suburbs."
16. The shareholders have heard that, then? Yes.
17. Now, as the result of your recent researches, can you produce any statements showing places in which Gas Companies carry on the dual business of gas and electricity suppliers? Yes, especially at Rockhampton. The Rockhampton Gas and Coke Company Limited, in particular.
18. Can you produce any of their reports? Yes.
19. Will you do so? Yes. (Reports produced.)
20. The reports show that the Rockhampton Gas and Coke Company are empowered to use the dual system by Act of Parliament? Yes, that is so.
21. Is that Company working satisfactorily? Yes.
22. *By the Chairman.*—Is it at Rockhampton, in Queensland, to which you refer? Yes.
23. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Do you produce certain reports in connection with the Rockhampton Company? Yes, since the year 1892. I have already produced them.
24. Can you also produce any other reports showing that gas and electricity are worked conjointly? Yes. In America there are 248 gas companies in the Central and Western States who are operating electric lighting plants.
25. Do you produce "The Journal of Gas Lighting, Water Supply, and Sanitary Improvement"? Yes. (Journal produced.)
26. What do they show? That at present there are 248 gas companies in the Central and Western States who are operating in the same way as we propose doing.
27. Can you produce anything else? Yes; "The American Gas Light Journal."
28. What does that show? "The American Gas Light Journal," April 16, 1894, contains a speech by Mr. Gwynn, in which he says:—"I am glad to see this class of papers gradually creeping into our annual meetings, for the reason that about 33 per cent. of the gas companies are now operating electric light stations in connection with their gas plants, and I think we can all gain a few points in the discussion of these papers."
29. *By Mr. N. J. Brown.*—Is that 33 per cent. of the gas companies of America? Yes.
30. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Do you know anything about the intentions of any towns of New Zealand, Mr. Campbell, in respect to combining electric light with gas? I have here a letter which I have received from Mr. Parsons, of Auckland, and I infer from this that it is the intention of the Auckland Gas Company to apply for exactly the same powers as we are seeking.
31. *By Mr. N. J. Brown.*—Was there any opposition raised against the Bill being passed empowering the Rockhampton authorities to combine electricity with gas? I presume not. They have the power.



32. You are not aware of it? No, they were supplying the city with gas, and they got power to add electricity to it.

33. The Gas Company? Yes. I am not in a position to say whether there was any opposition raised to it.

34. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Do you anticipate any difficulty in working the electric light with the gas, Mr. Campbell? No, none whatever.

35. Have you any authority to show that there is no difficulty in combining the two? Yes.

36. In addition to the one you gave in? Yes, there is the "Scientific American," which I will put in. It states that "in connection with the new station and the extensive alterations recently carried out at Leicester, the Midland Railway Company has put down the largest and most efficient electric plant driven by gas engines in this country."

37. That is the "Scientific American?" Yes; in addition to that gas and electricity work most satisfactorily together in Belfast, Ireland. "The Journal of Gas Lighting," &c., of July 16th, 1895, says that "at Belfast the experiment was very practical. There were four engines of 100 h.p. and two of 50 h.p. The whole of these might be required at night; but during the day one of the smaller ones was kept charging an accumulator."

38. Do you know of any other place where the two combined work satisfactorily? There is Coatbridge, in Scotland. It is working well there; also at Blackpool, in England, and at Dessau, in Germany, where there is a very extensive plant, it is working most satisfactorily. I might say that in England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany the combined gas and electric light are working well.

39. That shows, then, that the two systems can be worked well together? Yes, undoubtedly.

40. Looking at this engraving in the "Scientific American," and the descriptive letter-press, are you of opinion your Gas Company can supply gas to work dynamos? Yes, undoubtedly.

41. Are there any other cases you can quote? Yes; a speaker at a meeting of the Incorporated Gas Institute at London, in July last, stated that "in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee electric lighting was in operation, and one particular thing he wished to bring before the meeting was that at Coatbridge gas engines were being employed at a central station for electric lighting."

42. Now, can you suggest any reason why your Gas Company can supply electric light cheaper than any other company or corporation? Well, we have the staff and land available; by reason of this we should have a very considerable saving over any other Company or Corporation that started operations.

43. Well, in the event of your using gas-engines? Yes, we would be able to supply it at a much cheaper rate than anybody else.

44. What about your staff? I base my opinions upon the fact that we have a large trained staff in our Company, and all we require is an electrical engineer and a few artificers.

45. Your own staff would do it? Yes; we would require, as I say, an electrical engineer, and possibly one or two artificers. That is all.

46. Could you use your own gas as the motive power? Undoubtedly.

47. Your staff would be in a position to do the work? Our staff is in a position to do the work, as I say; that is, the clerical staff at present employed could carry out the increased duties.

48. And you have the staff? Yes, we have the staff.

49. Looking at all things, would you be in a position to supply electric light to the city and suburbs cheaper than any other Company or Corporation? Yes.

50. Have you made any estimate of what it would cost to commence your operations? As you stated, Mr. Mitchell, in your opening remarks, the amount of uncalled capital, or shares unallotted, amounts to £12,368; that money is available and uncalled. That can be called up, and on receipt of that we should issue debentures. We would ask for another £8000, making £20,000, which in my opinion would be ample for the first requirements. That amount of £20,000 will be sufficient to supply the electric light to the heart of the city.

51. That will supply all that is required? Yes.

52. Do you consider it is necessary that you should have the authority that is set forth in this Act which you are trying to obtain? Yes.

53. In reference to utilising the existing gas lamps, do you think they could be used for electric light? They can be used.

54. Are these lamps the property of the Corporation or the Gas Company? The Gas Company.

55. And that being so, it will enable you to supply electricity at a much cheaper rate than the Corporation could? Yes.

56. Have you any idea of what power will be supplied by these lamps? I can tell you roughly that 400 or 500 candle power will be supplied by them. That is the candle power that could be used in the existing lamps.

57. *By the Chairman.*—The present lamps are about 16 candle power? Yes.

58. Have you any objection to the Corporation being granted power to supply the city with electricity? No, certainly not, none whatever, but I would say that as we could do it so much cheaper had we the power, that it would be unwise for the Corporation or any company to attempt it.

59. *By Mr. N. J. Brown.*—Has there been any objection to proclaiming the maximum amount to be charged for the light? I do not see how it would be possible to do so, as so much depends upon the cost of the plant and so on.

60. Do not other cities specify the maximum amount to be charged for the light? No, I have never seen it in any Act.

61. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Have the Company really decided to go on with this scheme? The directors have decided, and the shareholders have endorsed their decision.

62. They really have decided to go on? Yes, if they can get the Act.

63. They will do the work? Yes, they want to be in a position to supply any customer who requires the light.

64. *By the Chairman.*—You are prepared to go on with the work if you get the Act? Yes.

65. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Have you any report from an electrical engineer on the subject? No, I based my calculations on the Rockhampton Company. It cost them £15,000 to do what they have done.

66. Do you mean to say the Hobart Gas Company have decided to go on with this work without having entered into the cost and so forth? We know from the experience of other places that it has cost between £15,000 and £20,000 to start. We are also asking in our Bill for £50,000, but we do not propose to spend the £50,000 straight away. If the Bill is passed we will call the shareholders together and get their consent to specially light the places as the light is required.

67. Have you any objections on the part of the Company to be restricted to a certain number of years? No, that point has not been raised by anybody.

68. You are asking for the concession now for all time? Quite so. I think sometimes it is wise that a company should be compelled to start within a given time.

69. That is not what I mean. What I want to know is this—you are asking by this Act that you should be granted a right in perpetuity to supply electric light? We are quite prepared to have the time restricted.

70. You are quite prepared to have a certain time appointed for you to start the work, and for the Government to step in and purchase from you? Quite so.

71. That is, to restrict your powers? Quite so.

72. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You say you must apply for permission to your shareholders to go on with this work? Yes.

73. You would ask permission? The publication of the report is sufficient. The report has been submitted to the shareholders and they have adopted it, so that they are committed to the scheme. The report is adopted by them.

74. Has there been any resolution submitted to the shareholders giving the Directors power to apply for this Act? No special resolution; one would not be necessary. All that was required to be done was to confirm the report, which was done.

75. There has been no special resolution? No.

76. *By the Chairman.*—You are simply a Lighting Company? Yes, quite so. In answer to Mr. Crisp, I should like to say further that at our half-yearly meeting held on the 7th of August, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, said:—"He was glad to announce that the company's electric light bill now before the Legislature was making as satisfactory progress as could be expected. If it passed, the company would be able to supply consumers with either gas or electric light. He regretted that the Corporation Bill, for the same object, contained several clauses which would operate rather hardly against the company, and he might say the ratepayers also; for if it passed, the Corporation would be empowered to increase the rate to 10d. in the £1. However, the company would offer no opposition to the measure. Of course, the company would not raise the capital for electric light purposes without calling the shareholders together." As I have before said, the Directors report itself stated "The Directors have taken preliminary steps to promote the passing of an Act granting the company power to supply electric light throughout the City and suburbs." That report was adopted by the shareholders and circulated amongst them, so that they are aware of the intentions of the Board.

77. Have you heard any objections from any of the shareholders in the Gas Company to the course that is being taken? No; it is to their interest to work the electric light too.

78. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Can you name other places applying to Parliament for concessions? In Rockhampton they have it.

79. Granted by Parliament? Yes.

80. And the other places named by you, have they all got it? Yes. Cork, in Ireland, intends to apply.

81. Under the same conditions that you have it in your Bill? I understand so.

82. That is to say, the citizens participate in any profits made by the gas companies? I might tell you, Mr. Campbell, that precedents have been quoted in the House of Assembly where gas companies getting these concessions distribute a certain proportion of the profits to the citizens. I would ask you if it is proposed by your company to do that? I am not prepared to say so.

83. It has been quoted in the House of Assembly? I have no doubt an arrangement could be come to with the Corporation that would be satisfactory to both parties. We have always worked on friendly terms with the Corporation.

84. *By the Chairman.*—You call this a lighting company? Yes.

85. And it is intended to extend the operations of your business? Quite so.

86. By getting this Act? Yes.

87. You want to extend your business? Yes.

88. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Have you had any applications from the citizens requesting you to get this electricity bill? Several citizens have spoken to me about the matter, and asked why the company did not supply electric power.

89. Your simple object now is to supply the citizens with gas and electricity as well? That is the position we desire to be put in.

90. *By the Chairman.*—You have certain rights and privileges now? Yes; we have full powers under the Gas Act for supplying that light.

91. You want to have the power to go further? Yes.

92. Your present Act gives you control over the streets to a certain extent? Yes, to a certain extent. If we break up the streets we place them in repair again.

93. In other words, you are not seeking for any fresh powers? Not exactly fresh powers, but extensions.

94. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You are taking the whole risk upon yourselves; that is to say, the Gas Company will do the work and accept the responsibility? Yes. It is quite a speculation.

95. You are not asking the citizens to spend any money? No. I may say in Rockhampton they have only just now turned the corner.

96. *By the Chairman.*—How many years have they been carrying on the dual system? For nearly four years. They started in exactly the same way as we propose to do.

97. *By Mr. N. J. Brown.*—What is their population? About 13,000, including the suburbs.

98. *By Mr. Crisp.*—I understand the difference between the two Bills now before the House is, that under the Corporation Bill power is sought to tax the citizens of Hobart 10d. in the pound, whilst the Gas Company's Bill does not propose to tax them at all? That is so. We do not propose any taxation whatever.

99. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—At the proceedings of the Municipal Council on Monday last, Mr. Alderman Dillon is reported to have said:—"The Gas Company under this Bill asked for powers to construct their electrical works over, along, or across any street or open public reserve within the area of operations, which meant within the present operations of the Gas Company and extensions. Such powers might cost the citizens a good deal of money. It would be giving away the birthright of the citizens. The Council had sinned in that respect over the Tramway Company, and it was time such concessions should cease. Again, no reference was made in the Bill to the rate of charges which the Gas Company were to make for the supply of light, &c., and they would be able to fix an arbitrary scale, which would put the citizens at their mercy. They also asked for power to make their own bye-laws; that there should be but one arbitrator; that fines should be paid to the Company, &c. There was no clause to protect the Corporation in the event of the Gas Company breaking up the streets, and there was no clause to ensure a poll of the citizens being taken for or against the electric lighting as there was in the Corporation Bill." Do you think, Mr. Campbell, that the birthrights of the citizens are being given away by this Bill? Certainly not. We should be glad to welcome the Municipal Council with their Bill. We are not opposed to their Bill; our Gas Act is an answer to all Alderman Dillon said.

100. Can you give any other cases where the gas companies have combined electrical power? An article by Mr. William Chew, of Blackpool, published in "The Journal of Gas Lighting and Water Supply," &c., states:—"We know that the requirements of all consumers are not alike; and there are a certain number to whom it is a matter of importance to have a lighting agent giving a low calorific effect, with freedom of combustion and a certain convenience of manipulation. To these the question of cost is sometimes a secondary consideration in comparison to the advantages supposed to accrue indirectly. It was for this reason, and on the assumption that there were many of this class of customers in our town, who could well afford to pay for such lighting if made available to them, that our Corporation decided to put down an electricity works to supply the central parts of the town." I might also add that, in speaking at a meeting of the Incorporated Gas Institute at Edinburgh, in June, 1895, Mr. Denny Lane said—"They never had complaints from any place where the electric light was supplied. Some one said he had heard of no other place where the electric light was supplied through gas-engines except at Belfast; but he (Mr. Lane) might mention that at Dessau, in Germany, it had been supplied for many years by gas-engines, and had given great satisfaction. At Belfast the experiment was very practical. As an evidence that he had no objection to electric lighting, the Directors of the Company with which he was connected, on his advice had on two occasions applied to the Corporation for their assent to the Company applying for electric lighting powers; and they were going to apply again this year. The consent of the Corporation was not necessary, but they would not like to get into conflict with good consumers. This, at any rate, was evidence that he had no prejudice whatever against the electric light. He believed it to be the best friend gas ever had."

#### RUSSELL ALLPORT, *called and examined.*

101. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Your name is? Russell Allport.

102. And you are an electrical engineer? Yes.

103. Do you know whether dynamos can be run by gas power? Yes. I have read and studied authorities, and it is an undisputed fact that dynamos can be run by gas power.

104. Can a company, then, supplying its own gas run a plant cheaper than one not so supplied? Of course it naturally follows that where the motive power is already secure, the company able to run its own dynamos can supply cheaper.

105. Do you know of any dynamos worked by gas? Yes, several. I have worked two myself in London.

106. Would it be possible to supply electric light at cheaper rate by having the power at hand than it would be otherwise? Yes, of course it would.

107. Having reference to that, would it be possible for the Gas Company to supply electric lighting more cheaply than others from the fact of their already having the staff, motive power, and so on? Yes, it would. It would be necessary for the Corporation to supply steam-engines and plant, and unless they went to a very large expense they would only be able to supply a comparatively small quantity of electricity.

108. You heard Mr. Campbell's evidence as to the working, and how he proposed to carry it on without additions to the staff—I mean the secretary and clerical staff: do you agree with that, and if not, to what parts do you disagree? That is correct. They would be able to carry on the works without any particular additions outside of one electrical engineer.

109. In reference to the present street lamps, if they got the works could they be adapted to the purposes of electric lighting? Yes; that is, by incandescent light up to 500 candle-power.

110. And for these reasons you think Parliament should give the Gas Company the powers they ask? Yes.

111. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Would the conducting wires of the street works be overhead wires, or would they be under the streets? That is a matter for the Gas Company to consider.

112. What is required under the Bill—what do other cities do? Overhead wires are used for most small towns.

113. Then, so far as interfering with the streets, it would make no material difference to what the present system is? No.

114. Then, you would put the wires overhead? Yes.

115. Now, how would that affect the present telegraphic, telephonic, and tramway systems? It would not affect the tramway system at all, unless, of course, a wire were to break and fall across the wires.

116. Would not the different interests at times be likely to conflict, and in what way? Of course the lines would have to cross each other. The electric light wires would go over the top of the tramway wires.

117. *By the Chairman.*—They would be insulated wires? Yes, they would be insulated cables.

118. *By Mr. Nicholas Brown.*—Would the electric light wires interfere at all with the telephone system? Not more than the tramway does; the current would not be so uneven.

119. You know the Corporation is getting a similar measure to this before Parliament? Yes.

120. Would not the two installations be likely to clash with one another if they went on with it? I do not think there is room for two installations—that is only from a financial standpoint.

121. *By the Chairman.*—You mean they would clash as regards profit? Well, of course. If the Corporation run their wires on different poles it would make such a network.

122. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Suppose the Corporation did not see their way to go on at once and the Gas Company did, would not the Corporation be likely to interfere afterwards with the Gas Company's lines? I don't see that they should.

123. You know that there are several lines of tram and other wires now in the streets. If you were to have two systems, would it not be likely to cause complications and trouble? I don't see that it should.

124. *By Mr. Nicholas Brown.*—I suppose provision can be made against them clashing? Yes. If the two systems go on it will make a bigger network of wires, and these do not improve the look of a town. Of course the electric lighting wires will be over the top of all the other wires at present up.

125. You don't think that two electric lighting companies would be likely to pay in Hobart? Well, I should hardly think so.

126. *By Mr. Crisp.*—What experience have you had in connection with electricity and electric lighting? I served my time in the manufactory at a station in London. I was also with the Notting Hill Electric Company and with the London Electric Supply Corporation, and I have been two years with the Electric Tramway Company in Hobart, and I was also for a time on the Continent on small stations. I was also with The City and South London Electric Company in London.

127. Could you give an estimate roughly of the cost of lighting a small place like Hobart? Yes; for, say ten thousand lights, it will cost about £40,000 roughly. I only go by small stations which I have been in and having about the same number of lights, and knowing what they cost. The cost, £40,000, would be a low estimate for a limited area.

128. *By Mr. Nicholas Brown.*—That is for a new company starting afresh without plant or a staff of men to help them? Yes; but if you enlarge the area the cost would be much greater.

129. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You know I asked the Secretary of the Gas Company, and he estimated at £20,000? Yes, exactly, but that was for the centre of the city only.

130. *By the Chairman.*—You know of several towns in which there are several electric lighting companies, do you not? Yes, but this is in large towns, and generally each company has its separate district.

131. Do you know anything of Melbourne? No.

132. Have you seen the network of wires there? No, I have not been there for a long time.

133. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—You produce the report of the Continental Electric Light Central Stations, wherein it says, under the Dessau Central Station, "The Gas engine undertaking has proved advantageous, and under the supposition that the gas is not purchased, a combined gas and electric light installation is worthy of recommendation for small and medium sized towns for various reasons." That report is by Killingworth Hedges.

134. Is he an authority? Yes. The report was drawn up just after the Frankfort Electrical Exhibition, and it is thoroughly reliable. It is dated 1892.

#### HON. JOHN WATCHORN, M.L.C., *called and examined.*

135. *By the Chairman.*—Your name is John Watchorn, and you are Mayor of the City of Hobart? Yes.

136. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—I believe the City Council has taken under their consideration the proposed Electric Lighting Bill introduced by the Hobart Gas Company? Yes, they have.

137. Are you in favour of that Bill? No, I am opposed to it.

138. Have you taken the opinion of any of the City officials in the matter? Not that I am aware of.

139. Are you personally in favour of giving to any private company further rights in the City? Certainly not; I feel I should not be doing my duty if I did not try to get these rights for the citizens.

140. Would it not be for the advantage of the citizens to concede these privileges to the Gas Company? Certainly not.

141. For what reasons? I do not believe that any private company or individual should be placed in a position to increase their profits, or to fatten on the necessities of the people. All such works as trams, lighting, water, and so forth should be in the hands and under the control of Government or of the civic power.

142. Then, it is on principle that you object? Decidedly.

143. I understand that the Corporation has no fault to find with the Gas Company in regard to their business relations? Not at all, that I am aware of; in fact, it is no use finding fault, as there would be no remedy. The Bill we are working under gives us no remedy whatever. Read the Act of 1854.

144. The City Council is, I believe, endeavouring to get a similar Bill through Parliament; would the granting of the concessions asked by the Gas Company be likely to clash with the citizens' interests should the Corporation desire to erect works afterwards? Well, I don't know about clashing, but I know it would be better for the citizens if the Corporation supplied the lighting and had it in their own hands.

All the large cities in England are now doing the same thing, instead of paying large companies and others. I have a book in my hand, which was only published in February, 1895, showing what is going on in England, and proving what large sums of money the municipalities are making by supplying themselves with gas, water, tramways, electric lighting, and how they have reduced the cost to the community.

145. Is that a historical record? No. It is published by a gentleman who takes a great interest in all relating to Municipal Corporations, and the influence of their policy on the welfare of the citizens.

146. Can you quote any passage relating to this matter? Yes; he shows that in towns where public requirements are in the hands of the citizens, although they had difficulties at the outset, they are now able financially to supply the electric light, gas, water, tramways, and markets, at a much less rate than companies can do it, and also reduce the cost to the community. I will quote a passage. You will perhaps remember that it was Joseph Chamberlain who first spoke of taking over the gas and waterworks of Birmingham, and you will be aware how he was abused for it at the time. It was a long time before he got the concessions, but the writer shows the result. He says, "Birmingham in seventeen years made a profit on its gas of £714,000; the markets of Manchester hand over £15,000 annually to the City Treasurer, while the markets of Liverpool make a profit of £16,500; the surplus of nearly £7000 on the trams of Liverpool goes towards the relief of the paving rate; Glasgow in 1893 made a profit of £42,000 on water, £29,500 on gas, and £3300 on markets; while Bradford made a profit on its electric light of over £2000." The London Corporation still goes in for paying to the companies, but the citizens are beginning to take the matter into their own hands.

147. *By Mr. Nicholas Brown.*—Then, it is on general principle that you are opposed to this Bill. You think the ratepayers should share the profits? Decidedly. I object to the principle which permits of private gain being made out of public necessities. There is another little thing that strongly supports my contention. There is a table showing the profits on municipal undertakings in 1893-94. It shows that on gas, water, and markets Birmingham made a net profit of £35,817; Manchester, £67,713; Liverpool, £16,843; Glasgow, £74,800; and Leeds, £19,245. Of course these profits must go to lower the city rates, and they seem all to make a large profit out of the undertakings. In the face of this it must be a positive mistake to allow private companies to come in and make large profits out of the citizens.

148. Are these profits after paying interest on capital? Yes, they are the net profits.

149. *By the Chairman.*—But where is the expenditure shown here? Here are the net profits.

150. But these profits might not be one per cent. on the capital. One item shows a profit of £27,000 on gas, but suppose a million were invested? It cannot be profit if you pay it away in interest. The book shows the amount of the municipal debts.

151. Might it not be net profit after paying interest? Well, it could not be net profit if you had to pay the interest out of it.

152. *By Mr. N. J. Brown.*—The amount of interest does not affect the question of principle. You contend that whatever municipal works are provided should be the property of the citizens, and not of private individuals: is that what you contend? Yes.

153. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—There are two instances already in which privileges or rights have been given to companies in regard to this city. These are the Tramway Company's rights and the Gas Company's rights. I think there are only two? That is all.

154. Do you think, speaking from your long experience, that the granting of those rights has been for the benefit of the citizens? Certainly not. It was the greatest mistake ever made by Parliament to give the Tramway Company running powers over the streets of the city for ever. It was a terrible mistake.

155. Then you will have failed to find in the case of the Gas Company that it is for the benefit of the citizens that it should have those rights? If the Corporation had the works in hand, we could be selling gas at 4s. 6d. per 1000 feet and making a good profit.

156. Then you think the Gas Company has made fair profits all the time out of supplying the City with gas? Yes: I take the question as to capital. Is it right to cover interest on the nominal capital of a Company whose works were erected in 1854, when money and everything was dear? There is a sufficient charge made for gas to cover interest on the original capital, half of which should have been written off long since.

157. Then, you think the citizens could maintain and work a plant and produce gas for less than the Company, and would supply the community with gas for less than is now charged? Yes. Some years ago I had an estimate made by a clever man showing that we could erect suitable gas works for £50,000. I placed that before the House years ago.

158. *By Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—The City Council is opposed to this Bill? Yes.

159. Then, if it is not passed are they prepared to carry out the works directly? Yes, they would be. By the time the contracts were out they would be entirely ready. Of course we have just entered into another three years' contract for lighting with the Gas Company, and we should have to pay whether we lit the Town with gas or not.

160. Then, you would not be able to go on with the work for three years. That is what I want to get at. The work can be done very cheaply as things are now, but you might have to go on at very high rates again in three years' time. Would you not lose the opportunity of getting the work done cheaply? If we commenced now we should have the works all ready in three years.

161. But I understood you would not begin for three years? Oh! yes; we would call for tenders at once. The Gas Company might tender for the work.

162. Then, it is your intention to start at once if you get the Bill? Yes, we will commence at once if we get the money. We should call for tenders now, and employ engineers. We will make a beginning at once, and can easily be ready by the end of the Gas Company's present contract. I would mention another great advantage which would arise from the Corporation having control of the works. In many of the cities in England they now utilise the *débris* of the streets in lighting the towns, and they do it for one-third the ordinary cost. They utilise the street sweepings, and in this way answer two important purposes. The first is a sanitary purpose, and the greater thing is getting rid of the rubbish by using it for the supply of electricity at a very low rate. There is no reason why we should not do this here. I should like to be

in a position now to get a destructor and try that mode of disposing of the refuse. It would work well by making a reduction in the cost of the electric light.

163. *By Mr. Crisp.*—How long have you been an alderman? I almost forget—about twenty years?

164. Under the present Act, I believe the Corporation has very little power as regards the breaking up of the streets by the Gas Company? Yes, that is so; they have no remedy.

165. Has there been any friction between the Corporation and the Gas Company as to the repair of streets, or roads, or the foot-paths? Well, you have been an Alderman long enough to know that when we make a foot-path the Gas Company goes on to it by giving notice, and breaks it up. They leave it rough; you have yourself seen it. Where they take it up there is first a hillock, and then when it subsides there is a hole, and we have to fill it up. There has never been any great friction. We know well they have a monopoly, and what is the use? They can give any quality of gas, and take what controlling power they like. There are no restrictions provided. Why, it is even said in the Act of 1854, that the quality of the gas shall be equal to the old oil-lamps. I would not have believed any Parliament could have done such a thing. No, there is no friction. We get along very well with the Gas Company, but I don't want to let them have the electric light.

166. Now, about the Hobart Corporation Bill for electric lighting: has it been discussed by the City Council and passed. Yes, decidedly. We are prepared to go in for it if we can get the Bill, and if we can't, well, I suppose we must do without it.

167. There has been a good deal of argument about the Corporation having the power to tax the citizens up to 10*d.* in the £. Do you know of any other precedent for this besides Launceston? No; but in every place you must have the power to tax up to the interest on the money borrowed. It does not follow that you will enforce the tax. You might have to tax under the Bill for two or three years, and then the light would give receipts sufficient. Afterwards you would tax them in the charge for the light.

168. *By the Chairman.*—You state your belief in a general principle that any work belonging to the community or the State should be under Government or civic control? Yes.

169. Is it of advantage to the State to own the Main Line Railway, for instance, when it makes a profit of £1000 on a capital expenditure of a million and a quarter? I do think it an advantage, and the Parliament did a wise thing when they purchased. The great mistake was in having the railway made by a company in the first instance. The result is we have paid for the railway twice over.

170. Suppose a company were to offer to take over the line now at cost price, would it not be a good thing for the colony, seeing that it has got to find for the line £30,000 a year in interest? No. Look at it in any way you will you have the advantage now. If new industries are opened up you can lower your freights to meet them if it be necessary; in the case of butter, potatoes, or any other produce you can do the same. You would not have the power to do this if the line were in the hands of a company. They would adhere to the first charges authorised. One or two great advantages remain in the hands of Government. If the line does not pay directly you have the power, if you wish it, to make it pay indirectly.

171. Well, suppose another private company were to construct another railway alongside the present one, would not that be an advantage to the public? No; it would not pay.

172. That would be a matter for the company. Why should it not pay?—if the company spent the money in construction, would it not be to the advantage of the country to have two competing lines? It might be an advantage to the country to have two competing lines, but it would not pay the company.

173. If two companies came, then, to establish the electric light, would it not be an advantage to the inhabitants? Certainly; but we will not object to the Gas Company getting their Bill if we get our Bill through. If they can supply gas or electricity cheaper than we can, let them do so. As a matter of principle, I say that necessary works of this kind should not be in the hands of private companies at all. The City authorities should have all these public conveniences in their own hands, for the reason that the City would then get the advantage of the profits in the reduction of taxation. Suppose that two companies were working here, they would not compete long, for when they found they were losing money they would close up their works.

174. Suppose the Corporation had owned the gas works at first—that would be over forty years now—would it not have cost you the same as it has cost the Gas Company? Yes, it would have cost the same.

175. You would have put your works down in the same way, and it would have cost the same as it cost the Company, of course? Yes, it would have cost the same fifty years ago, and your profit would have been on the same expenditure of capital.

176. Would it not be the same now? Yes, you would have to charge enough to pay interest on your capital, and no more. If it belonged to a private company, they would want 8 per cent. instead of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., which is the price for which we could now get the money.

177. You know the dividends are limited? Yes; and we know very well how the Company disposes of its surplus.

178. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—On the question of the Main Line Railway, you think it an advantage that the Government should possess the railway because it can control the rates? Yes.

179. Would not the same argument apply to stock and land and crops and all sorts of business—would not the same principle apply? You had better examine me as to facts.

180. You say the power to lower the railway rates at will is an advantage to the Government: would it not be for the interest of the Government to hold all the land and crops in the same way? Is that reasonable?

181. Do you happen to know that the Gas Company was working for a number of years before it paid any dividends? Yes. When you start such works, for the first three or four years it is always uphill work.

182. Would not the same rule equally apply with respect to the electric light? Yes.

183. And then there would be a loss to the citizens? Yes; but we pay about £2300 a year to the Gas Company, and you would save that at once.

184. But you would have all the risk? Oh, we have experience of expending our capital. I should be willing to try it.

185. You will have to borrow money to carry on the works? If we borrow £50,000 it will be ample. In calling for tenders we should be guided by several estimates and reports. I have them in the office, and could bring them to-morrow.

186. And how many miles of streets would that expenditure supply? About thirty-seven miles.

187. Having regard to the advantage the Gas Company has at the present time—plant, coke for fuel, and other things—do you dispute the fact that they can produce the light more cheaply than any other company could? What coke will they have if we light with electricity. Where will they get it from?

188. They would supply it themselves, would they not? How, and where, if they make no gas?

189. That is, assuming that the Gas Company will be swept away altogether? Yes.

190. One thing you said about the Gas Company, that you had no remedies under the Act—that if they did wrong you could do nothing with them? No, I did not quite say that. We can, of course, send notice, and mostly they will attend to it. Sometimes they do not; they simply don't take the trouble. Such a thing would not be allowed anywhere else. We have to make the footpaths at the start, and then they go there and pick them up and leave them to us.

191. Now, is it not a fact that your officials do the repairing work and send in the bill to the Gas Company? Not always.

192. Is that not the last bill (producing account)? It may be, but in many instances the footpaths are broken up without any notice, and then complaints come to us that the Gas Company don't give notice.

193. Why not make them carry out the Act? It is not so easy.

194. But you said you had no power—you could do nothing with them at all? I said that they do these things and we have very little remedy.

195. Well, if you don't know and do your duty, it is your own fault, is it not? There is such a thing as doing one's duty in mercy and charity and pushing everything to the strict letter.

196. *By Mr. Nicholas Brown.*—If it were merely a question as to the powers of the Corporation to enable them to exercise greater control it could be put in the Bill, could it not? I suppose it is in the Bill now, is it not? I have no objection to the Bill, but only to the electric lighting being done by the Gas Company.

197. The question was as to the Corporation having power to do certain things, and you said they had no remedy. Can't you get over that objection by introducing a clause into this Bill? We have no remedy in some cases, as to the quality of the supply of gas, for instance. As to the streets, of course we have the management.

198. Can't we provide against all contingencies by clauses in the Bill? As to what can and must be done I cannot undertake to say. It is as one-sided a Bill at present as I ever saw in my life.

199. You object, then, on principle to the Bill, and also to certain provisions in the Bill? I don't believe a private company should have any control over the lighting at all. It should be in the hands of the civic power or of the Government.

200. Suppose the Committee decide to recommend the Bill, then you, as Mayor, or the Corporation, will ask to have clauses introduced to give greater control to the Council? I should move to have the Bill read this day six months.

201. Then, you only object to the lighting being in the hands of a private company? Decidedly; the present Bill is, however, insufficient. There is no provision for proper control, no time fixed for purchase of the works, should it be necessary, and no limit of time fixed at all.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1895.

CHARLES EDWARD WALCH, *called and examined.*

202. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Your name is Charles Edward Walch, and you are a publisher and bookseller at Wellington Bridge, Hobart? Yes.

203. Are you one of the Directors of the Hobart Gas Company? Yes, and have been for eight years.

204. Have you made yourself acquainted with the government of the Company—its working, capital, and such matters? Yes, thoroughly.

205. How long has your Company been in existence? Since 1854.

206. You have supplied consumers with gas, I suppose, ever since the inception of the Company? Yes, ever since.

207. Do you know in your capacity as a Director of any alterations or improvements made in the works, &c., and of what character these have been? The works and plant have been transformed utterly; we have endeavoured to keep pace with every improvement—for instance, we have effected improvements in our plant; have had inspection by engineers—with the result that we have a set of first-class plant equal to anything in the Australian Colonies.

208. Have you any idea what the works cost? Nearly £100,000; I do not know the exact amount.

209. Have you made a study of the production of gas and the working of gas machinery? Yes. As Directors we have seen evidences of the fact that electric light was coming to the front, and as far as we possibly could, by reading every or any publications on the point, we have made ourselves acquainted with electric lighting in all its phases.

210. Your Company propose to get this Bill and commence electric lighting in the city? Yes.

211. What reason have you for obtaining this Act and proposing to supply the city with electricity? In the first place we believe we should be able to do it at a rate which would enable us to supply electric light cheaper than any other Company—first, because the motive power for electricity would be by gas, and we are in a position to supply gas cheaper than it can be got anywhere else; we can supply it at cost price. Again, we should be able to largely utilise our present staff; it requires very little training for skilled workmen, such as fitters and so forth, to become used to electric light apparatus. Again, by using



the present clerical staff and working the two things together we should be able to do it better and at considerably less cost than anyone else.

212. You have lots of buildings, &c. suitable? All suitable, simply requiring slight additions for the purpose of erecting dynamos.

213. With reference to the street lamps, can you give the Committee any idea whether it would be possible to utilise these or not? That depends entirely upon the nature of the light; it would be possible with simple incandescent lights; and in addition the whole of our present property would be utilised, which would save a great initial expense as compared with any other Company.

214. You and your firm are large ratepayers? Yes, my brother and I pay £120 a year in rates.

215. Are you acquainted with ratepayers and their feelings towards the Gas Company? I have had the opportunity of consulting a great many of them in the matter; of course there are a few exceptions, but by far the majority of those I have spoken to think the Gas Company should have the power to supply electric light, and that they would be able to do it cheaper, and also give the consumers their choice whether they would have gas or electric light.

216. In seeking for this power can you cite any colonial precedent for working of the two companies together? Yes, the principal one, which I believe has proved a success, is one in Rockhampton, which is, I understand, from a half to two-thirds as large as Hobart; there they have taken the thing up tentatively, little by little as it was required by the consumers, and now are able to supply at a small profit to themselves and to the utmost satisfaction—as far as I can learn from the reports—to the consumers of electric light.

217. You propose to follow their precedent, do you? Certainly; we do not intend, as some persons have done, to plunge into the whole matter, incurring enormous expense; we intend to do it tentatively; doing the centre part of the city first of all and extend it as things require.

218. You know the Corporation of Hobart are proposing to obtain a Bill? Yes.

219. Have you any information which would lead you to a conclusion why the Corporation should not have the constructing of this work as against a private company, such for instance as the Company of which you are a Director? The evidence on that point is very close at hand. We have only to go to Launceston and we shall see there that they plunged into the matter, I was going to say, totally regardless of cost; at any rate the cost has been considerably more than they anticipated, although in Launceston with their water power they considered they had the best possible means of getting the power for generating their electricity, namely, their large supply of water power. I have kept myself close up with matters in Launceston in this matter, and with the permission of the Committee I would like to read one or two extracts from the press of the North, from which it will be seen that they themselves seem to think and acknowledge they made a great mistake in plunging into the whole thing.

220. Are these extracts of recent date? The first extract I produce is from the *Launceston Examiner* of the 18th of September, 1895, namely:—

“It was unwise and inopportune. So fascinated were the aldermen with their new hobby, that unfortunately they were not scrupulous as to the means employed to secure it.”

The second extract is from the *Launceston Daily Telegraph* of 17th September, 1895:—

“If the electric light should prove a failure, it is the citizens who will have to foot the Bill, and the extent of the taxpayers' liabilities in that direction can be computed at something like £70,000.” \* \* \* “It should always be remembered that £70,000 of the taxpayers' hard earnings is at stake.”

The last-named paper has been a strong supporter of electric light in Launceston, and that is the way the matter is looked at in Launceston by the two papers which are supposed to reflect public opinion.

221. Having regard to what you know, you think it would be better for your Company to undertake the work, and carry it on, rather than there should be a great risk to the ratepayers? I should think there is no doubt to an impartial mind that the action of Launceston, instead of an example to be followed, is a warning to us if we were to follow in their footsteps and plunge into the thing, instead of taking it up and going tentatively to work, as the Gas Company would do, and supply it to the extent the thing is needed.

222. Have there been any improvements made in gas-lighting of recent years? Very considerable improvements, especially within the last two or three years, and those improvements are continuous.

223. Can you name any of them? Yes, especially in the Wellsbach Incandescent Light, which gives a light, the power of which the members of the Committee can judge for themselves, at least equal to any electric light, and in fact many persons would rather have it.

224. Can you give instances where gases of this kind have been preferred to electric light? I know many, but I will give one very especial instance in the *Argus* office in Melbourne. In the composing-room, where they wish to have the best light to be obtained, the two are tried side by side, and the incandescent light was found better and cheaper than the electric light: the one was quite bright and the other dingy.

225. *By the Chairman.*—You mean to say the incandescent light was better than the electric light? Yes.

226. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Then why do you seek power to supply the electric light? In order that consumers may have the option of one or the other. I think I heard the Mayor say it was the intention to get the powers to light the city by electricity, and wipe out the Gas Company altogether. If that is their intention, I do not think that any of the citizens or ratepayers would prefer that change at all. Seeing them side by side, for many purposes the incandescent gas-light is not only equal to, but in some cases is better, and preferred before the electric light. The citizens should most certainly have the option of taking either.

227. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You are asking for these concessions on behalf of the Gas Company. Do you intend to give effect to them within a reasonable time? Certainly.

228. And how do you propose to proceed? By erecting works sufficient to supply electric light to the central part of the city, with increase in the power as needed to be put on.

229. Before you do anything you will have to consult the shareholders, and get their permission? Certainly.



230. And when you get permission you will try to give effect to it as speedily as possible? Yes, certainly.

231. Your simple object in getting this concession is to be abreast of the times and to be able to supply your customers either with gas or electricity? That is exactly it. Of course, like any other company, we expect the investment to return an adequate remuneration to shareholders.

232. *By Mr. Gill.*—In the event of the House giving the Gas Company these powers, can you give us any idea as to the time which would elapse before the Company would be ready to give effect to it, and commence to light some portion of the city? A question of that kind is better answered by an expert like Mr. Grant. I do not see any reason why any long time should elapse; there will be no delay on our part in the matter.

233. Will you commence within six months? We should set to work at once to get the shareholders' consent in the matter.

234. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Have you the approval of the citizens in this matter? We have not a vote of the citizens in this matter.

235. You know that is the only way in which the approval of the citizens can be obtained. I do not see that it is necessary to take a vote of the citizens in the matter.

236. But you are interfering with the rights of the citizens in the matter? I do not see that they have any rights in the matter that we shall interfere with.

237. Have you given the Corporation any notice of your intention to proceed in the matter, or obtained their approval? We have given them notice, but they took no notice of it, and have not replied to us.

238. You did not seek their approval? I cannot say that.

239. Does not this interfere with the rights of the citizens with regard to the street lights? Not more than at present. We have street lights now, and we should only require additional poles for the electric light.

240. Do not you want to ask for concession to carry wires overhead? That is a concession we are asking for from Parliament, not from the Corporation.

241. But the streets belong to the Corporation? Parliament has the supreme power to grant the concessions we ask for.

242. I am not asking about Parliament having power. Have you taken steps to ask Parliament? We have only informed the Corporation it was our intention to apply for it.

243. In the first Act or charter there is a limitation of the amount of profits that you can distribute amongst shareholders: have you any such limitation in this Bill? No; because the Bill itself can be amended in the House if that clause is to go in.

244. You have not put any clause in it? No.

245. You have quoted from the Launceston papers, have you not? Yes, from two Launceston papers.

246. Is it not premature to quote any opinion upon the fact whilst the Launceston works are not practically in operation, or either earning or losing revenue? Well, I do not see that, Mr. Mulcahy, when it is a matter of talking about expense to the ratepayers in regard to this matter.

247. But they do not carry any weight as regards the profits to accrue from the Electric Light scheme? We go to the press for our teaching, and they seem to say the whole thing is likely to be a failure. I cannot get information from a better source, nor do I think it is premature.

248. Well, I do not think myself that anyone is in a position to say at the present time whether the scheme being carried out in Launceston will pay or not? If the scheme based on an expenditure of £50,000 costs £70,000 before it gets into operation, I should think there are grave doubts of the thing ever paying expenses. By paying expenses I mean interest on outlay, and providing a sufficient fund for renewals and current expenditure to carry it on.

249. You know there is a great deal of progress in electric science, and improvements are being made every year? Yes.

250. And you know under those circumstances it is rather a dangerous thing to give away the rights of the citizens? No more dangerous than it has been for the gas lighting of the city, and I don't think this has been dangerous.

251. It has prevented competition with regard to the supply of gas to the citizens? (No answer.)

252. *By the Chairman.*—There is nothing in the Bill to prevent competition.

253. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Is it not a fact that the Hobart Gas Company have had exclusive rights with regard to the supply of the city gas for a long time, and has prevented the city supplying itself or any other company supplying it? Yes, but it has always been open for the Corporation to purchase. In other places Gas Companies have started operations and Corporations have subsequently bought them out.

254. You are aware that a Bill was introduced into the House and defeated? Yes. But do you know the amount that was put down as the purchase money?

255. What was it? £50,000.

256. Your Secretary stated the other day that your Company would be willing to put a time limit in for proceeding with the works: is that endorsed by the Directors? Yes.

257. Also a limit of time which the concession shall last—do you want this concession in perpetuity? No, certainly not, except thus far, you can have a clause authorising the Corporation to purchase at a price, or by arbitration, when it suits them.

258. When? When it suits them.

259. With no limit as to time? Yes.

260. *By Mr. W. T. H. Brown.*—When you acquainted the Corporation of your intention of getting this Bill, was it with a view of getting an expression of opinion from the citizens? Our only desire was to work harmoniously with the Corporation; we never wanted the interests to be antagonistic; and having informed them that it was our intention to apply we left the matter with them to take what steps they desired; we had no wish whatever to steal a march on them.

261. Have you heard of the citizens taking any action in the matter? None whatever; I have not heard of any.

262. In the event of the Gas Company being allowed to go on with these works, would they be prepared at any time to share the profits with the Corporation over a certain rate of profit? Well, I can only give you my private opinion, but I cannot speak on behalf of the Directorate. If the limit was a reasonable one, certainly.

263. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Are you willing to put a limitation in the profits? Certainly.

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THOMAS WHITESIDES, *called and examined.*

264. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—What is your name? Thomas Whitesides.

265. And you are a resident of Liverpool-street, Hobart? Yes.

266. You are a large taxpayer? Yes.

267. What amount of taxes do you pay yearly? We pay about £100 per year in taxes.

268. You have heard that it is the intention of the Gas Company to ask Parliament to pass a Bill enabling them to light the city with electric light? Yes.

269. As a citizen, do you think it is advisable that the Company should get that power? That the Gas Company should, yes, I think so.

270. You have heard Mr. Walch's evidence as to giving citizens the option of taking either gas or electricity: do you think that is a step in the right direction? That is a very strong reason why I think the Gas Company should have the power.

271. Have you considered the position as to whether the Corporation should supply the electric light or whether it is preferable for the existing Gas Company to add the electric light to their present works? Well, I have considered the question, and I think it would be far better under all circumstances that the Gas Company should be allowed to add that to their existing supply.

272. *By Mr. Brown.*—Could the Gas Company supply the light at a cheaper rate than the Corporation? Well, I could not give you any idea on that point; I could not possibly tell any more than you can.

273. I should have thought the Company would have gone into the matter? I am not a member of the Company in any way.

274. And you, as a private citizen, approve of the Gas Company having these privileges? Certainly.

275. Why? Well, I think it is far better for a private company to have it in their hands than the Corporation.

276. Why? The Corporation hold quite sufficient power over householders at present without any addition of that kind. I think it would be rather obnoxious than otherwise.

277. What do you mean? In the ordinary process of getting in what is due to them. If the electric light were added it would be an additional burden on the landlords particularly.

278. *By Mr. Brown.*—You would have an extra rate? Yes, and that they would have the power to demand from the landlords.

279. You expect if the Corporation did it you would be rated more than at the present time? Yes.

280. And if the Gas Company took the work in hand you would not be rated—you could take the light or not, as you liked? Yes.

281. *By Mr. Gill.*—Have you considered as a citizen the difference between the two lights, and which are the safest lights to work? No, I have not.

282. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Under these two Bills you know by report there will be a difference; that is, under the Corporation Bill the citizens will be liable to a rate of tenpence in the pound? Yes.

283. Then you are of opinion it would not be to the interest of the citizens, and especially of the property owners, for the Corporation to have power to levy such a rate in the city? I do not understand the question.

284. Under these two Bills there is a responsibility on the one side which there is not on the other; that is to say, if the Gas Company take the work in hand there is no liability to the citizens, but if the Corporation take it in hand there is a liability for property to be taxed up to tenpence in the pound? Yes.

285. Therefore, you, as a property owner, favour the Gas Company's Bill? Certainly.

286. You are of opinion that if the Corporation Bill passes, and they had the sole right, the owners of property would be liable whether they occupied their property or not? Yes.

287. You consider they have sufficient burdens to bear at the present time already? Yes, too many.

288. You do not wish the Corporation to have power to tax property any more than at present? No.

289. You think they have taxed it quite enough? Yes.

290. More especially after reading in print, as no doubt you have done, the position of the Corporation's affairs financially? Yes, certainly.

291. That they should not have any further power until they can satisfy the citizens that their affairs are on a sound basis? Quite so.

292. *By Mr. Brown.*—Of course you know that if the Corporation went into the scheme you would have to pay the rates whether you took the light or not? Yes.

293. And if you took the light you would again have to pay for that? Yes.

294. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—There is also another aspect—assuming the Corporation erected the works and ran the business at a loss, that would be a cost to the ratepayers? Rather.

295. And the Company would, of course, take their own risks? Yes.

296. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—And the obverse, if there was a profit the citizens would get it? Yes.

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ANDREW PATON MILLER, *called and examined.*

297. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Your name is Andrew Paton Miller, and you are a resident in Liverpool-street, Hobart? Yes.

298. You are also a large ratepayer? Yes.

299. You are aware that the Gas Company are applying for power to light the city with electricity? Yes.

300. In the interests of the citizens do you think it is advisable they should have that power? That is my own impression, seeing it would be cheaper to those who take the light.

301. What grounds have you for forming that opinion? Simply that they are ready to begin at once, and having, as I understand, a lot of the necessary plant, it would save a lot of expense as compared with beginning from the beginning.

302. And as a ratepayer you think the consumers should have the option of taking either the one light or the other? From what I have heard, yes. I would just like to say that there are a few people interested in this light. Mr. Mulcahy and others had a meeting, I believe, and one of the reasons given for wanting the electric light was that the gas destroyed the people's stock, and it has certainly been a great loss to me, as Mr. Mulcahy knows. If, however, we could be supplied with a light like the one outside Mr. Bidecove's window, the Wellsbach light that is, that is good enough light for me, if there is no smoke from it. I am not well acquainted with the Wellsbach light, so cannot say, but I would be satisfied with that. Seeing there is destruction of stock from gas the shopkeepers would like the electric light, and would like to get it as cheaply and as quickly as they can.

303. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Do you think, Mr. Miller, if the Corporation erected the electric light plant, that the citizens would patronize it and the shopkeepers would have it? A great many people, to my knowledge, would have it at once.

304. You know a number have been considering the matter for a long time? Yes, for twelve or eighteen months.

305. And the probability is that if they start the works there would be a great amount of business to be done at once? I think so. Of course I do not look upon the electric light as a luxury. It would pay shopkeepers to have the electric light, as there would be a saving of expense in the amount of destruction of goods at present.

306. You think there would be little risk if started on economic principles? You will recollect that at the meeting I referred to, it was shown that a central block could be done, and it showed a small profit according to calculations made. Of course, it came to a little more than the gas, but we got promises from sufficient people which showed that there would be a small profit.

307. That would have been so if the Corporation had started the electric light—there would have been a fair chance of making a profit? Yes, I should think so; the figures at that time showed it.

308. *By Mr. Brown.*—Are you a shareholder in the Gas Company? No, I speak as a citizen. I do not care where the electric light comes from so long as we get it cheap and quickly.

309. You are of opinion if the shopkeepers get it it would be a more satisfactory light? I think so; that was demonstrated at the meeting held. We divided the block into portions, and I was one to take a portion to go round to solicit and get written promises. We got quite enough promises to cover the cost of electric light.

310. You speak as a citizen and a ratepayer? Yes, I am a large ratepayer, and I speak with authority. I pay £184 10s. a year in rates and taxes.

311. You are aware that it has been said in the House of Assembly that the Corporation could not possibly go into this work under ten years? Yes, I have read or heard of it.

312. You know it has been said? Yes. And we are told the Gas Company would be prepared to go on with it at once? I have heard that since I came here this morning.

313. And do you think for that reason it would be best to go on with the work at once? I think so; I have no leanings, I am like other shopkeepers, I want it as quickly and as cheaply as possible; I am not speaking in favour of anybody, but simply for the benefit of the city. I should say, looking at things as they are, that the Gas Company are in a position to do it cheaper, having the things in their possession—I hear they have a lot of stuff, tools, &c.

314. You speak as a citizen, and think if you got a better light it would be an advantage to the community? Yes, the business people, any way.

CHARLES HENRY GRANT, *called and examined.*

315. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Your name is Charles Henry Grant, you are a Member of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, and you are a civil engineer? Yes.

316. I suppose it is unnecessary to say you have read almost everything relating to electric lighting and gas plants? No, I cannot say I have by a very great deal, but I am generally acquainted with it. I have been away, and have not therefore given the subject the consideration I would like to have done, but I hope to be able to give the Committee some information concerning the matter.

317. Are you a Director of the Gas Company? Yes.

318. How long have you been a Director? About 20 years.

319. I presume you have an intimate knowledge of the whole of the workings of the Company, the machinery and all that kind of thing? I have; I have seen it grow up from a rudimentary affair to its present position, and it has been equal to any gas works in the Colonies as regards the detail and manufacture of gas and the economies used.

320. Now, Mr. Grant, you propose to ask Parliament for this Act to enable you to work electric light? Yes.

321. The Board have sanctioned this, and the shareholders are acquainted with what the Directors are doing? On one or two occasions they have been told. It has been stated in the half-yearly reports, which have been circulated to every shareholder.

322. Are you of opinion you could set to work almost immediately to produce electric light? Undoubtedly, with very little trouble; no trouble, in fact.

323. You have the land, plant, &c.? We have all the requirements in that way.

324. It has been stated that the dynamos could be worked by your own gas-power: is that so? It is a fact; and I could give a great deal of evidence on that point to show that it is the modern system of working electrical works. I have a quotation from *The Electrician* of June in the present year, which deals with the question of gas-engines, and shows that the modern practice is now to use gas for the manufacture of electricity by dynamos; it also shows that more power can be got out of coal to make it into gas and then into electricity than can be got by either using gas or making it direct into electricity by means of steam. It states—and I would remark that *The Electrician* has always been opposed to the gas companies and to gas lighting—there are two opposing papers in England, and *The Electrician* has always supported electric power as against gas, and has taken an antagonistic position to the gas companies. This article, further, is not signed, and has therefore the whole authority of the paper, which is the leading paper in Great Britain, and it is an impartial paper and well conducted. *The Electrician* says:—

“Gas-power in electric supply-stations has not only proved itself to be an established commercial success, but it has also given good grounds for believing that it can be made increasingly successful. Indeed the prospect of the gas-engine as a motor for the dynamo in supply-stations appears to be a very good one, whether viewed from the theoretical, the technical, or the commercial standpoint.”

Another part of the same article says:—

“In estimating the suitability of gas power for an electric-lighting station, there are two main considerations which it is necessary to make, (1) as to the superiority of gas-engine power over ordinary gas lighting, and (2) as to the superiority of gas power over any other form of motive power for driving dynamos.”

Again, according to Mr. Emerson Dawson, to whose valuable contributions to the literature of gas power we shall make frequent reference, the first important electric supply-station worked by gas power was opened at Dessau, in the Duchy of Anhalt, in Germany, in September, 1886. The article in *The Electrician* goes on to state, and I will read it for the information of the Committee:—

“The following is a summary of the advantages which were found to accrue from the use of gas in the Dessau electric supply-station, this summary having been published in May, 1892, after five years' experience, by the German Imperial Continental Gas Association:—1. Small space required for plant and station. 2. Small consumption of water. 3. No coal or fuel to carry by hand. 4. No smoke. 5. No risk of explosion. 6. Cheaper than steam-engines in respect of (a) ground required; (b) relative convenience of gas-motors as compared with steam in a town, whence greater choice of place within a town and shorter distance to lay cables; (c) gas-motors show 100 h.p., being cheaper than steam-plant. 7. Less loss of electric power, because station is more favourably situated. 8. Less attendance and wages. 9. Exact control over fuel. 10. More regular working and greater security of power to meet unforeseen demands. 11. Cost of fuel can be reckoned at cost of gas supplied, if gas company runs the station.”

The same article states:—

“The principal arguments which may be advanced in favour of the use of gas power in electric supply-stations are as follows:—Thermo-dynamically the gas-engine has both a higher range of possible efficiency and a higher degree of realised efficiency than any other form of heat engine. The actual thermo-dynamical efficiency of the modern gas-engine is as high as from 15 to 20 per cent., and a possible efficiency of 80 per cent. is claimed by some writers. Practically the gas-engine offers several advantages, many of which have already been specified, and to the previous list may be added (1) less cost of fuel, when suitable gaseous fuel is used; (2) less waste of fuel in running engines on light loads, because there may be little or no stand-by losses in gas plant; (3) greater promptness in starting and shutting down the station.”

I might also read to the Committee a few extracts from the minutes of proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, in which Mr. Joseph Emerson Dawson, M. Inst. C. E., gives a paper on “Gas power for electric lighting.” He says:—

“The author believes that the late Sir William Siemens first drew attention to the fact that when illuminating gas is burnt in a gas engine to drive a dynamo much more light is produced electrically than can be produced by burning the same quantity of gas in burners in the usual way.”

Again—

“The author believes that the solution of the difficulty is to be found in the use of gas plant instead of steam plant.”

Again—

“With these points in view the author feels justified in saying that the use of gas-power has certain marked advantages compared with steam-power, and that the subject is worthy of careful consideration. It is not possible for a steam engine to convert so much of the energy of the fuel into work as a gas engine. It is not possible for a steam engine and boiler to work with so low a fuel consumption per horse-power as a gas engine driven with generator gas, nor is it possible for a steam boiler to meet the requirements of a central station without serious waste of fuel, which can nearly all be avoided with a gas generator. The enormous volume of exhaust steam and products of combustion inherent in the working of a steam-power plant is reduced by fully 90 per cent. when gas is used. These and other points referred to in the paper show that much progress is being made, and that if gas companies, electricians, and engine-makers will combine to meet the varying conditions of an electrical station, there is good reason to believe that, in the words of the late Professor Fleming Jenkin, ‘the internal combustion gas-engine must command a brilliant future.’”

The same authority goes on to say:—

“A good non-condensing compound steam-engine of 150 to 200 indicated horse-power consumes 2½ to 3 lbs. of coal per indicated horse-power per hour in average work, including the waste in the boiler when the engine is not working. Supposing, however, that its fuel consumption could be brought down to 2 lbs. per indicated horse-power per hour, this would still be more than double the average consumption of a gas-engine of the same power. The saving in working cost is therefore reduced by at least 50 per cent., so that a steam-engine indicating 150 horse-power and working 60 hours per week for 50 weeks would require 400 tons per year (at 2 lbs. per horse-power), while a gas-engine would require less than 200 tons of anthracite, or about 265 tons of coke.”

The following is a summary of the leading points urged by the author:—

"1. When town gas is used for driving the engines of an electrical station the consumption is about 50 per cent. less than the volume of gas required to give the same amount of light in ordinary business. 2. When town gas is used no boiler and no fireman are required, and there are no ashes to remove; less ground space is needed; no accumulators are required, except such as may be necessary to equalise the load of the engines, and to provide for a small amount of storage. The engines can be worked in the most crowded districts close to where the lights are required, and where boilers are not allowed. 3. When generator gas is used the consumption of fuel under a full load can be at least 50 per cent. less than with steam power, and the loss due to steam boilers not fully worked can be almost entirely avoided. With these points in view, the author feels justified in saying that the use of gas power has certain marked advantages compared with steam power, and that the subject is worthy of careful consideration. It is not possible for a steam-engine to convert as much of the energy of the fuel into work as a gas-engine. It is not possible for a steam-engine and boiler to work with so low a fuel consumption per horsepower as a gas-engine driven with generator gas; nor is it possible for a steam-boiler to meet the requirements of a central station without serious waste of fuel, which can nearly all be avoided with a gas generator. The enormous volume of exhaust steam and products of combustion inherent in the workings of a steam power plant is reduced to fully 90 per cent. where gas power is used."

Another authority, Mr. Hedges, says:—

"It was owned by the Gas Company, and therefore there was no reason why the consumers should use electric light more than gas; in fact, they used gas a great deal during the winter on account of the cold."

Mr. Holgate says:—

"It appears that electricity might be conveniently generated at gas-works either by steam or gas power, or by a combination of the two. The elasticity so much needed in a steam plant might be obtained to some extent from the waste heat from the retort settings. In a gas plant that elasticity was found in the Dawson generator, and in the coal gas stored in the gas-holders."

Mr. E. C. de Legundo observed—

"The author had arrived at an economy of 50 per cent. by burning the gas in a gas-engine to produce electric light, as against using gas-burners, and that assertion was repeated as a result arrived at by a continental gas company from trials extending over many years."

All that I have quoted goes to say that modern experience goes to show there is an intimate connection between gas supply works and electric supply works, which will shortly prove most important to electricity, so that, in fact, the gas companies will be able to cut out the electric lighting companies by reason of being able to avail themselves of gas as a motive power for supplying electricity, and thereby doing it at cheaper terms than the others can do.

325. You have land available, and you have the staff and that kind of thing? Yes, we have everything ready to start at once, and give our customers their choice, and, of course, it will be a great advantage to go into the matter on a small scale, and not on the large scale the Corporation would have to do it; we can supply the exact requirements, and not make the scheme for expensive works, but in proportion to the wants of the public. A very important reason why we should do so is that electricity is going out of use entirely; it is old-fashioned. When I was at home in England some years ago, I found the shops and stores using electricity had given it up, and were using the Welsbach burners; this was only three years ago in England, and now all over the colonies they are giving or have given up electricity. The leading Clubs in the Colonies have given up electricity, of which they had a splendid installation, and are using the Welsbach burners—even our clubs here, not wishing to be behind the times, have done so. I was at the Melbourne *Argus* Office looking over it with the proprietor, who is a friend of mine, and he called my attention to the fact that the composing tables were being altered from electricity to gas; there were sixteen electric lights on one side of the composing tables and four incandescent gas-burners on the other, and the sixteen electric lights you could scarcely see, while the four incandescent gas-burners gave an enormous flood of light, so much so that they were obliged to make special arrangements to protect the eyes of the men at work: so the electric light is discarded, and the incandescent gas-burners introduced. The same thing applies to the Melbourne Clubs, and the Post Office in Melbourne; and, in fact, all the large institutions have given up the electric supply and gone in for the incandescent gas. Anyone who knows the city of Melbourne knows they would be only too glad to give up their present light and go back to the gas; it is most unsatisfactory, and a more disreputable light it would be impossible to conceive. It is universally execrated by the populace of Melbourne.

326. *By the Chairman.*—Are they carbon points? Yes—are lights, and that being the case, it would be unwise to go in for a large installation of electricity. The consumption has fallen off rather than increased. At present it is not used for household purposes much, although it can be adapted for cooking purposes. I think, therefore, a large sum of money spent in an electric light plant, which would be old-fashioned and out of date very soon, would be most unwise. Of course there will always be people who prefer electricity for certain purposes—for house and shop lighting, for instance.

327. *By Mr. Brown.*—According to your argument, it would be rather an expensive matter for the Corporation? Yes; and I think it would be very injudicious indeed, and opposed to modern science altogether. I may say that, when in England I saw Sir Alexander Siemens, who is the greatest authority in the world on electricity, and whose works have supplied more than half the electric light works throughout the world, and I asked him to give me a price for lighting the City of Hobart and for domestic lighting. He said he would give me a price for domestic lighting, but would not countenance the lighting of the City of Hobart by electricity at any price, as it is altogether unsatisfactory. I asked him to join me in the venture financially, but he would not join me in the scheme for lighting the Cities; but with regard to a scheme for using the light for domestic purposes there were many advantages in the use of it,—for domestic and ship lighting, in fact, which did not apply to town lighting. He offered to give me a tender for domestic lights, but refused altogether to give me one for town lighting. His works supply dozens of towns for electric lights to order, but he takes no part in the result financially.

328. You got that information, thinking of going in for electric lighting? Yes, I was going in in connection with the tramways. He helped us in the tramway. He found a greater portion of the outlay, but with regard to the lighting he would do nothing for us.

329. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Yet, in the face of that, the Gas Company is going on with the electric lighting scheme? Yes, giving the public the option of trying it. Some, like Mr. Miller, might like to try it; and, if the public like to have it in preference to the incandescent light, they can have it fitted up.

330. *By Mr. Brown.*—You are prepared to stand any loss? Yes, the citizens do not stand to lose anything. We are prepared to supply them as any ordinary tradesman would supply his goods as required; but if they prefer a cheaper and better light, in the Welsbach light, they can have it. I should like to impress the Committee with the fact that it is a great risk to put up electric light plant. I would not countenance it at all unless the citizens, in a meeting assembled, insisted on having the electric light. I should say let them have it; but, if asked my opinion, I should say use the incandescent light, which is by far superior—there is no comparison. If Mr. Mulcahy or any of the Committee goes to Melbourne, in Danks', the brassfounder's shop in Bourke-street, you can there see an incandescent burner and the ordinary gas-burner side by side, and you can scarcely see the ordinary burner is alight by the side of the intense light of the incandescent light.

331. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Have you any knowledge as to the state of feeling in Launceston as to the Corporation and the electric light works there? Not positively. I have examined the works. I spent a Sunday in Launceston, and I was surprised at the magnitude and cost of the work considering the object to be attained, especially as I have explained that this Welsbach burner is so far superior to the electric light at the present time. Wherever you see the two side by side the electric light is a streak of dark yellow, whereas the incandescent light is so powerful and white it has to be kept down by a shade. It is only fair to put before the Committee the reason the incandescent burner is not more universally used. It is because there is a patent for it, and so far on that account a scandalous charge has been made for it. When I was at home, I think it was in 1891, the burners were then from 8s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. in shop windows, now these same burners are 17s. 6d. and some about 42s., simply because the Australian Incandescent Light Co. have got a patent and are getting an enormous profit on it. In a short time this patent expires, and then we will hear little more of electricity.

332. It has been stated before the Committee that the debris from the streets could be used in lighting the town, thus reducing the cost by one-third: what is your opinion as to that? I only know that in Paris no use is being made of it; the destructors waste the heat into the air, and I believe the solid is used for brick-making or something. These are the only ones I know of personally, and I know no use is made of it.

333. It has been said it would work well in making a reduction in the cost of electric light? If they cannot use it in Paris I should think they could hardly make use of it in Hobart, where it is on so small a scale; it would never be worth the trouble.

334. *By Mr. Gill.*—The inference you draw after seeing the two lights side by side is that one light is superior to the other for men working? Yes.

335. The other is trying to the eyes? Yes, the incandescent light is so powerful that they have to have a shade; the electric light was a mere streak of yellow, just enough to show there were lights as compared with the power of the incandescent light. The Age Office in Melbourne has also adopted them, and in Danks' shop they burn an incandescent burner night and day.

336. With the electric and a carbon light? Yes, arc lights; the electric light does not seem to keep alight half the time; it is most unsatisfactory.

337. *By the Chairman.*—That is the difficulty? Yes.

338. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—You made a comparison with regard to generating power as between gas engines and steam engines? Yes, and between direct application of coal through a steam engine and through the manufacture of gas.

339. What would be the comparison supposing water power to be available? As far as my experience goes I do not like water power; it is more difficult to manage and more costly than direct steam power. Of course, in America, for saw-milling the water power is an advantage, but when you consider all over the world the little use that is made of water power, and the enormous use of steam, it makes one mistrust the use of water power: but the Corporation have not water-power.

340. You do not know any reason why water power should not be used? Except the cost; there would be a cost of £35,000 in connection with the water alone.

341. You say the Hobart Corporation have not got water power? Not sufficient to light the city.

342. Nor any means of transmitting electric energy? Not much.

343. You know that this means of utilising electric power is being made use of? Yes, to some extent, but very little.

344. You know it is possible to send, at a small loss, a current along several miles of cable? Not at a small loss.

345. Ten per cent. loss? That depends upon the size of the cable used; therein lies the expense. When I was at home in England I saw the Electric Light Companies laying down a long circuit, and when I tell you it consisted of four copper strips, each about three-quarters of an inch in thickness, you can judge of the expense of that, and it was very pure copper too; this was in Regent street, London.

346. You are aware that water power has been made available, by means of transmitting energy through electric wires, for driving machinery? Yes.

347. It is proposed to do that in Launceston with the scheme they have there? Yes, but they have a magnificent supply of water there.

348. They have it near in Launceston? Yes, within three miles; they have most certainly the most favourable circumstances it is possible to have, except in the American cities where the supply of water is close to their cities. Then the cost would be something tremendous for wires from the turbines to the city; they are very costly from that distance. For wires between the poles the cost must be large.

349. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Have you any idea of the relative cost of the light in the Parliament Buildings, as between electricity and gas? About a third, using the incandescent gas.

350. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You have touched upon the value of the incandescent light, and you have also said electricity has almost gone out of date, but you have never touched upon the question that this incandescent light would be so expensive. Is it cheaper than electricity? Well, the Clubs in London, and

in fact throughout the world, and the public institutions have to go back to the use of this incandescent light, and even our own Clubs.

351. *By the Chairman.*—What do you mean by an incandescent light? It is a burning mantle. A little sack is prepared, open at both ends. It is prepared of some material, cotton or silk only, soaked with some chemical, and this chemical being burned off the gas is burned outside this bag, and the combustion seems to be in such a gaseous form that it is innoxious, and the objection which Mr. Miller urged about the damage done by gas is done away with. The combustion is so perfect there is no innoxious result.

352. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—The light is produced by the heated substance rather than by the flame in the Welsbach light? (No answer.)

353. *By Mr. Crisp.*—I notice you say this incandescent gas-burner burns much less gas than an ordinary burner? Yes, very much less, about two-thirds less; about three and three-quarter feet per hour as compared with the five the ordinary burner consumes.

354. This statement has been questioned, nevertheless it is true? Yes, absolutely true; we have an apparatus at the works for testing it.

355. If these lamps consume less gas could not arrangements be made with the Corporation so that the street lamps could be lighted with this incandescent light? Yes.

356. If they burn less gas could not arrangements be made so that they could be distributed over the City instead of the present rush-lights we now have? Yes; the trouble is the cost of the burners; until this patent runs out, or until something is discovered to equal it in value, I don't think the Corporation could afford to use it. Patents are being taken out to try and overcome this monopoly, which must be producing hundreds of thousands of pounds to Dr. Welsbach—I think that is the inventor's name—a German. Only a short time back the rights to light a small place in Germany were sold for £50,000.

357. The reason I ask the question is, that if it can be shown these lights are cheaper it would be better for the citizens to have them? Yes; the only objection would be on account of the patent, and the mantles burn away sometimes. Sometimes they burn away at once, and again they will sometimes stand for eight or ten months.

358. There is a little risk, then? Yes.

359. How long has this patent to run—when will it expire? Four or five years.

360. *By the Chairman.*—If not renewed? It would not be renewed.

361. *By Mr. Crisp.*—When that term expires private consumers can be supplied at a less cost? I should think the actual cost of the burner would be about four or five shillings made in quantities, for which they now charge 35 shillings.

362. Supposing private consumers paid for this, how much per cent. reduction would there be—what would be the saving to the consumer? It would depend upon the position. Here, in this room, you would burn one burner instead of three; that is, supposing these burners burned twelve feet an hour, you would burn four with the other; you would only burn about one-third the gas.

363. *By Mr. Gill.*—I suppose in this scheme the first cost is the greatest cost—you having the buildings &c. is a great advantage? Yes.

364. And for the cheapness of the light hereafter? Yes, and having the staff to collect the gas rates, &c., and we have all the appliances ready for doing what is required and for supplying all requirements. I certainly would not advocate a large installation; it would be madness at the present time to think of a large one.

365. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—But you do not know that the Corporation intend going in for a large installation? They would not do otherwise; it would not pay them. We can put up a gas engine at our works and start with only the expense of dynamos. The Corporation have not got the same plant. There would be foundations for engines and other large outlays, and, from what Mr. Siemens said, it would cost to light the city of Hobart, public and private, from £80,000 to £100,000. Nothing less would do it to do it thoroughly.

366. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Do you know what they have spent in Launceston? I was told that £78,000 was the cost. I should have added that Mr. Siemens' estimate was in connection with the tramways plant, and that it depended on its being in conjunction with the tramway plant in giving that estimate. The inference would be that it would be more if not in conjunction with it.

367. *By Mr. Gill.*—Did I understand you to say that if the thing answered, as you went on you could add to your present plant? I said that, as modern science seems to indicate, you can carry power better by letting gas find its own way, thus having a small gas engine, than by carrying electricity along the wires.

368. *By Mr. Brown.*—Could you store enough gas at the present time to carry on and do the extra work of this transmission? Yes; we have infinite storage capacity.

369. And you could even add to that? Yes, we could put another top on the top of our metre. We have more storage than we are likely to require for many years.

370. I simply wanted to know if you could do it? Our consumption not having increased, and our storage being largely in excess of requirements, we lately took down a gasometer and turned it into a tar tank, we had such immense storage in reserve.

371. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—You think the citizens should have some voice with regard to this concession, Mr. Grant? Yes, they have had a voice. I think the ordinary custom has been followed.

372. You would have no objection to a clause going into this Bill for a poll being taken? I think it is unnecessary. What would be the object?

373. You know there is a similar clause in the citizens' own Bill, which requires a majority of two-thirds before the Corporation can go on with it: would you have any objection to a similar clause in this Bill? You have not gathered what I have said. We keep a shop for the supply of light to the consumers, some of them might like electricity, and we are prepared as makers of light to sell that light, and there are so very few who would be affected, that I do not see the necessity of taking a poll.

374. You are asking concessions which will interfere with the rights of the citizens, and make a profit out of them? I do not think we are interfering with their rights.



375. If some one else supplied electricity it would take some of the custom? You may depend upon it if the Corporation made their own works they would undersell a private company, and the consumers would go to a public body rather than to a private company.

376. What about the shareholders? They are only a few in number.

377. You think it right, then, for Parliament to give these concessions, whether the people of Hobart are opposed to it or not? I do not think the people can be against it, because they would have their choice. I do not see, for instance, if Mr. Miller or people in a certain block decide to have the electric light that it need concern people all over the city.

378. *By the Chairman.*—You could generate electricity, and if I am living across the street you deliver your produce? Yes, as much as you like, or as little.

379. You have the right to deliver gas, and you want the same right to deliver the electric light? Yes. We have no monopoly.

380. You would let others come in and supply at the same rates? Yes; we are only tradesmen prepared to supply what is wanted.

381. *By Mr. Brown.*—The citizens, in fact, are not debarred from taking a poll, if they like to do so? No, but it would be almost as natural for Mr. Higgins to be asked to take a poll of the city.

382. The citizens have the matter entirely in their own hands? Yes.

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ALFRED MAULT, *called and examined.*

383. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Your name is Alfred Mault, and you are a civil engineer? Yes, I am Inspector to the Central Board of Health and Consulting Engineer to the Metropolitan Drainage Board.

384. You are aware that the Gas Company are asking Parliament for powers to light the city by electricity? Yes.

385. You are also aware that the Hobart Corporation are applying for similar powers? Yes.

386. Do you think it is expedient to give to a private company these rights, seeing the citizens desire to obtain it for themselves? I think it preferable to give the right to the citizens.

387. It has been suggested that the refuse of the city might be used for the purpose of generating power to produce electricity. Do you know anything on this question? I have seen it done.

388. Can you give the Committee any information about it? About four years ago, when I was in England, I inspected, amongst other places, the town of Southampton, and the greater part of the refuse is burnt in destructors after being collected, and the heat generated is used to raise steam for town scavenging purposes and for electric light purposes.

389. We only want to know about it for the purpose of getting fuel? I was simply making an explanation to show that the electricity was only a small part of the affair.

390. Was the refuse suitable for fuel, and could it be used in the case of generating power for electricity for a plant? Yes, without any other fuel. No other was used, and it is rather a curious thing that there the refuse was exceptionally bad, and I remarked at the time that the refuse seemed to consist really of nothing but potato peelings and cabbage stalks.

391. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Do they burn by themselves? Yes, or mixed with comparatively few ashes. I do not know whether you have seen them at work, but they are greatly dried before the fire takes them.

392. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—You are quite certain that the refuse of the city is used for this purpose? I am quite sure on that point.

393. Have they to consume any other fuel in lighting the town with electricity? They did a great deal of other work, but there was comparatively little lighting. They did not light the whole town, but the whole Corporation premises and the immediate neighbourhood were lighted.

394. You know a great deal about Hobart in your capacity as Inspector and Secretary to the Central Board of Health: do you think there is sufficient refuse in Hobart, if collected, to find fuel for a generating plant? I have no doubt about it.

395. Do you think the destruction of the refuse would be a benefit to the city as well as being economical for fuel? Decidedly.

396. What do you think would be the cost to the Hobart Corporation for fuel in the event of their working an electric light plant? Virtually *nil*.

397. Are you acquainted with electric light at all? No, not at all.

398. *By Mr. Gill.*—What are the number of inhabitants in Southampton? About 56,000.

399. *By Mr. Crisp.*—I suppose you have been engaged in connection with the lighting of cities? Not by electricity.

400. You do not reckon yourself an authority or an expert on this question? No, not on electric light.

401. Can you give any reasons why you think the Gas Company should not have the power to light the city by electricity? I only give my opinion, which is that everything connected with the streets and the city service is better in the hands of the Corporation than in the hands of a private company, including the supply of gas.

402. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You are aware there are two sides to this question—that the Gas Company are prepared to supply the citizens with electricity without any risk or cost to other than consumers, whereas the Corporation are asking if they get this concession to levy a rate of ten pence in the pound? I was not aware of the precise conditions, nor am I at all aware of the general scope of the Bill. I was only aware of the general fact that both the Corporation and the Gas Company are asking for powers. I am only speaking from a very large acquaintance with municipal matters; I am simply an advocate for everything of this kind being done by municipal bodies rather than by private companies.



403. Knowing that there is a liability of ten pence in the pound on the one side and nothing on the other, would you still recommend that the Gas Company should not have this concession? I confess I do not precisely follow you. I take it that ten pence in the pound would not be the exact rating, but that there would be some arrangements so that those who used the light would contribute more.

404. So you think the Corporation should have the right rather than a private company—do the railways in England belong to the Government? No, to private companies.

405. If that is right in that case why not in this? In that case the competition, by reason of the great number of companies, is sufficient to prevent monopolies. I do not say give it to any company in particular.

406. Would you recommend a general Lighting Bill to enable anybody to come here to supply the citizens at the least possible cost? Yes; except that for general lighting purposes I have precisely the same objection. From what I know of Birmingham and other large towns in England these things are better left in the hands of the Corporation. I know in these places it has told very largely both in favour of the gas as to quality and the levying of rates in the towns.

407. Then you do not believe in competition? Not in that sense. I believe there are higher objects to be gained than that of competition in almost all instances.

408. Do you believe the Corporation could supply electricity cheaper than any other company? I think they could eventually.

409. What do you mean by that? I mean that if the Corporation went to work properly they could do the work just as cheaply as outside companies, and whatever profit there was would be in diminution of the rates.

410. Are you aware that the electric light has not taken a forward movement, but has rather gone back, and that this incandescent light which has lately come into existence is likely to supersede it? I should not be surprised to hear that. I know in England in certain places where the towns were lighted by electricity they have earned the gratitude of the whole of the inhabitants by reverting back to gas.

411. That being a fact, would you still favour the Corporation having this power? I do not know exactly how to answer.

412. Knowing this light is coming to the fore, would you still recommend that the Corporation risk the money of the people in a venture like this electric light? I do not know that my opinion is worth having on a question of that sort.

413. Knowing this incandescent light is coming to the front, would you still recommend that the Corporation borrow a large sum of money for electric light purposes? Of course I should not recommend such a thing.

414. *By the Chairman.*—In giving your opinion you are speaking in general terms? Yes.

415. Assuming that the Corporation had the gasworks, do you think it would then be desirable to have the electric light? I go upon the assumption that they should have the gasworks. And even under present circumstances I think it is desirable that they should take care nobody else gets that power. Whether it is wise for the one or the other to get the power I do not pretend to know.

416. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You know the Gas Company have the power to cut up the streets for the purpose of laying gas mains? Yes.

417. The Gas Company being a lighting company, if they wish to extend their business and sell electric light do you see any reason why they should not have this power? I say this, that it would be undesirable on the part of the Corporation not to secure the electric light while they have a chance.

418. Do you think that should prevent other people having it? I think they would do it better themselves.

419. Do you think it their duty to promote a Bill for purchasing the Gas Company's works? I think it their duty to propose something of the kind.

420. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think because the Gas Company have spent large sums of money the Corporation should take up an opposition stand and try to flout them out of existence? I do not want to enter into that question as between the one and the other, I would rather go back to the principle and say that I am always in favour of the lighting being done by the Corporation.

421. *By Mr. Brown.*—You have been asked whether you prefer this Company having the power as against the citizens, and you have said you prefer that the citizens should do it themselves: have you any information as to whether the citizens have asked for this concession at all? I do not know; I have heard on two or three occasions something about the Corporation purchasing the gas works; as a matter of conversation I have heard of it.

422. You have never heard any expression of opinion from citizens as to whether they would be against the Gas Company having this concession and doing the work? No, I have not heard anything for or against this Bill.

423. You have stated that at Southampton a supply of electricity is kept up from the refuse of the city? I understood when I was there that only a small part was used for that purpose.

424. What I wish to point out is that in Paris, where Mr. Grant has told us there is a large supply of electricity, the matter of using the refuse is entirely ignored for that purpose, and we know Mr. Grant speaks from observation: he has moved about and taken great interest in these matters, and he tells us that in Paris there is no refuse used for electricity: I take it, therefore, there would be very little chance of doing it in Hobart? I made one or two calculations as to the quantity of cylinders that would be required for the purpose of consuming the refuse of a place like Hobart, and I take it you would require at least from eight to ten cylinders, and I know that with six cylinders at Southampton they get over 40-horse power.

425. What process does this refuse go through before it is applicable to the purpose? None whatever; potatoes, cabbage peelings, &c. are dried as they go forward to the destructor by the destructors themselves; it is gradually sent into the destructors, and it dries as it goes in.

426. I would like to ask you if you approve of the Corporation having these powers to light the city by electricity, knowing that the people would have to pay whether they took the light or not? I do not approve of it on those grounds at all, as I have said, but on the general principle.

427. Why do you go upon that principle? Because I know in other places where the Corporations have taken the matter up, the result has been a general benefit to the ratepayers. With regard to the rates, I know it to have been the case in the towns of Birmingham and Glasgow.

428. In Launceston there was a tenpenny rate put on at once, was there not? I cannot say anything about that, I have not paid attention; I only go upon the general principle. I was asked to come here because I had seen destructors at work.

429. I can understand the argument if the Corporation owned the gas-works, but the thing is whether those who do should come forward and supply the electric light? That is a question I do not intend to express any opinion upon; my point is, I only express an opinion in favour of the Corporation doing all things of that kind.

430. You believe the Corporation could do it with the refuse of the city? Yes, that is my opinion.

431. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—With the rights of the citizens amply safeguarded, would you not modify your suggestion? Not at all; they can safeguard themselves. I maintain, if it is worth the while of the Gas Company it is worth the while of the citizens.

432. Does that follow? To my mind experience shows it does follow.

433. Then, if the business was worked at a loss, you would still say the citizens should go in for it? I should say no such thing. I say it would not be worked at a loss if properly done. You cannot point me to a town in England where the thing has not been well managed by Corporations.

434. *By Mr. Brown.*—We want an instance where the Corporation have not got the light? In this particular case neither the one nor the other party have got it.

435. *By Mr. Mitchell.*—Yes, the Gas Company have the light? Not in regard to electricity. I say it is a wise precaution on the part of the Corporation, and I hope it is a preliminary step to taking over the whole of the city lighting, and not to allow the Gas Company to add electric light to gas.

436. Would it not resolve itself into a question of cheapness or otherwise? I think not.

437. Would you not give the power to the Gas Company provided there was a Clause in the Act giving the Corporation power to purchase the works? I think that would be desirable.

438. You think it would be desirable for the Company to get the privilege if the Corporation had the power to purchase at a given time? No, I do not say that; I say if the Company get the power it should be with the addition that the Corporation have the power to purchase at any time.

439. *By the Chairman.*—You would have no objection to the Bill under these conditions? I am only saying, if the worst comes to the worst, the Corporation should have the proviso inserted with regard to the power to purchase.

440. Would it not be desirable that the Company should have the power to light the city by electricity, and that the Corporation should have the power to take over the concern when it is a paying thing—that is, if the Clause enabled them to take it over as a paying concern or not at all? All this I perfectly agree to, with the understanding that the Hobart Corporation do not get the lighting power themselves. I think it advisable for some persons to have the power; and if the Corporation do not get it, I say by all means let the Gas Company have the power.

441. You think the Corporation should manage their own affairs entirely? I certainly think so.

442. Even in the Board of Health matters as well? (No answer.)

#### ROBERT SIDNEY MILLES, called and examined.

443. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Your name is Robert Sidney Milles, and you are the City Surveyor? Yes.

444. You are aware there are two Bills before the House of Assembly to seek powers to light the city of Hobart by electricity? I am.

445. A private one and a public one? Yes.

446. Have you in your official capacity considered the matter on behalf of the Corporation? No, I have not at present.

447. Do you know anything of electric light? I know a little about it, but am not experienced in it.

448. Do you think it is desirable to give this concession asked for to a private company in preference to the Corporation? On certain points, I think, no.

449. Can you give us any information which you think it right to give yourself privately as a citizen? On many points I can express an opinion. I have an opinion on the matter.

450. *By the Chairman.*—So long as it is expressed in the terms of the preamble of the Bill it is allowable. We want simply to prove or disprove the preamble? In my position I have gone into the matter to a certain extent, but I have not been consulted officially on either of the two Bills. I have only gone into it in a general manner, and I have in my professional capacity talked the matter over with one or two professional electricians. As far as the question is concerned, I think the citizens would get an advantage if it is taken up by the Gas Company than if it were taken up by the Municipality.

451. You think it would be cheaper to have it done by the Gas Company than by the public? Yes.

452. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Would not that apply to private lighting as well; I do not mean as against gas, but as to electricity against electricity? Once having the plant, it follows of course that it would mean a better chance to supply private lighting as well.—I mean in case the Municipality were to erect a plant they could then supply the street lighting as well, and by doing the two it could be done cheaper. The same applies to gas also.

453. You think the citizens should have the electric light forced upon them and be made to pay the rates whether they use it or not? (No answer.)

454. You are aware that in the Hobart Corporation Bill there is a clause that provides that the rate cannot be levied without the consent of two-thirds of the citizens? Yes; I believe that is so.

455. That is not forcing the thing on them? No.

456. As City Surveyor you have control of the streets, and you are in a position to say whether the privileges sought for of crossing the streets by wires, &c. would be likely to be inconvenient to the citizens,

or otherwise, and likely to interfere with the Corporation doing the same thing afterwards? I think it is certainly advisable in matters of this kind that the Corporation should have the control of the streets. We have had that point proved by the present cables being laid in the streets.

457. You do not think it is advisable to give away the rights of the citizens in that way? Not unless there are strong conditions with regard to the breaking up of streets, and provision made for the enforcing of conditions with regard to placing them in proper order again.

458. *By Mr. Brown.*—In what way do you object to the breaking up of the streets—do you think the Corporation would do it better? At present we hardly have any control. Under the present Act there are no special conditions, as far as I can find, under which the Corporation have any trouble.

459. What objection is there to the work being done—why could you do it better? It is done by a class of men who are not tradesmen. In fact it is not a regular staff of men at all, it is simply a question of getting so much cable laid by what men can be got together.

460. You contend that it is not kept up by a proper staff? Yes.

461. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Are you in a position to tell us if the Corporation could undertake this work economically—do you know anything about force obtainable from destructors? My opinion on that point is that they have a larger amount of force available than that, namely water power.

462. Where is that available? At the waterworks in town.

463. Is there any great extent of power there? It has been estimated by me, and corroborated by some of the best electricians, that we have over a hundred horse power available, and that it could be augmented at very little expense.

464. To what extent? Fully 50 per cent. more.

465. 200 horse power without much additional expense? Yes.

466. And that is going always? Yes.

467. *By Mr. Brown.*—You say you have water available and to spare: does that mean at the present time or during the whole year? That is in the summer time.

468. And yet last year we had our taps shut off? That is the water power that comes from the reservoir.

469. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You say the Corporation have not consulted you in the matter? No.

470. You are aware that Launceston had the concession, and are going on with their works? Yes.

471. Do you not think it would be wise of the Hobart Corporation to await and abide by the results thereof before rushing into the matter? That is more the financial aspect of the question.

472. Taking a practical view of the matter, do not you think it would be better to wait the result of that scheme than to rush into the thing regardless of consequences, especially seeing the Launceston Corporation have a water-power which the Hobart Corporation have not got? I think it advisable to wait, taking it for granted that their works are completed within a reasonable period.

473. Thus getting the advice of their results first? Naturally.

474. If the Hobart Corporation got this concession would they not have to erect machinery as well as depending on this water-power? Yes.

475. This water-power would not be sufficient for this lighting business? No.

476. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—What Mr. Crisp wanted to find out was, whether there would be sufficient power for the machinery? I do not think there would be sufficient power.

477. Would there be sufficient power for public lighting only? Yes.

478. *By Mr. Gill.*—How many horse-power? I think the present power available could be made up to 150 horse-power, and that would be sufficient.

479. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Do you think the Corporation would be able to supply electric light as cheaply as the Gas Company, knowing the Gas Company have half the work done? I am not in a position to say; I do not know what their facilities are.

480. Seeing the facilities available, could the Corporation supply the citizens as cheaply as the Gas Company? I am not aware of the horse-power available, whether they would have to put down machinery or not.

481. You said just now that the streets should be kept entirely in the hands of the Corporation, and that the reason for that was that the Gas Company did not put back the streets and footpaths as they found them: where is the cause of complaint? They do not understand the work.

482. If you are not satisfied you have only to complain and have the work done? I think otherwise.

483. Have not the Gas Company, when they have cut up the streets, always put them back to your satisfaction? Certainly not.

484. Have you not complained to the Gas Company and had the matter rectified? I won't say that has not been done.

485. *By the Chairman.*—You have the power? I was told by the Gas Company we had no power after six months.

486. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You understand you have the power? I understand not, unless it is within six months of the work being done.

487. Have the Gas Company not asked you to do the work and send the bill in to them? For certain classes of work, such as pavement repairs, but not to street repairs where mains were laid down in the streets.

488. When the Gas Company go to cut up a street or road do they give you notice? Very seldom.

489. Are you aware that under the Corporation Bill they want the power to levy a rate of ten pence in the pound? I cannot say I am acquainted with the rating clause.

490. They are asking for powers to levy a rate? Yes?

491. The Gas Company are asking for no power to levy a rate, they only ask consumers to pay for what they have? Speaking of my knowledge of electric lighting I understand it is always supplied at a rate so as to repay the outlay of money. I cannot say whether the rate asked for in this case would be charged or not.

492. You have seen this new incandescent light? I have, it is a great improvement.

493. Do you think it would be as good as the electric light for the citizens—right through the whole city? That is a question very hard to answer. I could not say unless I tested it. I do not know what its lamps supply. It is a technical question, of which I have not the means of testing. It is a question of candle-power.

494. Sixty candle-power? Then I should have to find the amount of gas consumed. I am not in possession of the facts of the case. It is no use making a statement which might mislead you and myself too. It is simply a question of experiment.

495. If it can be proved that this incandescent light is cheaper in supply than the electric light, should you think the Corporation ought to go into this venture? It has been stated that the electric light is not making any progress, that it has had its day, and that this incandescent light has superseded it. In the face of this I ask you, would you, seeing this incandescent light can be supplied at a less cost, think it wise for the Corporation to go in for the electric light? Certainly not. I only say that I consider if it is wise for the Gas Company to have these powers, it is better still for the Corporation to have them. Let us have whichever is the cheapest article.

496. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Are you satisfied that the light can be produced cheaper? I would not like to say until I went into the matter.

497. *By Mr. Brown.*—Where does this water-power you spoke of come from? It is taken from the trouthing above Gentle Annie Falls.

498. That is above the reservoir and independent of it? Yes, close on one thousand feet above the sea level.

499. Would that water be emptied into the reservoir? Yes.

500. That is why I ask the question, to know if it would interfere with the supply of water to the citizens? I am taking the calculation for horse power from what I saw last year, the summer flow. In the trouthing we wanted to see what horse power we had. Of course it would require machinery to be erected to convey this water into the reservoir.

501. *By Mr. Mulcahy.*—Do you know from memory the difference in altitude between the Marquis of Hastings reservoir and the Chesapeake Falls reservoirs? About 200 feet.

502. You have a certain amount of water pressure from that? Yes, we have a great pressure, at the present time you could not use it for machinery.

503. *By Mr. Gill.*—Have you read the preamble of this Bill? I only glanced through it the other day.

504. I will read it.—“A Bill to authorise ‘The Hobart Town Gas Company’ to light the City of Hobart and its suburbs by electricity. Whereas ‘The Hobart Town Gas Company’ has applied to Parliament for authority to light the City of Hobart and its suburbs by electricity, and to supply electric light to the inhabitants of the said city and its suburbs. And whereas it is expedient that such authority should be granted to the said company upon the terms and conditions hereinafter mentioned. Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:—1. This Act may be cited for all purposes as ‘The Hobart Town Gas Company’s Electric Light Act.’” Do you think it “expedient” or not that the Gas Company should have the power? Not under the terms in that Bill.

505. If the citizens were further protected under this Bill do you think it would be? Yes, as far as rating power to light and protection clauses are concerned.

506. They are not forced in this Bill to take the light—they are not bound to take the light. It is just a matter of whether it is “expedient” that this Company should have the right or the Hobart Corporation should have the right. I understand that if it were granted to any private company they would have the control altogether. You could run your own; that is the Corporation could? I thought not.

507. Provided that certain safeguards were put round to protect the citizens, do you think then it is advisable to give the Gas Company this Bill? It simply becomes a financial question then; that is what it really amounts to with the Gas Company.

[59 VICT.] *Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.***As amended in Select Committee.**

Amendments—Clauses 2, 3, and 43.  
New Clauses 29, 30, and 31.

A

**B I L L**

TO


Authorise “The *Hobart Town* Gas Company” A.D. 1895.  
to light the City of *Hobart* and its Suburbs  
by Electricity.


**W**HEREAS “The *Hobart Town* Gas Company” has applied to PREAMBLE.  
Parliament for authority to light the City of *Hobart* and its suburbs  
by Electricity, and to supply Electric Light to the inhabitants of the  
said City and its suburbs :

5 And whereas it is expedient that such authority should be granted  
to the said Company upon the terms and conditions hereinafter  
mentioned :

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*,  
by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and  
10 House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows :—

1 This Act may be cited for all purposes as “The *Hobart Town* Short title.  
Gas Company's Electric Light Act.”

2 This Act shall be divided into <sup>(Ten\*)</sup>  <sup>[Nine\*]</sup> Parts, as follows :— Division of Act.

- 15 Part I.—Interpretation.  
Part II.—Inclusion of the Company's Act.  
Part III.—Increase of Capital.  
Part IV.—Power to construct Electric Works.  
Part V.—Protection of Telegraphic and Telephonic Lines.  
Part VI.—Supply of Electricity.  
20 (Part VII.—Power to purchase by Corporation.)  
Part [VII.](VIII.)—By-laws.   
Part [VIII.](IX.)—Offences.  
Part [IX.](X.)—Miscellaneous.

[*Private.*]

\* \* The words and figures proposed to be struck out are enclosed in brackets [ ] ; those  
to be inserted, in parentheses ( ).

A.D. 1895.

Interpretation.

## PART I.

## INTERPRETATION.

**3** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

The expression "Company" means the present proprietors of "The *Hobart Town Gas Company*," and all and every such other person or persons as shall or may from time to time become a proprietor or proprietors of shares in the said Company :

The expression "Company's Act" means "The *Hobart Town Gas Company's Act*" and all subsequent amendments thereof ;

The expression "area of operations" means the areas now, or at any time hereafter, included in the boundaries of the City of *Hobart*, towns, municipalities, districts, and other places which the said Company are now supplying, or are empowered to supply, with gas :

The expression "the local authority" means, as respects each area of operation, the Municipal Council of the said City of *Hobart* or of any municipality, and the Town Board of any town which the said Company are now supplying or are empowered to supply with gas. In the event of any portion of the area of operations being by law under the control or management of any authority or person other than any such Municipal Council or Town Board, the expression "local authority" shall apply to and mean such authority or person :

The expression "electricity" means electricity, electric current, or any like agency :

The expression "electric line" means a wire or wires, conductor, or other means used for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity, with any casing, coating, covering, tube, pipe, or insulator enclosing, surrounding, or supporting the same, or any part thereof, or any apparatus connected therewith for the purpose of conveying, transmitting, or distributing electricity or electric currents :

The expression "public purposes" means the lighting any public place, road, street, way, lane, passage, or building within the limits of the City of *Hobart*, or of any town, municipality, district, or other place which the Company are now supplying with gas, or are empowered so to do :

The expression "private purposes" means any other purposes whatever not being "public purposes" to which electricity may for the time being be applicable, excepting the transmission of any telegram or telephonic message :

The expression "street" includes any square, court, or alley, highway, lane, road, thoroughfare, or public passage, or place within the area of operations :

The expression "works" means and includes electric lines, also any buildings, machinery, engines, works, matters, or things of whatever description required to supply electricity, and to carry into effect the object of the Company under this Act :

The expression "post" means a post, pole, standard, stay, or strut, or other above-ground contrivance for carrying, suspending, or supporting electric lines or lamps connected therewith :

(The expression "the said Corporation" shall mean the Municipal Council of the City of *Hobart*.)



[59 VICT.] *Hybart Gas Company's Electric Light.***PART II.**

A.D. 1895.

**INCLUSION OF THE COMPANY'S ACT.**

**4** All and every the powers and authorities conferred upon the Company by the Company's Act, for the manufacture and supply of gas, for the acquisition of lands and erection of works, and other powers and authorities relative and incidental thereto, shall *mutatis* *mutandis* be extended and applied to the generating, manufacturing, procuring, and supplying electricity. And the Company are hereby authorised and empowered, in addition to the powers conferred upon them by the Company's Act, to generate, manufacture, procure, and supply electricity for public purposes and private purposes, within the area of operations, and for such purpose to acquire such lands, construct such works, acquire such licenses for the use of any patented or protected processes, inventions, machinery, apparatus, methods, materials, or other things, and generally to do all such acts and things as may be necessary and incidental to such supply.

Company may supply electricity.

**PART III.****INCREASE OF CAPITAL.**

**5** The Company may raise and contribute among themselves, or otherwise, as the said Company shall determine, a further sum or sums increasing the capital of the Company for the purposes of the Company's Act and of this Act, to a sum not exceeding in the whole the sum of Fifty thousand Pounds, by the issue of new shares, in like manner as directed by the Company's Act.

Increase of Capital.

**6** The Directors for the time being of the Company may (pursuant to any order or resolution of any general meeting or special general meeting), from time to time borrow, and take up by way of loan at interest, any sum or sums of money not exceeding at any time the amount of the capital paid up. And the money so borrowed shall be a charge upon the said Company, its undertaking, property, and effects, and the Directors may, if they shall think fit, issue debentures for the amount thereof, such debentures to be under the hands of any Two of the Directors, and the Secretary for the time being of the said Company.

**30** All moneys so borrowed and debentures issued may be secured upon the undertaking and property of the Company; and if the Directors determine that the same shall be so secured the Secretary for the time being of the said Company shall execute such mortgage, deed, or security as any Three or more of the Directors for the time being of the said Company shall, from time to time, under their hands or seals direct or appoint.

Borrowing power.

**PART IV.****POWER TO CONSTRUCT ELECTRIC WORKS.**

**7** It shall be lawful for the said Company, under the supervision of the local authority, from time to time, to place and maintain electric lines, leads, wires, cables or conductors necessary for conveying the electricity to be supplied by them under, over, along, or across

Power to construct lines with consent of local authority.

A.D. 1895. — any street or open public reserve within the area of operations, and may place and maintain posts in, upon, or over any such street or open public reserve, and may at any time alter or remove the same.

Notice of laying electric mains, &c. to be given to local authority. **8** Before proceeding to construct any electric line or works, under the powers contained in this Act, the Company shall give notice in writing, signed by the Secretary of the Company, to the local authority, or to their clerk, or surveyor, within the the area of operations, of the Company's intention to do so : Provided always that in cases of emergency arising from defects in the electric lines or works, the Company shall be at liberty to begin to repair the same without giving such notice. And in all such cases like notice in writing shall be given by the Company to such local authority, or their clerk, or surveyor, as soon as may be convenient after the beginning of such repair.

Provision for cases of emergency.

Consent of local authorities sufficient. **9** Whenever it is necessary under the Company's Act to obtain the consent of any Town Surveyor, Commissioners, Surveyors, Trustees, or other persons to the doing of any acts therein specified, it shall be sufficient for the purposes of this Act to obtain the consent of the local authority within the area of operations ; and in like manner, whenever by the said Acts, any duty is imposed upon, or any act is authorised to be done by any Town Surveyor, Commissioner, Surveyor, Trustee, or other persons, such duty or act shall, for the purposes of this Act, be carried out and enforced by the local authority within the area of operations.

Compensation for damage. **10** In the exercise of the powers in relation to the execution of works given them under this Act, the Company shall cause as little detriment and inconvenience, and do as little damage as may be, and shall make full compensation to all bodies and persons interested, for all damage sustained by them by reason or in consequence of the exercise of such powers, the amount and application of such compensation in case of difference to be determined by arbitration.

## PART V.

### PROTECTION OF PUBLIC TELEGRAPHIC AND TELEPHONIC LINES.

Company not to injure any Government line of telegraphic or telephonic communication. **11** The Company shall not in the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this Act lay down any electric line or do any other work for the supply of electricity whereby any telegraphic or telephonic line belonging to or under the control of the Government is or may be injuriously affected.

Consent of Postmaster-General to be obtained. **12** The Company shall not proceed to erect or lay down any wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other electric apparatus without the approval of the Postmaster-General having been previously obtained as hereinafter provided ; and if the said Postmaster-General is at any time of opinion that any telegraph or telephone wire is or may be injuriously affected by such wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other apparatus, or that the



[59 VICT.] *Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.*

same is likely to become dangerous to the public safety or a public nuisance, the said Postmaster-General may, by notice in writing, require the Company to remove such wire, conductor, communicator, distributor, electric line, or other apparatus or any portion thereof; 5 and if the Company do not within Ten days after service on them of such written notice remove the same, the said Postmaster-General may remove the same, and recover the expense of such removal from the Corporation in a summary manner. A.D. 1895.

13 One month before commencing the execution of any works 10 under the authority of this Act (not being the repairs, renewals, or amendments of existing works of which the character and position are not altered), the Company shall serve a notice upon the Postmaster-General describing the proposed works, together with a plan of the works showing the mode and position in which such works are intended 15 to be executed, and shall, upon being required to do so by the Postmaster-General, give him any such further information in relation thereto as he may desire. Notice to be given to Postmaster-General of intention to execute works.

14 The Postmaster-General may in his discretion approve of any such works or plan, subject to such amendments or conditions as may 20 seem fit, or may disapprove of the same, and may give notice of such approval or disapproval to the Company. Postmaster-General may approve.

15 If the Postmaster-General fail to give any such notice of approval or disapproval to the Company within One month after the service of the notice upon him he shall be deemed to have approved 25 such works and plan. If Postmaster-General does not disapprove within One month works may be executed.

16 Notwithstanding anything in this Act contained, the Company shall not be entitled to execute any such works as above specified, except so far as the same may be of a description and in accordance with a plan which has been approved, or is deemed to have been 30 approved by the Postmaster-General as above mentioned; but where any such works, description, and plan are so approved or to be deemed to be approved, the Company may cause such works to be executed in accordance with such description and plan, subject in all respects to the provisions of this Act. Works to be in accordance with plans.

35 17 If the Company make default in complying with any of the requirements or restrictions of this Act, they shall make full compensation to the Postmaster-General for any loss or damage which he may incur by reason thereof. Company liable in damages.

18 The Postmaster-General may require the Company to erect 40 their wires, conductors, communicators, distributors, electric lines, or other apparatus in accordance with the rules and regulations applying to electric light and power wires as issued by the *London* Board of Trade, or such modification thereof as may be approved and sanctioned by the Governor in Council. Wires, &c. to be erected in accordance with Rules of Board of Trade.

45 19 In the event of any contravention of or wilful non-compliance by the Company or their agents with any of the provisions of this Part of this Act, the Company shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds for every day during which such contravention or non-compliance continues, or, if the telegraphic com- Penalty.

*Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.* [59 Vict.]

A.D. 1895.

munication is wilfully interrupted, not exceeding Fifty Pounds for every day on which such interruption continues.

Penalty not to be incurred in certain cases.

**20** Nothing in this Part of this Act shall subject the Company or their agents to a penalty if they satisfy the Court having cognizance of the case that an immediate execution of the work was required to avoid an accident or otherwise was a work of emergency, and that they forthwith served on the postmaster or officer in charge of the post or telegraph office nearest to the place where the work was done a notice of the execution thereof, stating the reason for executing the same without previous notice. 10

When line to be deemed to be injuriously affected.

**21** For the purposes of this Act, a telegraphic or telephonic line belonging to or under the control of the Government shall be deemed to be injuriously affected by a work if telegraphic or telephonic communication by means of such line is, whether through induction or otherwise, in any manner affected by such work or by any use made of such work. 15

Company may appeal to Judge of the Supreme Court.

**22** If at any time the Company is dissatisfied with anything done by the Postmaster-General under the alleged authority of this Act, the Company may appeal to a Judge of the Supreme Court, who shall determine whether the particular power claimed by the Postmaster-General is conferred upon him by this Act, and whether the manner in which the same has been exercised is reasonable and proper for the purpose for which it is conferred, and such Judge may make such order as he shall deem necessary to secure a proper exercise of such power. 20

## PART VI.

## SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY.

Power for the Company to contract for lighting streets and houses, and for supplying electricity for private purposes.

**23** It shall be lawful for the said Company from time to time to make charges for the supply of electricity, and to enter into any contract with the local authority of the area of operations for such supply for public purposes, upon such terms and for such price as may be mutually agreed upon, and also to contract with any person or persons for the supply of electricity for private purposes, upon such terms and for such price as may be mutually agreed upon. 25 30

Company may provide special form of lamp or burner.

Restriction on use by consumers.

**24** The Company shall be entitled to prescribe a special form of lamp or burner to be used by any local authority or person, but shall not otherwise control or interfere with the manner in which electricity supplied by them under this Act is used: Provided always that no local authority or person shall be at liberty to cut, connect, tap, or fix any wires, cables, lamps, or fittings used by any local authority or person in connection with the supply of electricity unless authorised in writing by the Company. And provided also that no local authority or person shall be at liberty to use the electricity supplied to them for any purposes, or to deal with it in any manner so as to unduly or improperly interfere with the supply of electricity to any other local authority or person by the Company, and if any dispute or difference arise between the Company and any local authority or person entitled to be supplied with electricity by virtue of this Act such dispute or difference shall be determined by arbitration. 35 40 45

[59 VICT.] *Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.*

**25** If any local authority or person neglect to pay any charge for electricity or any other sum due from them to the Company in respect to the supply of electricity to such authority or person, the Company may cut off such supply, and for that purpose may cut or disconnect any electric line or other works through which electricity may be supplied ; and may discontinue the supply of electricity to such local authority or person.

A.D. 1895.

Power to cut off supply in case of non-payment.

**26** If any local authority or person supplied with electricity or with any works by the Company neglects to pay to the Company the charges due for such electricity, or the rent or money due to the Company for the hire or fixing of such works, or any expense lawfully incurred by the Company in cutting off the supply of electricity from the premises of such local authority or person, or any other sum due, the Company may recover the sum so due as a civil debt.

Recovery of charges.

**27** Any officer appointed by the Company may at all reasonable times enter any premises to which electricity is or has been supplied by the Company in order to inspect the works, lamps, or burners used in connection therewith ; and where the Company are authorised to cut off the supply of electricity from any premises they may remove any works belonging to the Company.

Power to enter premises.

**28** Where any works belonging to the Company are placed in or upon any premises not being in the possession of the Company for the purpose of supplying electricity under this Act, such works shall not be subject to distress for rates or to the landlord's remedy for rent of the premises where the same may be, nor shall they be liable to be taken in execution under any process of a court of law or equity or any proceedings in bankruptcy against the Company or person in whose possession the same may be.

Works of Company exempt from distress.

## (PART VII.

### POWER TO PURCHASE BY CORPORATION.

**29** It shall be lawful for the Corporation of *Hobart* at any time after the passing of this Act to give the Company notice of their intention to take and acquire the whole of the property and works of the said Company used in connection with the supply of gas and electricity, together with all the rights and privileges conferred upon the Company by this Act and by the Company's Act for the manufacture and supply of gas, and to compensate the Company as hereinafter provided.

The amount of compensation to be paid the Company shall be a sum to be agreed upon between the Company and the Corporation, and in the event of their not agreeing shall be determined by arbitration in the mode prescribed by the *The Lands Clauses Act* in cases of disputed compensation. Provided always the said Corporation shall not exercise the powers herein conferred upon them until and after the Citizens of *Hobart* have, by a majority of two-thirds of the votes at a poll to be taken for that purpose as hereinafter provided, consented to the taking and acquiring the whole of the property and works of the said Company as aforesaid.)



*Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.* [59 VICT.]

A.D. 1895.

(Notice to be published.)



**(30)** When the Council shall decide to take a poll of the citizens as aforesaid, they shall cause a notice of such poll to be inserted not less than Twelve times in the newspapers published daily in the City of Hobart, and in two consecutive numbers of the *Gazette*; and such notice shall contain the following particulars:—

5

- i. The time and place of such election :
- ii. The property and rights to be acquired.)

(Procedure.)



**(31)** Subject to the foregoing provisions, all proceedings upon the taking of any such poll as aforesaid shall be had and taken as nearly as may be as upon an election of Aldermen, as the case may require.)

10

**PART VII(C).****BY-LAWS.**

By-laws.

**32** It shall be lawful for the Company from time to time to make, alter, and rescind, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, By-laws for the protection and preservation of any electric lines or other works constructed or erected by the Company for the purposes of this Act, and for preventing the waste or misuse of any electricity generated by the Company.

15

By-laws to be subject to approval of Governor in Council, and to be published in *Gazette*.

**33** Every By-law made by the Company shall be subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, and shall be published in two successive numbers of the *Gazette*; and *prima facie* evidence of any such By-law may be given in all Courts of Justice and in all legal proceedings whatsoever by the production of a copy of the *Gazette* purporting to contain it.

20

**PART [VIII](IX).****OFFENCES.**

Penalty for damage caused to works.

**34** Any person who shall wilfully, carelessly, or accidentally throw down, break, or damage any post, pillar, lamp, or works belonging to the Company, or under their control, shall be liable to pay to the said Company all damages occasioned thereby, and all costs and expenses incurred by the said Company in repairing or reinstating the same, to be recoverable in any Court of competent jurisdiction.

25

Stealing electricity.

**35** Any person who maliciously or fraudulently abstracts, causes to be wasted or diverted, consumes or uses any electricity, shall be guilty of larceny, and punishable accordingly.

30

Injuring works with intent to cut off supply.

**36** Any person who unlawfully and maliciously cuts or injures any electric line or works, with intent to cut off any supply of electricity, shall be guilty of felony, and be liable to be kept in penal servitude for any term not exceeding Five years, or to be imprisoned with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding Two years. Nothing in this Section shall exempt any person from any proceeding for any offence which is punishable under any other provision of this Act, or under any other Act, or at common law, but no person shall be punished twice for the same offence.

35

[59 VICT.] *Hobart Gas Company's Electric Light.*

**37** Any person who shall be guilty of a breach of any By-law duly made by the Company under the provisions of this Act shall upon conviction be subject to a penalty not exceeding Ten Pounds. A.D. 1895.  
Penalty for breach of By-laws.

**38** All offences against any By-law made in pursuance of this Act shall be heard and determined, and all penalties and sums of money imposed or made payable by this Act for the breach of any such By-law, shall be recovered in a summary way in the mode prescribed by *The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act*, and all penalties received by virtue of any such By-law shall be paid to the Company. Offences to be dealt with summarily.  
19 Vict. No. 8.

**39** If the Company, or any local authority, or person commit a breach of any of the provisions of this Act, for which no fine or forfeiture is otherwise provided, they or he shall be liable, upon summary conviction thereof before any Two Justices of the Peace in accordance with *The Magistrates Summary Procedure Act*, to a forfeiture not exceeding Ten Pounds for every such breach. Fine for breach of conditions not otherwise provided for.

**40** Any person who thinks himself aggrieved by the imposition of any penalty which is recoverable under the authority of this Act in a summary manner may appeal against the same in the mode prescribed by *The Appeals Regulation Act*. Appeal from penalties.  
19 Vict. No. 10.

## PART [I]X.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

**41** Nothing in this Act contained shall affect the privileges conferred by law upon the Postmaster-General or the Superintendent of Telegraphs, or authorise or enable the said Company to transmit any telegram, or to perform any of the incidental services of receiving, collecting, or delivering telegrams, or give to the said Company any power, authority, or facility in connection with the transmission of telegrams, or the performance of any of the incidental services of receiving, collecting, or delivering telegrams. Saving privileges of Postmaster-General and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

**42** Where by this Act any fine or forfeiture is imposed, or expenses or compensation made payable, such fine, forfeiture, expenses, or compensation may be recovered as simple debts. Recovery of fines, &c.

**43** Any arbitration (except as mentioned in Part VII. of this Act), herein directed shall be to some engineer or other person agreed upon by the parties as single arbitrator, and this Act shall be deemed to be the document authorising the reference within the meaning of "The Arbitration Act, 1892," and the reference shall be subject and pursuant to that Act. The arbitrator shall in every case have power to direct how and by whom the costs of the reference and award shall be paid. Arbitration.

**44** Nothing in this Act contained shall exempt the Company from the provisions of any Public Act which may be passed by the Parliament of *Tasmania*, applying generally to Companies engaged in the manufacture or generating of electricity, or in the sale or supply of the same, nor entitle the said Company to compensation from the Public Revenue by reason of the provisions of such general Act being made applicable to and binding on the said Company. Provisions as to general Acts applicable hereto.

[*Private.*]