THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

A RAILWAY VIEW

Monday, Dec. 8, 1913

ON RATES Everyone has been more or less interested in the fight of the Canadian west for lower

freight rates, and every concession granted by the Railway Commission is greeted with joy. Public sympathy is invariably against railway corporations in a question of rates and undoubtedly the public HYDRO-ELECTRIC have contributed many an .unearned dollar in freight and passenger rates. Yet there are always two sides to a case and it is sometimes interesting to hear the other fellow's story.

The Atlanta Constitution recently published an editorial showing the railway's plea. The point made takes up a phase of the question which is unique and likely to appeal to many people. Only a portion of the article can be quoted:

"No one doubts that the railroads of the whole country are in need of extensive stand. ardisation. Their equipment and facilities are entirely insufficient to meet the daily demands upon them, not to anticipate the future. It is conservatively estimated that at least a billion dollars is required for this task, which cannot much longer be delayed with safety.

"If the railroads could borrow the money they need, hypothecating their securities in return, the resulting enormous expenditures would flow int every commercial and indus

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trial channel in America. The prosperity that now lacks a finishing touch because the railroads have ,perforce, stayed out of the purchasing market would mount into unprecedented proportions. The country in general would begin to enjoy one of the most opulent eras in its history."

PROPOSALS

In considering a question like the Hydro-Electric proposals the proper method to pursue is to study it in all its aspects. There is no use denying the fact that much can be said on both sides, and the decision should be given only after a careful sifting of all the facts both pro and con.

We may lay it down as fun-'damental that modern democracy has decided in favor of public ownership wherever possible and that any policy antagonistic to that principle is not in accord with the best thought that the past has evolved. We have made a.good start in Prince Rupert in that direction and it is to be hoped that the good work will be carried on. If this agreement is going to put serious obstacles in the way of our ambition. we should immediately vote it down. If on the other hand it is merely a temporary expedient made necessary in view of present conditions we should consider it very seriously before throwing it aside.

It can hardly be contradicted that Prince Rupert is very differently situated from any other city perhaps in the world. Adam-like we have into existence fully grown up, and instead of having the simple wants of a child we have thrust upon us all the duties and requirements of a man. At the same time we are compelled to provide for streets, water, sewers, light, telephones, public buildings and the hundred and one other incidentals that a modern city requires, instead of having a quarter of a century or more in which to accomplish this as other cities have had. Before we have proceeded very far with our program we begin to find out that all the money in the world is not at our disposal and as a result a great many of these utilities are still unprovided.

Shall we stagger on up the hill under the load of all these burdens in the hope that we may be able to land them all safely at the top or shall we hire one of our neighbors to give us a helping hand with This is one of the arguments that is moving a good many here before ten or possibly son. five years have elapsed, and public utilities.

On the contrary it is said months the money market will dealers. again be normal and that there will be no difficulty in selling Electric proposals the city the loan of 10 cents in cash. must undertake an expense of \$60,000 in order to provide for distribution. If we can get the \$60,000, we can get the balance to complete our plant. Then the G. T. P. by their agreement with the government is putting in a 2500 horse power, plant in connection with the dry dock scheme. They are not likely to require this amount of power for considerable time and would it not be better to make some arrangement with that company for power than to jeopardize our own municipal plants. Why not even add another boiler to our plant at Cow Bay, or for that matter return to the use of kerosene oil or tallow candle rather than surrender so important a principle in the life of our city.

Besides the light and power franchises, however, it is contended that the street car sysagreement. It is doubtful whether a system could be operated successfully with power at the price contained in the proposals. If this is found to be true and if no other

solution offers itself it will operate very materially against the agreement.

This is a question that certainly should receive the fullest discussion and public meetings should be held at once with that end in view. The columns of The News are also open to the public and it is hoped that those who enter the discussion will first take pains to, get the facts.

Furthermore the proposals of the Hydro-Electric Company should be 'kept distinct | from all other issues. It is presumed that the Council is not foolish enough to make this issue their own, even if some of them approve of the scheme. Let the question be put before the people and let expert advice be sought in all things and then let the people decide irrespective of their attide toward any candidate for

TERRACE NEWS.

Mr. and Mrs. Dover returned our largest bundle in order from their honeymoon trip yes- | Cafe. that we may be the more cer- terday. They will occupy Mrs. tain of protecting the others. Little's house for a few months.

The farewell dance given on people in favor of the agree- Saturday by the Progress Club in 139 2nd Ave. ment. If this city goes ahead honor of Mr. and Mrs. Little, was as many citizens believe, we largely attended and was one of ought to have 25,000 people the most successful of the sea-

their over maximum purchase | Despite the prolonged bad weahaving been made we are at ther the town still shows evidenliberty to proceed with any ces of growth. Another new repower proposition we wish. In sidence has been built and the the meantime we are the bet- carpenters have been busy with

the difficulty of financing our The Daily News has the largest dermist, 728 Helmcken St., Van-Woodworth Lake proposition circulation in the city and dis-couver, B.C. is exaggerated; that in a few trict. To be had at all the news-

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