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THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING BILL.

The Mayor of Auckland (Mr P. Dignan) has distributed a circular amongst all members of Parliament stating the objections of the Auckland City Council to the Electric Lighting Bill, now before Parliament:—(1) That the tendency of municipal progress is in the direction of municipal control of such works; (2) That the present is not an opportune time to obtain the powers asked for in the Bill, the Auckland Council having the whole question of lighting and tramways and water, and other important subjects, under serious consideration, and purpose to take the necessary legal steps; (3) That the Bill, if passed, would seriously hamper the Auckland Council through the rights and privileges granted to the Company; (4) The Auckland Council has granted a concession to change the present horse trams into electric trams, which concession should be given effect to before further operations in electricity are countenanced; (5) When an opportune time arrives the Council will be prepared to act, and difficulties ought not to be cast in the way, and the Council should have a free hand in inviting tenders for an electric installation; (6) The Auckland Council, while not opposing electric lighting, object to being placed in a false position through any company obtaining rights over the streets, therefore the Council prays that the Bill be not passed.

OBJECTIONS TO THE BILL.

- ① The tendency of Municipal Progress is to let things slide
 - ② The present, or any other time, is not an opportune time to do anything progressive
 - ③ The Bill if passed would possibly open the door to other improvements
 - ④ The Council has just granted a concession for Electric Trams and wishes to convince itself that there really is such a thing as electricity before taking any more.
 - ⑤ When an opportune time arrives the Council will be prepared to lean up against something—and think
 - ⑥ Lastly, the Council is afraid somebody may make a profit out of it.
- A.C.C.



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