

HOUSE No. 809.

[Bill accompanying the petition of James H. Mellen. Manufactures.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

AN ACT

To establish an Electric Light Plant by the City of Worcester.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The city of Worcester is hereby empow-
2 ered to buy or build an electric light plant, whenever a
3 majority of its city council by concurrent vote so deter-
4 mine, or a majority of its citizens at a regular or special
5 election so vote.

1 SECTION 2. Whenever either the city council or the
2 citizens elect to buy or build an electric light plant, it
3 shall be the immediate duty of the city council to notify
4 the local electric light corporation of the fact and request
5 said company to send to the mayor a statement of the
6 present value of its property, and if the price is satisfac-

7 tory the city council is hereby authorized to purchase the
8 aforesaid property.

1 SECTION 3. If the city council and the Worcester
2 electric light company cannot agree upon a purchase
3 price, the city council shall, as soon as may be, proceed
4 in joint convention to elect one expert electrician to
5 serve on a commission to value, appraise or set a present
6 value price upon the plant and property of the Worcester
7 electric light company ; notice of the action and selection
8 of the city council shall be sentforth with to the Worcester
9 electric light company, and said company shall at the
10 next meeting of its board of directors select one expert
11 electrician to serve on the aforesaid appraisal commission.

1 SECTION 4. If the two commissioners selected as
2 above cannot agree upon a present value price to be paid
3 by the city for the Worcester electric light company's
4 property and plant, the two commissioners shall call
5 in a third expert electrician, and proceed to revalue the
6 property.

1 SECTION 5. In valuing the property of the local
2 electric light corporation the commissioners must not
3 set a money value upon the franchise of the corporation,
4 and the aim of the commissioners should be to appraise
5 or value at present cost of duplication.

1 SECTION 6. Whenever one hundred citizens petition
2 the mayor to call a mass caucus of citizens to take action
3 upon the question of buying or building an electric light
4 plant, it shall be his duty to at once provide a public hall
5 and advertise a meeting of citizens therein within two
6 weeks to determine by majority vote, under the Aus-

7 tralian system, whether there would be an election by
8 the voters of Worcester to act upon the question: shall
9 the city of Worcester own and maintain an electric light
10 plant?

1 SECTION 7. The city of Worcester is hereby em-
2 powered, by its acceptance of the provisions of this act,
3 to borrow money outside the debt limit.

