

## PROTECTION FOR GRIPMEN.

**WESTPORT'S COUNCIL SAYS THEY MUST BE GIVEN SHELTER.**

**They Suffer More Than Any Other Class During Cold Weather—Many Calls for Help From the Poor—A Permanent Fund.**

There are about 500 gripmen at work in Kansas City from 5:30 in the morning until 12 o'clock at night. When the temperature falls to zero and the wind blows they suffer intensely from the cold.

In the council at Westport last night an ordinance was passed with this clause:

All street railway companies shall, whenever the temperature is 10 degrees above zero, or lower, provide and furnish protection against the wind and weather for the gripmen, drivers and other operators of its cars.

A fine of from \$25 to \$100 a day is provided for every day that the street railway companies fail to provide shelter for their gripmen. The authorities of the city of Westport say this ordinance will be enforced and Walton Holmes, president of the Grand Avenue Street Railway company, which owns the Westport lines, says the ordinance will not be enforced. Mr. Holmes declares that it is impossible to obey the terms of the ordinance because protection cannot be provided without at the same time endangering the people.

It is a remarkable thing that at the general offices of three of the largest cable systems in Kansas City it was said to-day that "just one gripman has been frozen on our line this winter." It was quite thoughtful in Jack Frost to distribute his favors so equally. The fact is, ten or fifteen gripmen have frozen their faces in Kansas City this winter. So far as it is possible to learn from the gripmen and conductors themselves, no one has been so badly frozen that his face will remain disfigured. One gripman on the Holmes street line was so badly frozen that he fell at his post unconscious and it was several days before he recovered.

The gripmen, drivers and motormen of street cars dress warmer than other people, but during intense cold weather they suffer

greatly. Their hands get cold and their feet and, worst of all, the exposed portions of their faces. A frost bitten gripman is always frozen about the eyes and nose. They are paid seventeen cents an hour and work from ten to twelve hours a day.

Gripmen must be honest men, for no one but an honest man would ride on the front end of a cable car for ten hours such a day as yesterday for the small sum of seventeen cents an hour. The conductor gets the same pay, but he doesn't get sympathy because he doesn't suffer as much. The gripman stands alone in a narrow stall with his hand half the