

CAUSING AMUSEMENT.

Comment on the Westport Council's Action Concerning Gripmen.

The action of the Westport council in ordering the Grand Avenue Railway company to protect its gripmen better in Westport from very cold weather is causing some quiet amusement among the railway officials. The Grand Avenue railway people say that they owe their charter to the county court and that they are not a bit used to being ordered around, even by the mayor of Westport. One of the officials even intimated that a municipal election would occur in Westport this spring and that cable gripmen and conductors exerted considerable influence in politics out there. Aside from all other questions, however, that of practicability is the one that will cut the most figure. The plan has already failed on one road here in Kansas City.

President W. J. Smith of the Kansas City Cable railway, a road that is not in the least concerned in the present difficulty, takes this view of the matter: "I consider it very impracticable to attempt to protect the gripmen further than by having them wrap up well and take all the exercise they can. When our road first started in 1883 we bought ten grip cars with glass fronts and sides, made on the vestibule plan. Whenever it got cold enough to make the gripmen suffer, thick frost would form on the glasses and patrons were always complaining that the gripmen would go by without seeing them. We finally discarded these very costly cars as a failure. This is the worst winter we have ever been through, and yet not a single gripman has been frozen. Even in Chicago they manage to make it all right. It is my opinion that much sympathy is being wasted on the grip-

men. Most of our men come from the country, and they are generally the last ones to complain of their misfortunes. One young man informed me that he considered it a 'snap' compared with getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning to milk seventeen cows and shucking corn the balance of the day in a cold barn. Some occupations demand extra severe exposure which can not be avoided. No one ever thinks of holding an umbrella over a fireman, yet there are twice as many firemen frozen as gripmen. In this climate there is no need for such precautions as boxing the gripman up or anything of that sort."

One cable official suggested that if Mayor Rieger should be left on a Westport street corner some morning by a boxed up gripman failing to see him it might change matters.

All was said in a joking way, and there is no doubt that a practical appliance that could be removed on occasion would be gratefully accepted by all of the companies.

CONSTIPATION poisons the blood; DeWitt's Little Early Risers cure constipation. The cause removed, the disease is gone.