

THIS LOOKS SERIOUS.

A Single Company Has a Complete Monopoly of Electric Lighting.

The superintendent of buildings yesterday furnished the board of public works with blue prints of the basement showing where an arc dynamo could be placed and an extra boiler, if found necessary, put in to try the experiment of the city furnishing its own electric street lights, as recommended by the mayor's message sent to the council last Wednesday night. The board discussed the matter at its meeting yesterday and is now gathering information relative to the cost of furnishing and running such plants in other cities.

Another difficulty, and a serious one, in regard to lighting the city hall with its own incandescent light plant now comforts the board. Mr. L. C. Bair, the contractor for the city hall plant, is to be there tomorrow to connect the wires, put in the lamps and start the plant to working. Mr. Bair proposes to furnish the lamps, which were bought in Chicago. Yesterday E. K. Weeks, general manager of the Kansas City Electric Light company, notified the board that, under a recent decision regarding the Edison patents, that company had the sole right to sell or furnish incandescent light globes in Jackson county, Missouri, or Wyandotte county, Kansas, and that any person, municipality or corporation using any lamp not furnished by the Kansas City Electric Light company could be prosecuted for infringement.

Mr. Weeks has not as yet openly declared a disposition to force the city to his terms, but if the decision quoted holds, the city hall plant and every other private incandescent electric light plant in this city is completely at the mercy of this company.

The Kansas City Electric Light company bought some years ago from the Edison company the sole right to use their electric light patents in Jackson and Wyandotte counties. The recent decision in favor of the Edison company is a sweeping one and gives Edison the sole right to manufacture and sell "any lamp with a high resistance filament inclosed in an all glass vacuum."

If this decision holds good, it is stated by person who has used an incandescent lamp in the United States in the past fifteen years other than the Edison lamp can be prosecuted for infringement, and millions upon millions of dollars can be claimed as damages.

Attorney O. H. Dean argued before the board of public works yesterday that Mr. Weeks' position was impregnable and that the city would have to use lamps bought from the Kansas City Electric Light company and from no other person or place.

There are about eighty private incandescent light plants in Kansas City besides three big companies. Under Mr. Dean's version of the law every one of them will have to buy lamps from the Kansas City Electric Light company and pay such prices as that company sees fit to charge. The Edison patents run out in about a year.

HAIR-OLINE makes the hair grow.