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paratus or meter is kept in proper working order or condition.

In view of the practical inexpediency of a gas meter being connected with every one of the 6800 street lamps, more or less, (which, indeed, can hardly be fairly assumed to have been the intention of the Charter), the practice has prevailed, with the full consent of the City and the Gas Company, of only a limited number of meters being connected with the street lamps, and of the excess of gas being average for all of the street lamps by the results shown by these meters. Why this should not be a perfectly fair and equitable mode of determining the whole excess of consumption I confess myself at a loss to see.

Not only does the source of dealing, to which I have referred, rest upon long continued practice, never before, so far as I know, demurred to, but it forms the basis of Section 4 of Article 28 of the Baltimore City Code of 1893, which provides that it shall be the duty of the Superintendent of Lamps and Lighting to take monthly statements of the street lamps from such meters as are established by the Gas Company, and to ascertain the correct average.

I must respectfully request the Gas Company to settle with the City in this matter in the ordinary way; otherwise, the controversy will have to take its course in the courts.

Truly yours,

(Signed) W. Cabell Bruce,

City Solicitor.

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