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mining operations literally undermined the community. According to one report, the main intersection in Glace Bay, Senator's Comer, had fallen fifteen inches in a five-year period. When Dominion Coal offered to deed all company-owned streets to the Town of Glace Bay, the council was understandably reluctant to assume liability for the future subsidence of the roads. The most serious conditions existed at Reserve Mines, one of the small, unincorporated mining settlements. In this community underground subsidence had cut off the water table in some sections of town, leaving the wells dry or filled with surface water. To remedy the problem, the company delivered water door to door by a horse and cart which travelled to a standpipe at the Glace Bay town limits. Doctors were alarmed by the dangerous conditions in this district and public meetings called for action, but neither the company nor the county council was prepared to install the necessary water and drainage systems. In 1925 county medical health officer Dr. A. S. Kendall noted the obvious contrast between conditions in the county and the towns: "The Town Councils have done very well in One shot at an insulator can drop a community in its tracks. Some thoughtless people "just for the fun of it", use insulators for target practice. In fact, this happens a lot. I know because I'm a Power Corporation lineman, and it's my job to search for the cause of a power failure. People who shoot out insulators forget that a single shot can bring down a house, a factory, a hospital or even an entire city. That's why the Power Corporation offers rewards for information resulting in the conviction of persons responsible for damage to our property. So, if you have information concerning such an incident, please contact your local police or call the Power Corporation. I know just how important stamping out this crime is, my home is just as vulnerable as yours. nova scotia power corporation this regard. It is the County Councils that have not." Basic services in the incorporated towns were superior, as large capital expenditures were undertaken by the towns during the expansionist years and the services were often maintained by repairs. By the 1920s, however, existing services in the coal towns had become inadequate and the councils were besieged by complaints. In attempting to improve services, the town councils experienced considerable frustration. The problems of divided authority appeared endless. When a delegation of residents from New Aberdeen demanded repairs to a road in their neighbourhood, the company claimed the street belonged to the town, and the town insisted the street belonged to the company. Similarly, in 1924 the Town of Glace Bay, concerned by the drain on its water system, conducted an inventory of water taps and discovered the company was connecting houses to the water lines without authorization. Unlike municipal reformers in many urban centres, the labour councillors showed little interest in the principle of municipal operation of services. They believed that in the single-industry town responsibility for some basic services should be assumed by the principal employer. As a result, they sought greater integration of the existing town and company utilities. In Glace Bay and Sydney Mines the towns failed to win company support for plans to enlarge



the water systems; as a result there were no major improvements in water services in the 1920s. In the case of power supplies, there was a revealing contrast in the policies pursued by councillors in Glace Bay where the labourites were dominant and by councillors in Sydney Mines where the middle-class councillors were strongest. In Glace Bay the town had owned a small electric power plant since 1902. Rather than expand this operation, in the 1920s the town

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