

HELLO! BURLINGTON!

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Burlington is no longer an isolated township hidden away among the hills of Middlesex. She is a part of the great Commonwealth, tied to her sister towns by the iron rail and the trolley wire.

Last week Friday and Saturday the new electric car which has been for several weeks in process of fitting on Abbott street was given several short experimental trips, to see what was lacking, if anything, rather than to test the roadbed of the Lowell & Boston Co.

Monday of this week it was sent out on an official inspection trip. Accompanying the officers of the company were Mr. Grafton Upton, an inspector representing the Mass. R.R. commissioners. The car, the track, the roadbed, the construction, and wiring were all carefully examined, and satisfaction was expressed. The formality of the law requires as the next step the official permit from the state board. This was not forthcoming until Wednesday afternoon, and the regular half-hourly trips on schedule time were announced for 7:30 am Thursday, July 11.

A party consisting of Mr. Frank E. Cotton of the Lowell & Boston road, Mrs. Cotton and children, Senator Alva S. Wood and Representative Frank E. Wetherell were on hand several minutes before the time announced, but the car had got away earlier, the superintendent desiring to have a little leeway on the initial run.

The party waited patiently for the return of the car (which was to run only as far as the summit of Walker Hill and back) and boarded it at 8 o'clock in company with City Engineer French and Engineer Hartshorne. The only passenger on the first trip was Mr. W. A. Hanson, who got on at his residence—Stonycroft—rode to the end of the present route, and then back to Woburn. He also made the second trip with the Woburn party.

The track at this end is laid to a point near the blacksmith shop beyond Walker Hill, but the overhead wire stops on the crest of the hill opposite the Stewart residence. From Billerica the track is laid about to the Burlington line. Between the blacksmith shop and the Burlington-Billerica line the work has been delayed because the County Commissioners have been asked to widen the street. We heard Thursday morning that they had decided to make the street 60 feet wide between these points. The work of construction will be pushed ahead rapidly. For the present then one car will be employed running from the corner of North Warren and Pleasant Streets to the Stewart home, the round trip covering 30 minutes.

On Thursday the power was obtained from Lexington and a Lexington & Boston car was used. When the Woburn Light, Heat and Power Co. get connected as it will early next week, the regular large 4-motor car of the Lowell & Boston road will be put on. It is doubtful whether the new company builds a car barn near Rag Rock or not, it being found difficult to get secure foundations.

The ride to Burlington is a delightful one, the scenery on all sides being charming. Rolling fields, towering hills, masses of foliage and woodland make a beautiful picture. When the line is completed nothing prettier will be found anywhere. With a full supply of direct power, and up-to-date rolling stock, a ride to Burlington and Billerica will be very popular.