

**POWER STATION
AT DURHAM**

CONFLICT OF OPINION

**PROPOSAL NOT OPPOSED
BY CITY COUNCIL**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

DURHAM, July 12 |

| There has seldom been such a conflict of opinion in Durham as has arisen out of the proposal of the North-Eastern Electric Supply Company to erect a generating plant costing £3,500,000 at Kepier, on the outskirts of the city. As has been stated in *The Times* an appeal on behalf of the Bishop, the Chapter, the University, and the Durham Preservation Society has been lodged with the Minister of Town and Country Planning for a public inquiry.

These and other opponents of the scheme maintain that the erection of the plant with two chimneys of 350ft. and three cooling towers of 260ft. would seriously impair the amenities of the city and ruin the view from the railway of the cathedral and castle, which the Dean of Durham, a strong opponent of the scheme, has declared has hardly a rival in Europe.

On the other hand supporters of the proposal emphasize the benefits of industrial development and the considerably increased rateable value to the areas concerned.

Members of the city council, including ex-mayors, who have debated the scheme at considerable length recall that in the days of depression before the war attempts were made to influence the Government to direct industry to the district. By a majority of slightly more than two to one the council decided not to oppose the proposal, provided that no alternative site was available, that the buildings were constructed in such a manner and with such materials as would blend harmoniously with the surrounding countryside, and that adequate control was taken over the emission of steam. It has also been put forward that the existing power stations in the county, Dunston in the north and Norton in the south, are supplying to full capacity and that there is an imperative

need for a new station in the centre of the county to cope with the constantly increasing demands.

With regard to university opposition Canon C. S. Wallis, the Sub-Dean, has said there is nowadays increasing competition between universities and one of the greatest attractions to Durham is its surroundings. The university, therefore, had a vital concern in the retention of the amenities of the city, which provided a unique setting for the university.

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