

means of the lift lock the ridges could be crossed without cutting, and the cost of the enterprise reduced to \$20,000,000, it brought it within the bounds of feasibility. (Hear, hear.) He had been told in Minnesota and other States in the West that grain was raised only for feeding cattle and for fuel. If this grain could be brought in by water highway and without transshipment, it could be brought within the reach of the millions of Europe. He spoke very highly of the indefatigable efforts Mr. Capreol had made for the success of the enterprise, and trusted the House would see their way to countenancing it and giving it support.

Mr. DAVID ROBERTS said Mayor Beaty had forgotten the quantities of iron, silver, and copper which must come from the West. He (Mr. Roberts) had had as much experience in engineering as any man in Canada, and knew the value of the lift-lock. There was no limit to the hydraulic power, and there was no engineering difficulty in the way of the canal; it was simply a matter of dollars and cents. He approved the idea of a grant of land, and believed that English capital would largely aid in building the canal.

Mr. CAPREOL being called upon, stated with regard to the financial question that a grant of ten million acres of land would enable the scheme to be carried out successfully, as it would give a basis for the bonds of the Company to be floated upon. He read a letter from George Wythes, the "great" contractor, offering to treat for the undertaking of the work upon this guarantee being given. He alluded to the opposition which had been manifested to the Northern Railway project when first started, and read from the report of a former Committee a notice of a meeting held in 1848, at which it had been said that plank and macadam roads would be sufficient for the needs of Canada for thirty years to come, and that it was madness and weakness to think of railroads. He trusted that the Government would grant a sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of making a new survey, the funds of the original Company having been exhausted.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the various members of the Committee then spoke upon the subject. All favoured the scheme, while recognizing at the same time the difficulties in the way of its accomplishment, and regretted that the Committee had not power to recommend the House to make an appropriation for the new survey. They recommended, however, that a suggestion should be made in this direction.

The CHAIRMAN said the promoters had at least had an appreciative Committee. He had always favoured the scheme, but had considered until lately that the financial and engineering difficulties were too great to be overcome. The opposition to the scheme would be very great both in the House and in the country, but the new improvements had made it practical, and he had no doubt it would be carried out sooner or later. There could be no party feeling upon this question (hear, hear), for it was a national—even an international—enterprise. He was sorry the Committee were precluded from recommending an appropriation for the purpose of making a survey. He thanked the Committee for the assistance they had given him in preparing for the report.

The meeting was adjourned to meet again at the call of the chair, for the purpose of preparing a report.

MUNICIPAL BILLS.

The Special Committee to which were referred all the Bills amending the Municipal Act introduced during the session, met this morning in the Private Bills Committee room, the Hon. A. S. Hardy in the chair. It was agreed that the Bills already introduced and read a second time should be taken up before new suggestions were entertained.

Bill 135, introduced by Mr. Ferris, was slightly amended, and Bill 111, introduced by Dr. Clarke, was consolidated with it. The object of these Bills is to enable township municipalities to legally acquire and use town halls in incorporated villages situated within their limits.

Bill 105, introduced by Mr. Ross, contained two sections. The first, proposing to amend section 100 of the Municipal Act by enabling County Councils to lengthen the time between nomination and polling in all townships, as well as those in "remote parts of the county," was adopted. The second, proposing to modify the law respecting hawking and peddling, was allowed to stand for further consideration.

Bill 106, introduced by Mr. Graham, contained three sections, all of which had for their object the extension to Village Councils of the powers at present enjoyed by County Councils with respect to the regulation of statute labour. The Bill was rejected *in toto*.

The Committee adjourned to meet to-day at ten o'clock.