

the third reading a number of amendments would be made which the promoters had cordially agreed to.

Mr. MÉRÉDITH regretted that this matter had not been earlier considered by the Attorney-General, but it was better now than not at all, and his side of the House would assist in making the measure now introduced as perfect as possible. The fact that the people wanted the natural scenery preserved was the strongest possible reason against the Niagara Falls Railway bill. He did not endorse the reflections that had been made upon those hon. gentlemen opposite whose names were associated with the bill. He hoped that these gentlemen would show the public that they were desirous of assisting the public in preserving the natural scenery, and abandon their bill until the report of the proposed commission was made.

Hon. Mr. MORRIS thought that no possible harm could be done by leaving the Niagara Falls Railway bill over for a year, when the Government would be fully informed in regard to the matter.

The bill was read the first time.

#### WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS.

The bill to render negotiable by endorsement certain warehouse receipts for crude petroleum was read a third time and passed.

#### COLONIZATION ROADS.

On the motion for the House going into Committee of Supply.

Mr. CREIGHTON called attention to the expenditure on colonization roads. Since confederation they had spent \$1,393,842, and last year alone \$185,000. He considered, as the investigation into the public accounts last year showed, that some amendment was required in the manner in which this money was spent. In many districts where there were farmers and settlements, supplies for the men were purchased in Toronto, when they could have been bought in the district. For instance, pork was purchased in Toronto and sent to Manitoulin island. Then no tenders were received for the supplies, an officer of the Department, Mr. Cashman, purchasing them at private sales. It was found that there was no proper check in the expenditure on the roads. There were pay sheets not signed at all, and pay sheets with all the signatures in one handwriting, and pay sheets with nearly all the names the same. The amount paid for overseers was out of all proportion to the gross expenditure. In one case the whole amount of a pay sheet was \$352, of which the overseers get \$92. On the Opeongo road the workmen get \$88 and the overseers \$309. It was explained that \$161 was also paid for teaming; but allowing for this, the disproportion between the amounts paid for work and overseers was very great. This fact, with the loose system of checking, showed there was a necessity for a radical change. In election years the expenditure on these roads went up. Another evil was that the public accounts did not show the total expenditure of these roads, the sums being covered up in such a manner that the true expenditure was only found out years after. Large sums were expended in sections where there were municipal councils, and he held that in such cases the expenditure should be controlled by these councils, who would be directly interested in seeing that good roads were built. It was no use mincing matters; it was well known that these expenditures were made for political reasons, and that they were made among the political friends of the Government. He moved in amendment that "the system under which moneys voted by the House are expended is an unsatisfactory and extravagant one and open to great abuse in the administration, and does not secure a sufficient service and return for the large expenditure."

Hon. T. B. PARDEE—One would think, to hear hon. gentlemen opposite, that about the only expenditure which the Government has made that they object to is that on colonization roads. I cannot see why it is so, because the hon. gentlemen pretend to have the interests of the settler at heart, and the only explanation I can get of their course is that they object to the expenditure on colonization roads, and that they would have the settler in these new districts make his own roads. But, Mr. Speaker, I take the ground that there is no expenditure of the Government more defensible than that made on colonization roads; that the country has derived no more benefit from any expenditure; and that it has done more for the development of the resources of the country than any similar expenditure. While contending in general terms that the Government has been extravagant, the hon. gentlemen do not for a moment bring any proof that any portion of the money has been improperly expended, or that the Government has in any single case been extravagant; and I ask the House

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

## Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Wednesday, March 25.

The Speaker took the chair at 11 a.m.

### NIAGARA PARK.

Hon. O. MOWAT, in moving the first reading of a Bill for the preservation of the natural scenery about Niagara Falls, said he hoped the House would approve of the terms of the measure even though it had been introduced very late in the session. He had found it impracticable to bring in the Bill at an earlier date. The object of this Bill was to provide, in the first place, to procure a valuation of the land which would be required for a public park. That was the method adopted in the State of New York with respect to the park on the American side, and he proposed to follow their measure in substance. Then he proposed to appoint Commissioners, under whose charge this work would be done, and they would be required also to make a report or reports to the Government of the plan they would recommend of carrying out the object in view. There were a number of other regulations made to guard against the Bill being made use of for the purposes of mere private speculation. Speaking of the Niagara Falls Railway Bill, he reminded the House of what he had said before, that he had objected to it at first, but afterwards, on the assurance of a gentleman who had no interest in the matter, that the railway would not interfere with the proposed park, he had considered and had stated that these objectionable features were removed to a very great extent. He had found those interested in the Bill were willing to put it in any form which would insure that the park would not be interfered with, and when the Bill came up for