

propose to interfere with the rights the Toronto Railway have under their charter if had any rights. Hamilton and were the only other places had Sunday services, and it not proposed to interfere with them. effect of the clause would be that street cars where they had not at present time a Sunday service would be prohibited from running on Sunday, except in the City of Toronto. Mr. Hardy then read the proposed clause as follows:—

No street car company, or tramway company, or any electric railway company, except where it shall be necessary for the purpose of keeping the track clear of snow or ice, or for other acts of necessity or charity, shall run cars or trams upon the Lord's Day. The foregoing shall not apply to companies which have before the 1st of April, 1897, regularly run cars on Sunday, nor shall it confer any rights so to run cars on the Lord's Day not now possessed by them, nor shall it affect the right (if any) of the Toronto Railway Company to run cars upon the Lord's Day, if, or when, sanctioned by the vote of the electors under 55 Vict., chap. 99, and 57 Vict., chap. 93. But this proviso shall not confer upon the Toronto Railway Company any right to run cars upon the Lord's Day which it does not now possess (if any), if sanctioned by such vote. Nor shall this section apply to or effect any of the provisions of the electric railway act, 1895, nor shall it affect or apply to any company that has by its charter or any special act the right to run cars on Sunday.

Mr. Whitney, Col. Matheson, Mr. Pattullo and others suggested that the matter be left in abeyance until next year, but finally the amendment was put and carried, and the bill read a third time.

The Ingersoll Radial Railway bill, the license bill the mining companies bill, the aid to railways bill, the trust companies bill, and the bills to make further provision respecting certain matters of municipal law, to amend the municipal act and the assessment amendment act were all read a third time and passed practically without discussion.

#### THE MINING BILL.

The House then went into committee upon the bill to amend the mining laws.

The distance of any new vein or lode from any known vein or deposit in order to entitle the prospector or discoverer to a free grant of 40 acres was reduced from fifteen to ten miles.

Mr. Conmee pointed out that it would be in many instances impossible for a prospector or discoverer to make an affidavit that there had been no previous discovery of the vein. He suggested that the affidavit to the knowledge of the applicants should be sufficient.

Hon. Mr. Gibson consented to amend the clause so that the affidavit shall set forth that the applicant "has no knowledge of and has never heard of any adverse claim or prior discovery."

Hon. Mr. Gibson announced that he had decided to amend the clause against blanket claims by inserting the words "For mining lands containing ores or minerals of the same class or kind," so as to permit of applications being made for mining lands containing one kind of ore adjoining lands containing a different class. He also reduced the radius within which dual claims are prohibited from 25 to 15 miles. Mr. Conmee wanted to have this reduced to five miles and to have it provided that the restriction should apply to claims on the same vein or lode, but the Commissioner could not see his way to doing this.

Mr. Conmee next urged that capitalists and mining men would not invest their money in mining claims unless there was some assurance that after they had their machinery and plant in operation they would be able to obtain the timber necessary to carry on mining operations. They would not submit to be hedged around on all sides by others who merely took up lands on the strength of their discovery.

Hon. Mr. Gibson pointed out that under existing legislation the Commissioner of Crown Lands had authority to sell timber lands, and there is consequently no necessity for amendment.

Mr. Conmee objected to the clauses giving power to the Commissioner of Crown Lands to withdraw a district in which valuable discoveries have been made from sale or lease or to limit applications to one or more locations of

40 acres. He asserted that 40 acres was not sufficient for any person to take up as a mining proposition.

Hon. Mr. Gibson insisted upon the clause as being necessary for the protection of the public.

The sub-section relating to pending applications was amended so that proper protection is given to applications now pending where discoveries have been made in good faith under the existing regulations.

Mr. Haycock suggested that the Government should accept the Patron policy and allow any man or company to obtain mining lands upon the same terms as the Engledue syndicate in any quantities, even as small as one square mile, the Government reserving every alternate mile.

#### MR. WHITNEY'S OBJECTIONS.

When the bill had been at last passed through committee and Mr. Stratton reported it to the Speaker, Mr. Whitney moved that it be not concurred in, but be amended by enlarging the time for paying the purchase price. The clause provided that one-half of the purchase money be paid within 30 days and the remaining half within 60 days. Mr. Whitney moved that this be altered to one-quarter within 60 days and the remaining three-quarters within three months, and that section 8, which provides for withdrawal of lands for examination with the diamond drill, be struck out. He read a despatch from the Sudbury correspondent of The Mail condemning the proposal in the bill as being against the interest of the prospector. He also read from a letter written by a gentleman whom he said even the Government would not sneer at if he mentioned his name, in which it was stated that section 8 was not in the interest of the miners, as it gave power to withdraw land from exploration. It seemed to him, Mr. Whitney said, that in this bill the interests of the prospector and poor man had not been sufficiently safeguarded, and that the conditions under which they might engage in gold mining were not such as the principles of the time and the rights and privileges of the people demanded, and for these reasons he made this motion.

Hon. Mr. Gibson pointed out that the length of time for the payment of purchase money was one for discussion in Committee of the Whole. If a suggestion had been made in committee to alter the time for the payment of the purchase money he was not prepared to say that some attention would not have been paid to it. He did not think that Mr. Whitney should have sat in his seat while the clauses were discussed and then make such a motion before the whole House. He suggested that the bill be referred back to committee for discussion on this point.

Mr. Whitney said that he was perfectly willing that the bill should be referred back.

#### MR. CONMEE'S EXPLANATION.

Mr. Conmee said that he wished to avail himself of this opportunity to say a few words that he might have said at an earlier stage. Certain newspapers had insinuated that in some way or other he was interested directly or indirectly in the Engledue syndicate. He had no connection directly or indirectly with this transaction and knew nothing of it until he saw it in the newspapers. He thought that the Government had been unduly criticized in regard to their mining policy and their mining law. There was a great misunderstanding of these laws in the country generally. The Government had done a great deal for the mining interests, and the measures brought down this year would greatly advance mining development. He was not saying that he was satisfied with the bill now before the House, but generally their measures had been in the interest of mining development, and he only regretted that they could not see their way to concede the few matters of detail which he wished to see altered. They gave largely to mining development roads, and their mining schools were remarkable for the good results obtained from the expenditure upon them. The diamond drill was a valuable aid to the miners, and he thought that another should be purchased. Although going to disagree with the Commissioner and vote against him, he wished to congratulate him upon his efforts to meet the necessities of the situation. The aid granted to the Paton River Railway would do more for mining development than any other measure could possibly do. Mr. Conmee denied the statement which