

## Lots in Marmora.

In answer to Mr. McLaughlin, Hon. Mr. Gibson gave the details of the sales of certain lots in Marmora, stating that Mr. Miller had on April 2, 1869, made a report, to the effect that Geo. D. Hayes appeared to have been the first discoverer of gold in November, 1867, but kept his discovery a secret until other independent discoveries had been made and until after the department had ordered an investigation. His first communication to the department was on March 27, 1869, when he asked that the patent should issue to himself and Geo. J. Cook, who was to pay for the lot. Cook became the purchaser on July 9, 1869, at public auction, of the west half of lot 10 on the tenth concession, lot 8 on the 9th being sold at the same time.

## Niagara Power Development.

Mr. German, in moving the resolution, offered the importance of the question at issue as an excuse for taking up more of the time of the House than was his custom. He explained that in order to bring his motion strictly within the rules of the House he proposed to vary somewhat the wording of the resolution of which he had given notice, and the amendment had met with the approval of the Attorney-General, whom he had consulted upon the matter. The question of the development of electric power at Niagara Falls has been, he said, one which has agitated to a greater or less extent the public mind for some considerable time and it has been matter for suggestion in the public press. In moving the resolution, he had not the slightest desire to in any way injure the Canadian Niagara Power Company, which for the last six years has held the monopoly of the water-

power of Niagara Falls. It was not his desire, nor that of any person in the Niagara district, to prevent the Canadian Niagara Power Co. from developing power to the greatest extent which it is possible for them to do, and as an evidence of that and to show that it is not only his opinion in regard to the matter but the opinion of the people whom he represented in the Legislature, he quoted from a letter which he wrote on the 22nd of December last, in which he assured the Attorney-General that "neither he nor the people of the county" desired to prevent the company from developing electric power at the Falls, but they did insist that the spirit as well as the letter of the agreement must be complied with or the exclusive power of the company to use the water of the Niagara Falls shall terminate."

That has been the kernel of the contention of the people of the county, that the power company shall be compelled to live up to the terms of the agreement made with the park commissioners seven years ago and ratified by the Legislature, and that on failure to do so the monopoly right shall immediately terminate. Perhaps it would be just as well to call the attention of the House to the agreement as it stands. It would be remembered that in 1892 an agreement was entered into between Mr. Rankin of New York, Mr. Stetson of New York and Mr. Shaw, who was at the time United

States Consul at Toronto, whereby they obtained, in consideration of the payment of \$25,000 to the park commissioners, the right to the exclusive use of the waters of the Niagara River within the park for development of electric power. Whether that agreement was good or bad, perhaps it was not necessary there to discuss. It was an agreement that at the time it was made received the sanction of one of the most eminent statesmen of this country, the then Premier, Sir Oliver Mowat, and was also sanctioned by Sir Wm. Meredith, then leader of the Opposition, and by the Legislature and the country. In the light of subsequent developments they knew now that it was not as beneficial an agreement for the Province as it was thought to be, by reason of the monopoly it creates. Had the company carried out the agreement in accordance with its spirit and shown a determination to go on and expend any considerable amount of money at Niagara Falls or evinced any intention of going on with the work, the question of the value of the agreement to the Province would not be under discussion. The company, it is true, paid \$25,000 rental annually, but they have done nothing at all towards developing power, and from present indications do not intend doing so; and it is because they are simply tying up the Niagara Falls power on this side of the river that this excitement has grown up in that part of the country. The company claimed to have done a very considerable amount of work and spent a very considerable amount of money in carrying out their obligations under the agreement. He did not know whether they could discuss that question advantageously, but the best evidence the members of the Legislature could have on the subject would be to visit the ground and see for themselves. If any member could find anything that has been done by the company in that direction he would be entitled to a chromo for his services. The company claimed to have spent a considerable amount of money, but they had not spent \$1,000 in actual, positive work. True, they were paying a rental for the purpose of holding their monopoly, but have practically done nothing. Under an agreement with the Park River Electric Railway Company the company have expended more or less money to develop some power, but that is altogether apart and aside from the terms of the agreement. Beyond digging a few holes to ascertain the depth at which the rock is to be found no actual work has been done.

## Stagnation Caused.

When the park was established a part of the Town of Niagara Falls in which there was a great deal of business transacted was converted into a public park, which is a credit to the locality and to the Province, and which is splendidly managed. The result of the establishment of the park has been that the present assessment value of the town is decreased about \$500,000, which is certainly a very considerable sum. Several large businesses which were established there were blotted out, and the people engaged in them went to the other side of the river. Had it not been for the establishment of this park these men would have been