

Mr. Whitney Objects.

On the motion for the third reading of the bill Mr. Whitney said he was astonished at the assurance of the Government in proposing to give to the Parks Commissioners such powers. At the approach of sunrise they were asked to allow the commissioners to make any agreement they chose with regard to the power of Niagara water. If they had to sit until Saturday morning he could not consent to such a measure. He asked hon. gentlemen on the Government side of the House if they were ready to swallow the dose prepared for them. He moved that the bill be referred back with instructions to strike out the clauses proposed.

Defended by Mr. German.

Mr. German hoped to have the assistance of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House in voting for the clauses. He counted on the support of the Opposition in view of their approval of his attempts to get rid of the monopoly. The Canadian Niagara Power Company in 1892 had by agreement secured a monopoly of the right to develop power at that place for the payment of \$25,000 per year for the first ten years, and afterwards \$35,000 per annum, and on the understanding that they proceeded with and spent money in the development of power at the Falls. He doubted if they would ever have heard anything antagonistic to that agreement if the company had not failed to carry out their agreement. Instead they had developed and built up large industries on the American side of the river. The Canadian Niagara Power Company were now quite willing to surrender the monopoly clause, but in doing so they desired, as any other company would properly desire, a reduction of rental. They were prepared to pay \$12,000 per year for the right to develop 10,000 horsepower, and, further, had bought out the Niagara Falls Railway Company, and were going to operate it. The Canadian Power Company had \$100,000 on deposit in a Toronto bank, which they would hand over to the Government as security for an agreement giving them authority to develop. They were prepared to spend \$3,000,000 within the next three years, and in addition pay a rental now of \$12,000, which would in time be raised to \$25,000, and later to \$50,000 per annum. This company, with the Canadian Niagara Power Company, however, desired their agreements to be closed at once, and they should be made. Every day lost now meant an increase in the development on the American side, and a corresponding loss to Canada. He challenged any hon. gentleman to vote against the clauses. Anyone who did so would have to reckon with the electors at the next election. (Loud Ministerial applause.)

Amalgamation Denied.

Mr. Carscallen asked if it was true that the new and the old companies had combined.

Mr. German answered emphatically in the negative, and added that he was willing to have an amendment added providing against such a combination.

Mr. Conmee said that any gentleman who obstructed or stood in the way of

this legislation was acting against the best interests not only of the Niagara peninsula, but against the interests of the Province as a whole.

Mr. Matheson said that they were asked to abrogate to the Government the control of the water power on this side of the river for practically all time to come. The agreement between the company and the Government should be laid before the House and discussed in its entirety. It was too important a measure to put through at so late an hour.

Delay Might be Fatal.

Hon. Mr. Hardy pointed out that the Government might be relied upon to adopt every safeguard which the situation called for. It was imperative, however, that there should be no loss of time. The negotiations were pretty well under way, and it might be that delay would prevent reaching an agreement whereby the monopoly would disappear. It was for that reason that the Government had submitted the resolutions which the House was now asked to pass. The Government felt under stronger obligations than ever to be careful, prudent and circumspect in entering into an agreement. It realized fully its responsibilities, and it would not be party to any bargain which would not meet with general approval. The agreement would be submitted to the House next session, and the Government would be open to censure if it gave away any part of the public rights or domain.

Mr. Carscallen said that the House had not been given a particle of information as to the nature of the agreement, and he protested against giving the Government authority in blank to do what it pleased.

Mr. Wardell entered a protest against the proposals.

The House then divided, and the motion for third reading carried by a vote of 47 to 37.

The Railway Resolutions.

Hon. Mr. Ross moved that the House resolve itself into committee on the resolutions granting aid to the following railways:—

To the Ontario, Hudson Bay & Western Railway, \$480,000.

To the James Bay Railway, \$350,000.

To the Haliburton, Whitney & Mattawa Railway, \$144,000.

To the Ontario & Rainy River Railway, \$505,000.

To the Central Ontario Railway, \$63,000.

To the Central Counties Railway, \$28,000.

To the Ontario, Belmont & Northern Railway, \$22,400.

Hon. Mr. Ross explained the routes of the different lines mentioned, and gave an interesting description of the nature of the country through which the projected railways would pass. The main object of the resolutions, he said, was to assist in the development of northern Ontario, a county which was full of mineral wealth, and possessed large areas of land suited to agriculture, and capable of contributing greatly to the commercial prosperity of Ontario. There were in this Province 140,000,000 acres of land, of which less than 25,000,000 acres had been settled upon. An area of, say, 125,000,000 acres was still unsettled, and the greater part