

House had learned that Mr. Whitney could declaim just as loudly on a very small matter as he did on this very large contract. (Hear, hear.) He had complained that the matter was deferred till the end of the session. That reason was met by the fact that the House was prepared to stay here a week, or two weeks, or as long as necessary, to discuss it.

Referring to the provisions of the bill, Mr. Conmee said that one "settler" meant three people, or 30,000 in ten years, where there are now not 500 people. He regretted that Mr. Whitney was so simple as to believe that a certain capitalist would give \$5 an acre for that land. Such lands were not worth 25 cents an acre, and the Province was steadily giving it away. He wanted to tell the House and the country that for the future no party could maintain power here that set their face against the development of the Province. (Ministerial applause.) As to the power of the Governor in Council to release the company of its obligations, this related to only the minor provisions. There was no redress from their agreement to go on with the large reduction works and the development of 40,000 horse-power. It is not true that all the Sault works were already under construction, and that they would be built whether the grant was made or not. No doubt Mr. Clergue had had some assurance from the Government that some such bill would be introduced, and had started some of his works. Every town and city in this Province would be more or less benefited by this undertaking. We had in that vast country room for twenty such railroads and twenty such grants, and then the people would not be served one-tenth as well as we are in old Ontario. We had heard much from the Conservative party of the tall chimneys and factories. Where were they now, when they had a chance to open up the great north? (Applause.)

#### Mr. Carscallen Fears Rebellion.

Mr. Carscallen (East Hamilton) said the bill before the House was not a Government measure, but was the product of the gentleman who had just taken his seat.

Mr. Conmee—I am proud of it if it is.

Mr. Carscallen—I think it is a hold-up of the Government. The Conservative party were willing to help New Ontario, but they did not want to legislate in the interest of Mr. Clergue. If this transaction was an honest one why was not the bill laid before the House two weeks ago? (Opposition applause.) "Small issues led up to the civil war in the United States," said Mr. Carscallen. "and if Governments in this country proceed very much longer on the line on which they have been proceeding, which is largely one of bargain and sale, you will have a rebellion in this country." (Ministerial laughter.)

#### Free Discussion Wanted.

Mr. German (Welland) pointed out that if the Opposition did not want to discuss the subject now they could move the adjournment of the debate and the Government would not object. This bill had been fully considered by the Government for days and weeks. Mr. Whitney talks of plunder and steal; he

should be more specific in his charges. The Government were giving land to Mr. Clergue, just as they gave it to settlers, only Mr. Clergue was bound to bring in the settlers. He was also building a city, one that might perhaps surpass this beautiful City of Toronto. He felt sure that the people of Ontario would cheerfully back up the Government in making this concession. (Applause.)

Mr. Morrison (West Hastings) said the capitalists were endeavoring to wring all they could from the present Government in the short time in which they would remain in office.

#### Built Up Sault Ste. Marie.

Mr. Farwell (East Algoma) told how Mr. Clergue had reached the Sault when it was at a low ebb, but he had caused prosperity to come, and old Ontario was benefiting by it. The land to be granted was at present worthless, because it was absolutely inaccessible without a railroad.

Mr. Eilber (South Huron) said he had been at the Railway Committee last year, when Mr. Clergue, seeking a charter for his road, had said he only wanted the right to build, and wanted no aid. On that account he had voted for the charter.

#### Anxious for Discussion.

Mr. Pardee (West Lambton) declared the members on the Government side of the House knew what they were voting upon; as for the Opposition, they could go on threshing it out till they thoroughly understood it. Did the Opposition not know that by the building of a railway and the putting in of settlers the alternate blocks of land would be greatly enhanced in value, and the whole Province benefited?

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario), while appreciating Mr. Clergue's work, yet declared that he, with the enormous capital behind him, was able to build his railway without any help, and in that country make it pay. Mr. Hoyle referred to Mr. Clergue's statement in the Railway Committee that he did not want any land grant or subsidy.

Mr. Conmee—I did not understand any hon. gentlemen to say that they heard Mr. Clergue himself say that.

Half a dozen Opposition members were on their feet at once, and Mr. Hoyle interpreted that as confirmation of his statement, and said the charter had only been granted on that understanding.

#### Opposition Fully Prepared.

Mr. Pattullo (North Oxford) pointed out that the preparedness of the Opposition showed that they were fully aware of the terms of this agreement, and had organized to oppose it in order to try and make political capital. The extravagant statements of the Opposition leader detracted from their value. The vehemence of his argument was exactly in inverse ratio to his facts and the value of his arguments. This was a question of great importance and should have been discussed dispassionately and moderately. The present contract would help to build up New Ontario, but perhaps the greatest benefit was the market that would be created for the products of old Ontario.

Mr. Matheson moved the adjournment of the debate.