

Defended by Hon. Mr. Davis.

Hon. Mr. Davis said there probably was never a session in the Province's history when so many matters of great importance to the Province were considered, and it was a matter of regret that the Opposition had so strongly opposed the development of the country. This was a matter which had been thoroughly considered for weeks and months by the Government, and ever since the opening of the session it was known to every member of the House that such a bill would be introduced. The bill could have been discussed at either the first or second readings, or in committee, but the Opposition delayed, and now at the third reading they complained of lack of discussion. Even now the Government were prepared to stay as long as necessary to thresh it out. Was there an hon. gentleman opposite who would rise and say a railway was not necessary to open up that country? They would not, for it would be suicidal. Our trade was enormously increased by reason of the opening up of New Ontario, and as a result of the sawlog policy industry was greatly increased in the northern districts.

Mr. Clergue's Statement Again.

In reply to interruptions, Hon. Mr. Dryden, as Chairman of the Railway Committee, said that Mr. Clergue when seeking the charter said he did not ask for a dollar—(Opposition laughter)—because at the same time he and his friends were applying to the Government for a land grant.

Mr. Reid (Addington) said Mr. Clergue said: "Gentlemen, I am here asking the privilege of building a railway without any assistance," and that was why he got the charter.

Mr. Dryden replied that it was the policy of the committee to give charters for railways almost everywhere.

Mr. Morrison (West Hastings)—If you knew he was asking for a land grant, why weren't you honest enough to tell the committee? (Opposition applause.)

Continuing, Mr. Davis said the very next day Mr. Clergue had asked the Government for a land grant. It had never been the custom to build railways in New Ontario without assistance. Did the Opposition want to take the position that they were opposed to any grants to open up that territory? The country wanted to know how they stood on the question. If they took that position they would not return supporters from any constituencies in the Province.

Mr. Whitney—That would suit you. (Laughter.)

Mr. Clergue, Mr. Davis went on, had made it clear that unless the railway was built the proposed industries would be impossible at the Sault. Mr. Davis read from the bill to show that the railway company was bound to locate a station in the centre of each block when requested by the Government, and on plans approved by the Public Works Department.

A Good Bargain.

If they got the railway built alone for this land grant, it would be the cheapest railway for the Province since Confederation. Another provision re-

tained to the Province control over passenger and freight rates. The freight vessels being secured were the largest carrying the Canadian flag to-day.

In concluding, Mr. Davis asked what was the policy of the Opposition. Shouting "steal" was no policy. On the Government side of the House they stood for development of both old and new Ontario. When all the provisions of this bill were carried out, the railway built, the industrial establishments completed, the country settled, and the fleet of ships in operation, posterity would wonder how anyone could to-day vote against the bill. (Ministerial applause.)

Mr. Boyd's Strong Language.

Mr. Boyd (North Grey) reiterated the statement that Mr. Clergue had said to the Railway Committee that he wanted no grant nor subsidy. In all the civilized world, Mr. Boyd declared, there never was such a gigantic steal as in this bill. There were only two men on the Government side who had "brass" enough to deny what Mr. Clergue said. (Laughter.) He wanted Mr. Charlton to be brought in to say what happened. "Let us fight this question out on truth and righteousness," said Mr. Boyd. Venturing further, Mr. Boyd declared that "a great many members opposite had been purchased by these great steals."

"Order, order," shouted a score of members, and Premier Ross rose and said:—"I ask that the hon. gentleman withdraw that statement unconditionally."

Mr. Speaker—The hon. gentleman is a comparatively new member, but certainly there is no question he should withdraw it.

Mr. Boyd withdrew the remark, and added that this was a Government that required strong language. He asked if the Government were going to go on giving away their domain to their friends from one end of the Province to the other.

Mr. Wardell (North Wentworth) said the Government were granting these lands not for the purposes of development, but simply to enable Mr. Clergue to bring his products to his mills, and to help him to build up the fortune he was accumulating.

A division was then taken, and while waiting for the whips to return Captain Robson was called upon for a song, and sang in a stirring manner "Soldiers of the Queen."

The Division List.

The motion for the third reading was adopted on the following division:—
Yeas—Messrs. Auld, Aylesworth, Barber, Beatty (Parry Sound), Blezard, Bowman, Bridgland, Brown, Burt, Carpenter, Charlton, Clarke, Conmee, Davis, Dickenson, Douglas, Dryden, Farwell, Ferguson, German, Gibson, Graham, Guibord, Harcourt, Harty, Hill, Hislop, Holmes, Latchford, Leys, Loughrin, Malcolm, Mutrie, McKay, McKee, Pardee, Pardo, Pattullo, Preston, Richardson, Ross, Russell, Smith, Stratton, Taylor, Truax—46.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Barr, Beatty (Leeds), Boyd, Brower, Carnegie, Colquhoun, Crawford, Dempsey, Duff, Eilber, Fallis, Foy, Fox, Gallagher, Hoyle, Jamieson, Jessop, Joynt, Kidd, Kribs,