

Niagara Falls Power.

The Premier, in moving the second reading of his bill to confirm the agreement between the Queen Victoria Park Commissioners and the Canadian Niagara Power Company, gave a brief explanation of the main features, which have previously been detailed in *The Globe*. The agreement, he pointed out, extends the time for completion from 1902 to July, 1904, but in return for this the company must by the last-named date have completed water connections for the development of 50,000 horse-power, an outflow tunnel sufficient for not less than 100,000 horse-power, and to have on or before that date actually ready for use and supply 20,000 electrical horse-power, of which one-half shall be for use of Canadian consumers. The sum of \$1,500,000 must be expended or contracted to be expended on the works by July, 1903. The Premier, continuing, said that a considerable amount of work had been done, and the amount for this and for contracts already entered into totalled \$1,700,000. He was glad to say also that many of the contracts for electrical supplies and work had been made with Canadian firms. The company had also invested \$75,000 in the purchase of real estate in the vicinity suitable for factory and industrial establishment sites.

Provisions as to Price.

Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario) said he could not find in the measure any provision as to the price to be paid by individuals, corporations or municipalities applying for power. They had to build their own transmission lines, he presumed, but were not safeguarded as to price. The only provision along that line that he could find was to the effect that the price should not be higher than that charged to consumers on the American side. He would like to see something more definite. He thought it would be proper of the Government to obtain the fullest evidence of experts to guide them in this regard.

The Premier said that this was covered not only by the provision mentioned by Mr. Hoyle, but by clauses in the agreement of 1892, providing for settlement of questions as to price by the High Court of Justice. Prices of such commodities as steam and electrical power could not, he thought, be decided now for a specific period. With continued improvements the prices were bound to vary. In addition to the safeguards mentioned competition would also, no doubt, play an important part in fixing prices.

The Premier, replying to Mr. Whitney, said that except wherein specially mentioned the provisions of the 1892 agreement remained in force.

Mr. Crawford's Idea.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) thought the question of price could be fixed now by providing for reduction after the investors had received a certain return on their investment. This would, he held, be a fair method.

The bill was given its second reading.

Rainy River Registration.

Hon. Mr. Gibson moved the second reading of his bill to divide the district of Rainy River for the registration of titles and deeds by providing for the establishment of an office at Fort Frances, as well as that at Rat Portage. This office was in a section which was rapidly filling up, and would settle still more rapidly now that the Canadian Northern Railway has been completed. The act would go into force by proclamation when an office building had been provided.

Mr. Whitney, while saying the step would have to be taken sooner or later, objected to the practice of government by proclamation, and thought the Legislature should retain the power to say when the act should go into force. He ventured to say that when the act would go into force would depend upon the result of the general elections. (Ministerial laughter.)

The bill was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill to amend the separate schools act by restoring a clause accidentally omitted in the revision last year was read a second time.

Cost of Public Institutions.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, first taking up the estimates for the public institutions maintenance. Hon. Mr. Stratton explained that there were 5,152 patients in the asylums at the beginning of 1901, and 5,256 at the end of the year, an increase of 102. The number discharged during the year was 341, while 275 were cured, and there were 797 admissions, the proportion of cured to admissions being 27 per cent., a showing which was very favorable when compared with similar institutions elsewhere. The total expenditure for the year on the asylums was \$639,329, or \$11,875 less than the appropriations. There was received \$94,000 from paying patients, compared with \$81,000 the previous year. Continuing, Mr. Stratton said that since taking office he had sought to place salaries on a more uniform basis in the institutions, and to that end some slight increases for male attendants and others would be noticed, and which would not be objected to, taking into consideration the increased cost of living. In reply to Mr. Crawford (West Toronto), Mr. Stratton declared

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