

NIAGARA POWER AT END OF YEAR.

Extension of Time to the Canadian Company.

50,000 HORSE POWER THEN

Commissioners Report on Works and Proposed Changes.

The Attorney-General Introduces a Bill to Amend the Act Respecting Religious Institutions—Premier's Budget Speech To-day.

The eighteenth annual report of the Niagara Falls Queen Victoria Park Commission, which was presented to the Legislature yesterday afternoon, contains an interesting statement as to the progress of the works of the three power development companies. The commissioners state that the Canadian Niagara Power Company has prosecuted with great energy its various works, with a view to the completion of the first installment of its output within the time limit, July 1, 1904, but the commissioners recommend that the Government grant the company a six months' extension of the time limit. If granted this extension the company agrees that the initial output of power on January 1, 1905, shall be 50,000 horsepower instead of 20,000, which the agreement provided should be ready by July 1, 1904. The company also agrees to complete by January the whole of the work in connection with the intakes, etc., so as to provide water connections for the development of the full amount of power authorized, namely, 100,000 horsepower.

Good Progress on Works.

The Ontario Power Company is reported to have made good progress. Owing to its dangerous condition, the surface rock overlooking the power house has been cleaned and all loose material removed. A watertight revetment wall has also been built upon the top of the escarpment. The company's request for a modification of the northerly limits fixed by the agreement was granted. This necessitated the removal of the building originally used as a museum, but recently occupied in part as a restaurant and shelter, and the company has agreed to pay \$20,000 towards the erection of a new refectory. The construction of a coffer dam by the Electrical Development Company of Ontario proved a work of great magnitude owing to the immense volume and rapidity of the flow of the water and the unevenness of the bed of the stream, but, notwithstanding these difficulties, the work has been successfully carried out. A secondary coffer dam has been constructed around the area to be excavated, and a considerable portion of the river bed has been stripped down to the solid rock and made ready for the sinking of the wheelpit. Operations have now commenced on the main tunnel under the river, the service tunnels having been completed.

New Refectory and Tunnel.

The lease for the restaurant and scenic privileges having expired, a new lease has been entered into with

Messrs. Zybach & Brundage at an increased rental, on the understanding that a new refectory will be built, that a new snake tunnel shall be constructed from Table Rock House to a point well under the heavy sheet of water, the recession of the Falls having rendered the old one useless, and that an electric elevator shall be provided connecting the three floors of Table Rock House with the tunnel by means of a shaft. The new refectory will cost \$56,968, and is expected to be ready for occupation by June 1.

New Shipbuilding Company.

"The remarkable growth of the carrying trade of the great lakes in recent years," say the commissioners, "and the consequent demand for vessels of large carrying capacity, has stimulated the shipbuilding industry of the Province, and the Canadian Shipbuilding Company has been organized, and has acquired lands on the upper Niagara River, between Bridgeburg and Black Creek, for the purpose of establishing a shipyard on a large scale." In order to secure the requisite space for the launching of modern vessels, it was found necessary to divert the "chain reserve" or highway which runs along the margin of the river around the shipyard proper, and an application was made to the commissioners for the privilege of so doing. The company also desired a Crown water lot in front of its lands in order to deepen the approaches to the docks. An agreement was entered into by which the company is to provide an 80-foot roadway across its property in lieu of the present road and to pay a nominal sum. This is the company of which Mr. Frederic Nicholls is President.

The commissioners state that the surplus material from the excavations of the Power Company is being used to reclaim from the river portions of the foreshore, and at the Dufferin Islands a series of cascades and a group of small islands are being formed. Arrangements are also being made for the removal of the high steel bridges as well as the single-way carriage suspension bridges and the substitution of stone structures. When these works are completed the whole environment of the falls on the Canadian side will be rendered tenfold more interesting to visitors.

The year's receipts totalled \$99,793, the principal items being:—Balance on hand January 1, \$11,710; Electrical Development Company rental two years, \$30,000; Canadian Niagara Power Company rental, \$15,000; International Railway Company rental, \$10,000; Zybach & Brundage, \$10,166. The expenditures total \$75,188, leaving a balance of \$24,605. Mention is made of the fact that an order in Council had been passed granting Mr. J. W. Langmuir an honorarium out of the accumulated funds as a recognition of his splendid services as a member of the commission for seventeen years and Chairman for ten years. It is pointed out that Mr. Langmuir was largely responsible for the agreement with the three corporations for the development of electrical energy, from which the park realizes annually a rental of nearly \$60,000, and which when operated to their full capacity will yield an annual rental of \$200,000.

A Brief Session.

The session of the House yesterday afternoon lasted for but ten minutes.

Hon. J. M. Gibson introduced a bill to amend the act respecting religious institutions. The present act provides for the conveyance of property to trustees appointed by the congregation. Under the Methodist Church system the trustees are appointed by the Quarterly Board, and not directly by the congregation. The amendment validates conveyances to trustees so appointed.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Dr. Barr that about 30,000 applications had been made by volunteers under the land grants act, and that very many of them were not entitled under the act

to grants. There had been 10,382 applications granted.

Hon. Mr. Davis informed Mr. J. S. Duff that Mr. Taylor, recently a clerk in the Crown Lands Department, had not been in the employ of the department since his suspension. His resignation had been received and accepted. Mr. Duff wished to know the date of the resignation, and Mr. Davis promised to give it later.

Mr. Whitney's motion for a return shewing the names of all persons at Sault Ste. Marie, or elsewhere, who were paid their wages by the Government, was allowed to stand, Hon. Mr. Gibson stating that he was not yet prepared to supply the information. Mr. Whitney said he assumed, in the absence of specific knowledge on the subject, that the Government had not yet paid those men. The banks, under the authority of the Government, had paid them, and consequently the transaction did not appear in the financial statement this year. He would like to know how soon the return would be made. There were three points of information desired: the names, amounts and the nature of each claim.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that there was no objection to the return. It could, he thought, be made out and brought down at a very early date; if not in a day or two, at the end of the week perhaps.

Mr. Matheson asked that twenty copies of the public accounts be supplied to each of the members. The Premier promised to make inquiries and see if it could be done.

This afternoon the Premier will deliver his budget speech.

Notices of Motion.

Mr. Carnegie will move:—"That in consideration of the fact that agriculture is the chief industry of the Province of Ontario, this House is of the opinion that the Government should take into consideration the advisability of establishing libraries in farming communities for the distribution of useful information on agricultural topics."

Hon. Mr. Latchford has given notice of a bill to amend the act respecting the land grant to the Nepigon Railway Company.

Premier Ross will introduce a bill to amend the general toll roads act.