

bringing action have rights, then the purchasers should not be given it by special legislation. The duty of the Government is ended when they give a good title. They are not called upon by special legislation afterwards to protect the purchasers from any action that may come up."

Hon. Mr. Foy said that the plaintiffs had never asked for a fiat. He also read the proclamation withdrawing from exploration certain lands, including the beds of Cobalt and Kerr Lakes, and on which the Government's right to sell was largely based.

Hon. Mr. Foy introduced a bill to amend the Ontario election act. Its principal feature is a provision enabling clergymen and teachers to vote, although they have removed, owing to the exigencies of their profession, from the district in which they are registered.

Interesting Point of Law.

Mr. Thompson (Wentworth) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the liquor license act. The act provided that a retail liquor store should not be permitted to have an agent to take orders in another municipality than the one in which he was licensed to sell. There was a case in his constituency, he said, in which the owners of a store had established an agent in an adjoining municipality. In that municipality was a man regularly licensed, who was obliged to meet this competition. The law on this point was not clear, and the act he proposed would make the sale of liquor in this way illegal.

Hon. Mr. Hanna replied that the question of a canvasser selling in a local municipality seemed to be provided against in the present act. Last year an amendment along the same line had been suggested to the department, but on that occasion it applied to the wholesale shops. The Minister went on to demonstrate that the working out of such an act would be to drive the orders to the large centres. The act was one, therefore, that should not pass.

Mr. Thompson cited a case in the town of Dundas, where there was an agent for an establishment in Hamilton. He had a card out soliciting orders for wines.

Hon. Mr. Hanna said the Hamilton man admitted that there was an agency at Dundas, but that it was simply an agency for the buyers. He would hesitate to give an offhand decision as to the law on the point. It was receiving consideration. The bill was withdrawn.

COMPETITION NOT FEARED

OTHER LINES CAN PARALLEL THE GOVERNMENT ROAD.

Hon. Dr. Reaume Says That the Government Should Not be Protected—Silver Belt Electric Railway Bill as Amended Passed Committee.

"The Government should not be protected any more than a private individual. Competition is as good for the Government as for anyone else." This was Hon. Dr. Reaume's view as expressed in the Legislature's Railway Committee yesterday when speaking in respect to the Silver Belt Electric Railway Company's bill, introduced by Mr. W. R. Smyth. The proposed route of the railway from New Liskeard to Haileybury, Cobalt and Latchford parallels the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, the Government line, in some sections and touches it at others. The powers sought in the bill were very wide. "A blanket charter over the whole of Nipissing" was the way Mr. C. N. Smith, the member for the Soo, expressed it. The committee trimmed the bill considerably, safeguarding all interests in respect to the development and sale of electricity other than that required for the railway; confining railway rights absolutely to the provisions of the act, and in other ways limiting the powers conferred. The bill as amended was carried.

On the suggestion of Hon. Messrs. Hendrie and Matheson, a clause was added by which the company agreed, in the event of desiring to sell the railway, to give the Government the first chance to purchase.