

ONTARIO'S RIGHTS AGAIN IN DANGER.

Power Company Seeking Too Many Privileges.

RESOLUTION IN HOUSE.

Government Will Try to Block Senate Bill.

Proposals Now Before Upper House at Ottawa Arouse Ire of Mr. Whitney—Encroachments of Fed- eral House—Debate on Provincial Rights to Take Place.

The question of Provincial rights will to-day occupy the attention of the Legislature of Ontario. So far this session the House has escaped dealing with any such problem, but the bill entitled "An act to incorporate the Ontario & Michigan Power Company," which has been introduced into the Senate, has given the Legislature its opportunity. An editorial in The Globe of a few days ago apparently provided Premier Whitney with his cue, as it was then stated that the granting of a charter to this company, complying with all the proposals, would be a dangerous violation of Provincial rights. The company desires certain water power and other privileges on the Nipigon, Sturgeon and Pigeon Rivers, in Thunder Bay district. After reading the entire editorial in the House yesterday Mr. Whitney submitted a resolution "viewing with alarm the repeated encroachments of the Parliament of Canada on the rights of the Province." However, he did not hold the Federal House responsible for the introduction of the measure into the Senate. The resolution states such a withdrawal from Provincial jurisdiction of matters of a purely Provincial character are contrary to the spirit of the British North America Act, and that the proposed legislation would be an unwarranted and illegal interference with the territorial sovereignty of the Province. It is further stated that the effect of the proposed legislation would enable the company without the consent of the Province to possess itself of valuable water privileges and powers, and to export from Ontario the power generated by means of them. In the resolution the position is also taken that the proposed bill would have the effect of preventing the Province from utilizing these powers for the public. Since the bill comes before the Senate on Wednesday, the Legislature will debate the resolution to-day.

Second Readings.

Hon. Mr. Foy's bill to amend the act respecting the Law Society of Upper Canada was advanced through committee. Other bills given second readings were:—Respecting local municipal telephone systems—Hon. Dr. Reaume. To amend the public schools act—Hon. Dr. Pyne. To amend the Department of Education act—Hon. Dr. Pyne. Respecting separate schools, fifth classes and continuation schools—Hon. Dr. Pyne. To amend the act respecting stationary engineers—Hon. Mr. Monteith. Respecting the Division Courts—Hon. Mr. Foy.

In explaining his bills Hon. Dr. Pyne said the amendment to the public schools act simply extended the Government's policy in rural districts. The fifth class extensions would virtually result in township high schools, and they hoped to induce rural localities to take up such classes. Some changes in the curriculum would be necessitated so as to include the teaching of elementary horticulture and agriculture. He hoped that the new teachers would re-

ceive their elementary training in these subjects at agricultural schools. In the urban schools the curriculum would include manual training and the reading of plans, so as to help the artisan class.

Hon. Mr. MacKay asked if separate inspectors would be provided for these continuation classes or "township high schools."

The Minister replied that such special inspectors would be provided, and they would act in conjunction with the local inspectors.

Will Control Model Schools.

Regarding the amendments respecting the Education Department, he said that on account of the new normal schools opening this fall the remaining model schools would be taken under the direct control of the department, with power to deal with the certificates granted teachers. The amendment regarding separate schools, said Dr. Pyne, enabled such schools to institute continuation classes if they were desired.

The following bills were passed in committee:—Respecting the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations, Mr. Fraser; respecting the town of Trenton, Mr. Morrison; respecting by-laws Nos. 29, 21 and 22 of the town of Goderich, Mr. Downey; respecting the township of Osgoode, in the county of Carleton, Mr. McElroy; respecting the town of Toronto Junction and to incorporate it as the city of West Toronto, Mr. Godfrey; respecting the floating debt of the county of Frontenac, Mr. Gallagher; respecting the town of North Toronto, Mr. Godfrey.

Other bills read a second time were: To amend the municipal act, Mr. May; respecting the city of Peterboro', Mr. Bradburn.

Provincial Rights.

Before the House adjourned Premier Whitney said: "I have to draw the attention of the House to a bill introduced in the Senate of Canada with reference to the Ontario & Michigan Power Company. I propose to ask the House to agree to a resolution which I will submit. I don't propose to ask my friends opposite to agree to the resolution this afternoon. I propose to read the resolution, and perhaps ask the House to-morrow to deal with it. I don't propose to put the matter forward in any extreme sense at all with reference to the Dominion Government. I don't hold the Dominion Government responsible for the introduction into the Senate of this bill, but the bill is objectionable for many reasons." Proceeding, Mr. Whitney read an editorial dealing with the Michigan & Ontario Power Company's bill, headed "An objectionable bill," which appeared in The Globe on the 27th of March.

Mr. Whitney added:—"This bill proposes to reach out and grasp control, through the Dominion Parliament, of every imaginable occupation or form of business enterprise which any citizen of Ontario may choose to enter."

The Resolution.

Mr. Whitney read the resolution, which was as follows:—

"That the attention of this House has been called to a bill introduced in the Senate of Canada entitled 'An act to incorporate the Ontario & Michigan Power Company.' That it is proposed by the bill to incorporate two persons who are described as residents of the United States of America, and Herman Finger of Port Arthur and A. W. Fraser and Thomas A. Burgen of Ottawa, under the name of 'The Ontario & Michigan Power Company' and to confer on the company the following powers: For the purposes of obtaining, developing, improving and generating water power, using water power by any means of application, converting water power into electricity, heat, light or any other form of energy, storing water power, gas, compressed air, electricity, heat, light or any other form of energy, and of transmitting and supplying the same by any means for use in any manner at any place in Canada, or in Isle Royale or in any place in the United States of America, the company to

"(a) Acquire lands, easements, privileges, water and water rights at any one place on each of the following rivers, namely, the Pigeon River, in the Province of Ontario and the State of Michigan; the Nipigon River and the Sturgeon River, both in the district of Thunder Bay, in the said Province.

"(b) Acquire such lands, easements, privileges, water and water rights as are necessary for establishing, maintaining and operating systems for the storage, control and regulation of the water in any lake whose waters flow into any of the said rivers, and in any streams or other watercourses convey-

ing such discharge, and in each of the said rivers between the points of confluence of such streams or other watercourses therewith and the place selected under paragraph (a):

"(c) At any place in the district of Thunder Bay, Isle Royale or the State of Michigan, bore for natural gas, manufacture gas and collect and store natural and manufactured gas, and transmit to and use the same at any place in Canada or the United States for any of the purposes aforesaid:

"(d) Acquire all necessary lands, easements, privileges and other rights, and acquire, construct, erect, maintain, use, operate and manage all necessary works, structures, buildings, machinery, plant, appliances, instruments and devices, erect poles, sink wells and lay pipes, cables, wires and other conductors, and do all other things necessary for or incidental to the purposes and objects aforesaid.

Could Export Power.

"That it is also proposed by the bill to confer upon the company power to take compulsorily any privilege or easement which it requires for the purposes of its undertaking, and to that end to give it the compulsory powers possessed by railway companies under the railway act, and to declare the works of the company to be works for the general advantage of Canada.

"That the effect of the proposed legislation will be to enable the company, without the consent of the Province, to possess itself of valuable water privileges and powers owned by the Province, and to export from Ontario the power generated by means of them.

"That the proposed legislation will have the effect of preventing the Province from utilizing in accordance with its declared policy the valuable water privileges and powers of the Pigeon, Nipigon and Sturgeon Rivers for the benefit of the public, and will enable the proposed company to exploit them for private gain.

"That this House views with alarm the repeated encroachment of the Parliament of Canada on the rights of the Province, and its efforts to withdraw from Provincial jurisdiction and control works of a purely Provincial character, and earnestly protests against such action, which this House believes to be contrary, if not to the letter, to the spirit of the British North America act and to the intention of the framers.

Unwarranted Legislation.

"That in the opinion of this House the proposed legislation would be an unwarranted and illegal interference with the territorial sovereignty of the Province and with its exclusive legislative authority under the British North America act, and this House earnestly and firmly protests against the proposed bill being given the form of law.

"And this House hereby declares its readiness and determination to support with all the means, constitutional and material, which it can command, the Government of Ontario in taking such measures and proceedings as may be deemed requisite to assert, maintain and defend the legislative and territorial sovereignty of the Province against all aggression and encroachment by the Federal Government and Parliament, and, if necessary, in appealing to the Imperial Parliament for such amendments to the British North America act as will safeguard the sovereignty of the Province therefrom."

Need for Hurry.

Concluding, the Premier said that he would ask the House to consider the resolution to-day. He did not desire that afternoon to engage in any argument in favor of it, or to make any observations in relation to the tremendous possibilities which must necessarily follow upon the enactment of such legislation by the Dominion Parliament.

Hon. A. G. MacKay said that he had not seen the bill, and did not know whether other members of the House had done so. He suggested that to-day was probably, under the circumstances, an early date to discuss the resolution which involved such an important question.

Premier Whitney—The reason for hurry is that the bill comes up at Ottawa on Wednesday. We want to have the expression of our opinion there. I don't think my hon. friend will have any difficulty when he sees the bill.

The House adjourned.