

1,000 male settlers per year in the next following five years.

#### Other Amendments.

A final effort to incorporate a number of amendments into the factory act was made by Dr. McQueen (North Wentworth). The first amendment was to increase the number of female factory inspectors, which was lost on division.

Another amendment, to prevent the employment of children under fourteen years of age, was voted down by 46 to 16. Other proposals were along the same lines as those suggested when the bill was being considered clause by clause in committee. An attempt was made to limit the working hours of children to eight hours per day, and youths, young girls and women to fifty hours a week.

Basement shops were struck at in an amendment to prevent persons under the age of fifteen years working in basements or underground places for more than eight hours per day. In cases where there was cause to inquire into the physical condition of any employee a certificate from a physician must be secured before he or she could work again in a shop or factory.

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#### THE HYDRO'S ENEMIES.

The manipulation of the Hydro-electric contracts by which the people lost at least one hundred thousand dollars, and perhaps much more, is not too complicated to be readily understood. The accepted tender of Mr. McGuigan of \$1,270,000 was made up of several items, one of which, the construction work, was estimated at \$448,000. In the serious rival tender by C. L. de Muralt this item was estimated at \$340,000. Mr. de Muralt guaranteed the good faith of his tender by the usual deposit. By an arrangement between him and Mr. McGuigan he withdrew his tender so as to enable Mr. McGuigan to get the contract at the higher figure from the Commission. Mr. McGuigan then gave him the contract at his own lower figure.

There is no way of preventing contractors from thus favoring one another. The only protection a Government or Commission has is the deposits made with the lower tenderers. The tender of Mr. de Muralt kept all other competitors out. Whether so intended originally or not it served that purpose. The Government's or Commission's defence against any such use of a low tender in favor of a high one was the deposit. After the lower tender of Mr. de Muralt had caused awarding of the contract to Mr. McGuigan, who sublet it to Mr. de Muralt at the lower figure, the Government handed back the forfeited deposit. This is a manifestation of sublime innocence which the public will not accept as such. The public are not as innocent as the Commission pretends to be. Who are the enemies of the Hydro-electric now?

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