

M. M. MacBride, South Brant, criticized the Minister for opposing clauses in his own bill, and this brought forth defense of the Minister from Hon. Thomas Crawford, Northwest Toronto. Mr. Crawford said the Minister was not responsible for the clauses, and then Mr. Crawford went further. "I want to say, so far as the Provincial Secretary is concerned, that he made an ideal Chairman of the Municipal Committee," he observed, amid applause.

Toronto Would Save Money.

H. H. Dewart, Southwest Toronto, speaking of the homologous line section, said he thought it would be unfortunate if municipalities had the power to tie up the property of property owners for a period of ten

years. The property, he said, would be absolutely tied up, in regard to its value, to the value at the time the by-law was passed. Hon. Howard Ferguson thought three years might be long enough, with power to appeal to a Judge to extend the time. J. Walter Curry defended the clause and said that if such an act had been in force previously Toronto would have saved large sums of money in the widening of Yonge street.

Mr. Curry explained that the owner of property on the land to be expropriated for street widening would have the use and occupancy of the land, and, in respect of the portion to be taken would not be subject to taxes.

No Trouble With Titles.

Mr. Ferguson thought there might be serious complications in regard to title if a man wanted to sell, but Mr. Curry said that this matter had come before the Mortgage Association and the members there could not see any interference with the title of the mortgagee on the question of the sale of the property. Mr. Dewart proposed an amendment that the time in which the city must enter into possession should be reduced from ten to five years, but this was voted down.

Regarding compensation to be paid, one factor to be taken into consideration was defined in the act in the following words: "In all cases full account shall be taken of the worth of every advantage which the owner will derive from the work." These words were struck out, as it was argued that under this provision a case might arise where the property owner actually might have to pay money to the municipality for the expropriation.

Mulct G. T. R. Revenue.

R. R. Hall covered considerable ground in his speech, which lasted an hour and a half. He was skeptical of the view that the demand for radials had come from the municipalities, and said the radials were proposing to take away passenger traffic from the G. T. R., when evidence showed that this passenger traffic was one of the most important factors in the G. T. R. revenue.

In commencing his address, Edgar Watson, U.F.O. member for North Victoria, expressed the opinion that the issue at present was not one between public and private ownership, as the pro-Hydro-radial newspapers and the radial exponents sought to impress upon the public generally. Surely, he said, the Prime Minister of the Province was not dishonest when he had stated from a dozen platforms that his was a public-ownership Government, and he a public-ownership Premier.

Operate by Electricity.

"I think the time will come," said Mr. Watson, "when a good many of the lines that are at present operated by steam will be operated by electricity."

Mr. Watson spoke of the changed conditions since the passage of the original act of 1914, and said he thought the people of the Province would back up those members of the Legislature who advised caution and hesitated before "embarking on any such enormous proposition, which might well end in the guaranteeing of possibly \$150,000,000 to \$250,000,000 of bonds."

While some contended, he said, that the act of 1914 did not make the Province liable and responsible for all municipal commitments on radials, that, in his opinion, was the effect of the legislation. In the event of deficits being incurred, which he considered quite likely, Municipal Councils would come to the Government with the argument that a Government commission advised, constructed and operated the line, and the Government should make up the deficits.

No Provision for Failure.

He attacked the system of financing as set out under the old act, explained the hypothecation of bonds clause, and denounced it as unsound impairment of security, and went on to say that the act was drawn with no provision for the failure of any portion of the road to pay. Everything, of course, he said, would be "rosy" should the radials pay, but the municipalities must face the alternative.

"The new act," he said, "places the initiative where it should belong, namely, on the shoulders and in the minds of the municipalities themselves. I believe absolutely no stone should be left unturned to facilitate the building of lines of radial railways by the municipalities if they wish to build them, stopping short of the guarantee of the scheme by the whole Province of Ontario, and if this proposed act does not provide these facilities I am quite sure this House will change it so it will provide these facilities." He expressed the opinion that Toronto needed a fast radial system out to the countryside.

All Assets Behind Road.

Speaking of finances, he read The Globe's published opinion that the bonds issued under the new act would be "gilt-edged," and commenting upon the provisions for annual statement on operation, he said that everything would be aboveboard—no juggling or manipulation of accounts. All the assets of all the municipalities would stand behind the scheme, and if they could not finance it on that basis they could not finance it at all.

R. R. Hall, in opening his address, paid his respects to the Toronto Press, which, he said, was too narrow in its outlook. He referred to them all, "Grit, Tory and Yellow." Coming to the radial situation, he said that the Hydro-radialists asserted that the demand had come from the municipalities for radials. Everybody who had watched the progress of the movement knew that was "bunkum," declared the Parry Sound member.

RESUME DEBATE ON RADIAL BILL

Edgar Watson and R. R. Hall
Extol Premier's Changed
Policy

HYDRO ABUSED POWERS?

The debate on Premier Drury's Hydro-radial Bill was continued last night in the Legislature. Speeches were delivered by Edgar Watson (U. F. O. member for North Victoria), and R. R. Hall (Liberal member for Parry Sound). Mr. Watson said he thought he was right in saying the authority and the power of the Hydro-electric Power Commission had been used sometimes in a way in which they should not have been used in advocating the development and voting upon by-laws for Hydro-radials. In his opinion, he added, a commission appointed by the Government should not be the medium for disseminating propaganda of any kind.