

the Province. Any one contemplating "a raid" into another territory, said he, would first have to satisfy the Government that the contemplated raid was in the interests of the consumer and of gas conservation.

Hamilton Bill Passed.

In spite of opposition which created a division in the committee, the Legislature yesterday passed the City of Hamilton bill which gives an exclusive franchise in that city for ten years to the United Gas Company. The franchise is subject to the franchise rights of the Dominion Natural Gas Company in certain sections of Hamilton.

An amendment by F. W. Elliott (Liberal, Bruce North) which would have killed the provision granting exclusive franchise to the United Company was voted down by 62 to 14 in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Elliott and others supporting his amendment declared that the granting of an exclusive franchise should be preceded by a vote of the people of the municipality affected.

Thomas W. Jutten (Conservative, Hamilton Centre), who introduced the bill, said that it sought to bring to an end the gas war between the United and Dominion companies. The proposal to submit the question to the people was opposed by Argue Martin (Conservative, Hamilton West), on the ground that it would create a heavy lobby in the Hamilton Council before the election. William Morrison (Conservative, Hamilton East), supporting the bill, pointed out that the people of Hamilton had voted on the United Company's present franchise in 1923.

Liberal House Leader Sinclair opposed the bill on the ground that the people should pass on the question of granting an exclusive franchise, which was tantamount to a monopoly. Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, also opposed the bill.