

EXHIBIT "D"

BEFORE THE PRIVATE BILLS COMMITTEE.

May 27th, 1903.

re Bill No. 96, "An Act to extend the provisions of the Act to enable Edward Spencer Jenison to develop and improve a Water Privilege on the Kaministiquia River."

Mr. Walter Barwick, K. C., appeared for the promoters of the bill.

Mr. Geo. S. Watson, K. C., appeared for Mr. Clergue and those opposed to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt: Who appears in opposition to this bill? The quicker way will be to hear those opposed to it first.

Mr. Watson: I appear in opposition to the bill. I submit respectfully that having regard to the character of the bill itself it would be well to have those in support of the bill speak first, because the effect of this is to rescind an Act of the Legislature passed last session. It is very extraordinary in that respect, and inasmuch as it is proposed by this bill now to rescind an Act of 1902, which was the result of an agreement between the Town of Fort William and the Kakabeka Falls Company, and as it is proposed that that agreement shall now be rescinded with the legislation, I would like very much to hear what would be said in support of it before speaking in opposition to it; however, I am prepared, if you prefer, to say what I have to say in opposition to the bill.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt: Mr. Watson's suggestion may be adopted.

Mr. Barwick: I will only say two or three words. Last year when Mr. Jenison appeared before the committee he did not satisfy the committee of the bona fides, and the committee not being satisfied of the bona fides, rescinded the powers which had been granted to him under two Acts before. Mr. Jenison was not fair with this committee or he would have told the committee last year, as the fact was, that he was not the owner of the proposal, that he was in the position of an employee, and represented Mr. Wegg of Chicago, a capitalist. After the bill was rescinded Mr. Wegg came to Toronto and he has produced to the Attorney-General satisfactory proof of his bona fides in the proposal, and he has produced in addition to the Towns of Fort William and Port Arthur proofs of this, and proof that he is in a position to go on with the proposal and complete it. The Town of Port Arthur is represented here by the Mayor and three of the Aldermen of the town, and Fort William is represented here by its Mayor and three Aldermen. An arrangement has been made by which these municipalities are satisfied with Mr. Wegg's proposal—and I wish it to be understood this is Mr. Wegg's proposal, a man of means—the two municipalities are now satisfied of the bona fides of the proposal, and that it can be carried out. I hold in my hands the agreement in the amended clause of the bill in which we have met the Town of Port Arthur and Fort William on every point. The Mayors of the two towns are here, and I would like to hear a word from either one of them.

Mr. Joshua Dike, Mayor of Fort William: I think it might be proper for me to say, especially bearing upon Mr. Watson's remarks as to it being an extraordinary thing to attempt to rescind the bill of a year ago. In order to understand that statement it would be well for us to look over the ground for a moment. A year ago the Town of Fort William appeared asking certain rights in the development of the Kaministiquia River. It appeared because it was in great stress or need of power, and because there did not seem to be at that time an apparent readiness to develop