

should stand as it is and the report of the committee should be adopted.

Hon. Mr. MCGREGOR—The declaration that it is for the general advantage of Canada does not make it so.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—Next to railways, power and light are two of the most important matters affecting the welfare of the people of Canada to-day. Electricity has been working wonders in manufacturing. This project is for the production of electric power that will be used, in all probability, in the immediate vicinity of where the power is produced as well as in Hamilton and Toronto. It is just as necessary to the development and prosperity and progress of this country that electric companies should be given a free hand to produce power cheaply, as it is that railway companies should have power to build railways. They are both necessary in the development of the country. As my hon. friend said a moment ago, if the power of expropriation were asked by a milling company, for its own use solely, it would be a different thing: this is for the development of power to be supplied at a low rate wherever it is needed in that neighbourhood. It is a matter of vital interest to this country that we should encourage the development of cheap power.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—That is a very nice argument advanced by the hon. gentleman. He always does make a nice argument when he is going to support anything. This power of expropriation should be guarded very carefully, as each case is a law unto itself. I seconded cheerfully the motion of my hon. friend from Ottawa to expunge this clause, because I think it is the most dangerous power ever exercised in this Senate to give to any private individual the power to take land from individuals and pay them whatever they like.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They do not do that.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—If I were sure the project was for the general advantage of Canada, I might not object. But who knows whether it is or is not? Do you think these people have organized this company for the special benefit of Canada? Is it not for the benefit only of those who compose the company? Unless they can show that there

are good reasons why this scheme is for the benefit of the public in the immediate neighbourhood of the work, the power of expropriation should not be granted.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN (de Lanaudière)—The hon. gentleman from Kingston says that unless they can show it is for the general advantage of Canada, and in the public interest, this power should not be granted. They are not being granted the power asked for unless they can show to the satisfaction of the Minister of Railways and to the railway board that it is for the general advantage. They must have produced their plans of expropriation, due notice must have been served on the owners, and the owners can then be heard in opposition to the application. There is plenty of notice and plenty of recourse, and it is only after this company has made it absolutely certain to the satisfaction of the Minister of Railways and Canals, and of the railway board, that these rights are absolutely needed, and later all the parties are heard and after the plans have been deposited in the registry office of the county where they are doing the work, for 30 days, that the power will be granted. I think therefore, that the public interest is perfectly guarded.

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto)—We are perhaps getting a little away from the real issue. This charter gives great powers and privileges to a company of individuals who have joined together for their mutual profit. It is not a public enterprise being formed solely from philanthropic motives, nor is there evidence that there is any special demand for it, or any great outcry in the community for the granting of this charter. Those who are asking it are asking for the great privilege of creating power to be farmed out and sold by them and transmitted to distant parts. For that purpose they are proposing to use the waters of a public stream over which this Dominion has no control, but which is vested in the province of Ontario, which has a legislature of its own and which can deal with its rights if they are interfered with. We have heard of no application to the province; of no right conceded by the province. Power is asked for to pass over private lands, to divert the waters of the Grand river across a