

amongst others—were held over in the other House because they contained powers which authorized the parties incorporated to build railways in the Yukon country. This session no company has been chartered with power to build a railway in the Yukon country. One English company was incorporated last year which is building a railway from the coast to the Yukon, and one United States company was incorporated last year which selected a route which is impracticable, so at this time there is but one English company chartered to build a railway to the Yukon country. The United States company selected the Taku Inlet as the terminus, and they are doing nothing.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B. C.)—They are surveying there now.

Hon. Mr. POWER—This charter coming up to us at the close of the session was supposed to be a charter simply for an electric company, but in clause 8 it says they are authorized "to lay out, construct and operate single or double lines of electric railway or tramway, or both, and such lines may be worked by electric or any other motive power." Steam is another motive power, and the consequence is that these words which I propose to strike out allow this company to do what no other company has been allowed to do this year. The territory which is set out for this company in the beginning of clause 7 runs to the international boundary, and under this clause, unless it is amended the company could run a steam railway to the boundary and then connect with a railway in Alaska. In order that the action of parliament should be consistent, these words should be stricken out. That will leave the company all the manifold powers which they take under clause 7 and will leave them power to build and operate lines of railway to be operated by electricity, but will not allow them to construct a railway to be operated by steam.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—I cannot see what difference it can make whether they have steam or electricity. The other bills hung up in the lower House were lines running to the coast, but this does not.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—This applies to a road within a radius of fifty miles from Dawson City, clause 8 provides that:

The company may, in Dawson City and elsewhere in the Yukon district within a radius of fifty miles

from Dawson City, and also to form and along the Bonanza, Eldorado and Klondike Rivers, lay out, construct, and operate single or double lines of electric railway, or tramway, or both, and such lines may be worked by electric or any other motive power; or the company may aid in or subscribe towards the construction of any electric railways, or any tramways, constructed by any other company within the district and radius, or along the routes, above described.

It is in the interest of that country that we should favour every possible line of railway in the interior. Whatever argument there may be against lines connecting with the coast, it cannot apply to this. If there were no falls or rapids by which they could obtain the electric power, they would be precluded from building the railway all together if they were not allowed to use steam.

The amendment was declared lost on a division.

Hon. Mr. CLEMON moved the third reading of the bill.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not rise to oppose the third reading of the bill, but I wish to remark that if one has an objectionable measure, a judicious thing is to hold it back to the end of the session, and then you can get all the rules over-ridden and you will find the Senators prepared to pass almost any sort of measure just on the ground that they have not time to consider it.

Hon. Mr. CLEMON—This bill was before the other House several weeks, and it was no fault of its promoters that it did not come before us sooner.

The motion was agreed to and the bill was read the third time and passed.

THIRD READING.

Bill (118) "An Act to incorporate the Dawson City Electric Lighting and Tramway Company, Limited."—(Hon. Mr. Clemon.)

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

THIRD READING.

The Order of the Day being called:

Third reading Bill (71) "An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act" as amended.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—After considering the suggestion made by the hon. Minister of Justice, I think it will