

them will be found, both in language and in substance, a very close resemblance to the Act to "validate (sic) certain contracts entered into with the Hydro-Electric Commission, etc." The leader of a government that will introduce and force through such legislation may be relied upon in any emergency.

By these and other sections a supposed champion of public rights so protects the greatest monopoly in the province that he forever closes the doors of the court of justice to any one who may be wronged thereby. That the proposed scheme is in its operation a monopoly, and a very dangerous one, could easily be demonstrated; suffice it to say that under it competition is impossible, and competition is the only real safeguard against a monopoly, whether carried on by a so-called commission (but really a creature of the government of the day) or by a joint stock company.

The dropping out in the 6th section of the former requirement of an approval of the contracts by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is very suggestive. As is well known matters are discussed much more freely within the secret and sacred walls of the council chamber than they could be in public, where there must be an apparent oneness of thought if disaster is to be avoided. Some of the incidents connected with the passing of the third reading are also suggestive. An amendment to the principle of the bill was, by agreement, moved at that stage, instead of, as is usual, on the second reading. The amendment was shortly discussed by its proposer, but the Premier promptly rose and claimed that it was out of order for several reasons, and it was so declared by the speaker; consequently no vote was taken upon it. Whether or not it was out of order, or whether or not there was any breach of faith in thus summarily dismissing the amendment, or any informality which threw the opponents of the bill off their guard it is not our province to discuss, though they were spoken of at the time. But however that may be, the amendment was ruled out; and this fact may possibly be fortunate for some of those who might have felt bound to follow their leader in voting against the amendment (now on