

THE REAL MEANING OF THE POWER BILL

It Extends to Eastern Part of Ontario the Benefits of Cheap Power

THE OBJECTION RAISED BY THE OPPOSITION

Stubborn Opposition Offered by the Conservative Members

Ottawa, April 25.—In the bill passed by the house of commons at the close of last week, granting a charter to the St. Lawrence Power Transmission Company, the federal government extends to the eastern part of Ontario or what may be termed the St. Lawrence counties the benefits the western portion of the peninsula enjoys from the Ontario government's hydro-electric scheme, in the doing whereof, a somewhat anomalous situation was presented to the country.

The undertaking of the Ontario government to carry electric power to the inland centers by a system of transmission lines extending as far from the seat of power at Niagara Falls as electric power can be economically transmitted, will it is universally recognized, prove a distinct benefit to the peninsula. Yet when a scheme presented itself whereby the greater part if not the whole of the eastern section constituting the St. Lawrence counties might be permitted to enjoy similar benefits, the country was treated to the spectacle of those members of the house whose political catechism corresponds with that of the Ontario government, opposing the proposal and doing their utmost to defeat it.

The St. Lawrence Power Transmission bill was not a government measure, but as there appeared no likelihood of the Ontario government taking steps to extend to the eastern side of the province the advantages to be derived from a distribution of electrical current which it had accorded the west, as many points in the east stood in need of some arrangement of the kind and as provision had already been made for the generation of such power, the proposal of the transmission company appealed strongly to the members of the government individually and to the members of the Liberal majority in the house as well.

A charter had already been granted to a company to generate power, as limited, on the St. Lawrence river, but that company had no power or authority to carry its current into the interior by means of transmission lines. In consequence investment in a very large and very important semi-public utility was retarded and a section of country very much in need of electrical power was being denied the privileges of having it.

Therefore, as said, the proposal of the transmission company made an appeal to the majority party in the house. Singularly enough, as it struck many minds—they were probably minds that were not well regulated—the opposition lined up solidly against the proposition and this, in the face of the fact that the hydro-electric

HAIR GROWTH



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Despatch London, 27. Characterized by the fact that the measure was given the aspect of being a semi-public bill.

Relative to the paramount objection raised to the bill by the opposition, the members on the government side of the chamber took the ground that if the destruction of a very great natural beauty was involved as against a small or any ordinary utility, the enterprise would be the subordinate consideration, but to set up the preservation of the natural beauty of a bit of scenery, which though pleasing to the eye cannot be said to be extraordinary, as against a very large and highly important utility, one involving the interests of a large and important section of country they held, could not be justified on any ground.

This was a unanimity of sentiment with regard to the transmission company's bill manifested among Liberal members which gave to the various debates the semblance of the bill being a government measure while the opposition to it on the other side would have seemed to have indicated the same thing, although there was no occasion for division on party lines.

Assuredly it was an anomalous situation; the Liberal members on one side, championing a principle which a Conservative government had pronounced good, but which was opposed unanimously by Conservative members in the federal house. The circumstances afforded another striking contrast between the policies of the two parties as represented by the house membership, the one not being able to promote a policy notwithstanding it had its inception in the other, if found to be a good thing for the people while the other capable of opposing the extension of a large benefit to the country for seemingly no better purpose than to play at politics.

"Supping" With Caruso (An "Ex-Super" in Harper's Weekly.)

Back of the throne we waited with palpitating hearts for our "debut" in opera. Our attention was attracted by the entrance of the great Caruso, accompanied by his valet, carrying a towel, a glass of water, and an atomizer. Then he began to "soil up." He "honked" the rubber bulb on the atomizer, and sprayed his throat and nose repeatedly. Then, "E—eh," he snorted. "Ay—ah, w—e," as he tried his voice. After this a gargle. His attendant gave him a small vial, which he tucked away in his bosom. Surely, we thought, he must be ready now; his nose—mere gargle; then dipping his fingers into the glass of water, he moistened his nostrils.

"Now, gentlemen, ready!" "One—two—three," commanded the stage director, and we boosted Radame's chair with its precious load on to our shoulders.

Jim looked at me and I looked at Jim. It was appalling heavy, and we two were getting all the weight; some of the other "supes" were either under-sized, or were ducking under the burden; but we sallied forth, shaking and trembling in our lewes.

Caruso pounded on the floor of the chair with his staff, and we halted. The king then rose on his throne and sang a few words of welcome. Another tap of the staff and we brought the hero down, slowly, one—two—three. Again lifting the ponderous but now empty chair to our shoulders, we marched off the stage. Then grabbing Amosaro (Scott) by the arms we reentered, restraining him in his rush on to the stage.

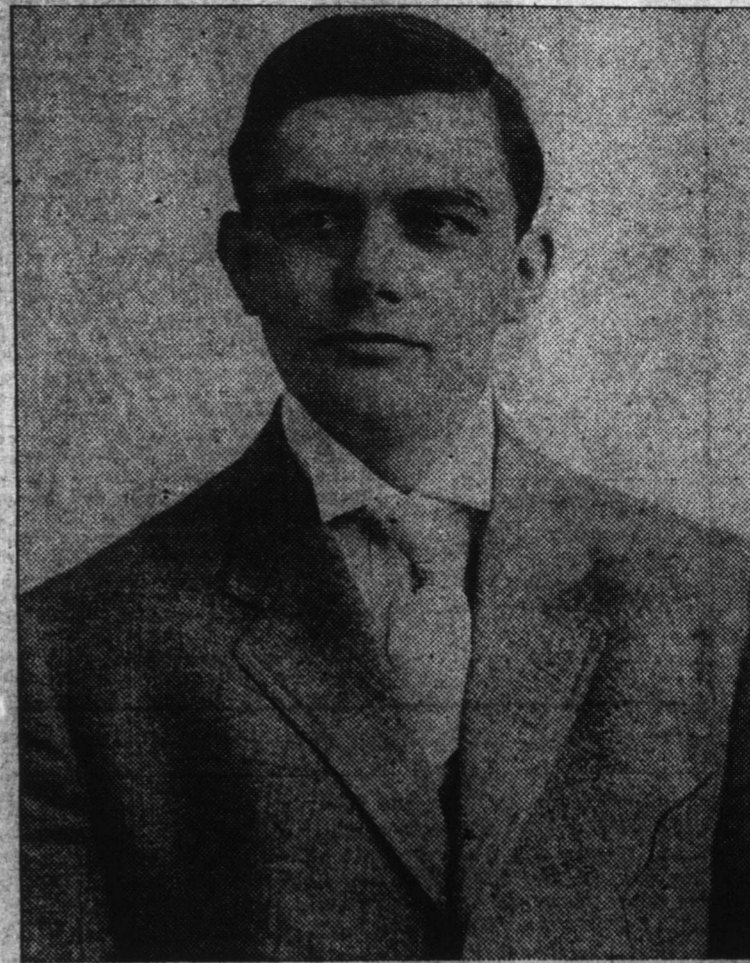
As often as I have heard Caruso in "Aida," I have never failed to see him

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"Oil up." Even while the act is in progress, and he turns in despair after having Amosaro thrust upon him as a wife, the tenor, in raising his hands to his head, takes from his bosom the little vial and swallows its contents surreptitiously—so fast as the audience is

concerned, though in full sight of the ballet and the "supers." Then, turning again, he is Radame, singing as fervently as ever. Sometimes, while standing thus, he made us laugh with his funny face of mock despair.

Brandon, Man., April 25.—Fifteen hundred telephone poles, the property of the Manitoba government, were destroyed by fire in the C. N. yards here this morning, and the loss will

be two thousand dollars or more. Someone started a prairie fire, and the blaze, fanned by a fierce wind, ran with great rapidity to where the poles were piled.

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