

them, and it was only after his death that the lands were sold. However, that is not the question. The question is as to the principle that this part of the great system of adornment of the capital city of Canada, should be interfered with, just in the same manner as selling the Niagara Falls. Some people are so entirely devoted to making money that they have an idea of giving the falls over to capitalists for the purpose of generating electricity, and in that way supplying factories with motive power.

I hope that this vandalism will never be consummated. It would be far better that the falls should be allowed to remain in their present condition as one of the greatest wonders of the world. The same principle is at stake in the attempt to destroy this beautiful park. I wonder if any other body of gentlemen or any other corporation had made application for this beautiful site for any commercial purpose if they would have obtained it? I regard it as a concession to a large and powerful railway corporation such as has never been granted to others. It will interfere with the beauty of a system of improvements which is tending to make Ottawa the Washington of the North, and interfere with the plans the Improvement Commission have in view for adorning the city. I have not seen their plans yet, but I presume they will lift the curtain some day and show us such a scene of beauty as we have never thought of. This is an occasion on which the Senate should give expression to their views, and should say whether a part of the public domain devoted to the purposes of the whole inhabitants not only of the capital but of the Dominion should be at the disposal of any one who puts down enough money to obtain it. I regret that my hon. friends here have not taken occasion to express their views, as they usually do with much eloquence on an important principle, and one which does not involve political feeling.

Hon. Mr. POWER—One or two points naturally strike one in connection with this matter. One is that if the handing over of this piece of Major's Hill Park to the Grand Trunk Railway Company is an outrage, how is it there has been no protest from the citizens of Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—There have been.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Where are they?

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—The city cannot protest here.

Hon. Mr. POWER—On the contrary, the city council, who are supposed to represent the citizens, have been most anxious that this business transaction should go through.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—All for the money part of it.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I am not saying why, but they are most anxious to have it consummated. That is one point; I fail to see that Ottawa is being wronged or outraged. The hon. gentleman from Smith's Falls (Hon. Mr. Frost) who is a member of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, has given the House his assurance that the hotel will be of such a character architecturally that it will not disfigure the landscape.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It will have to be transparent then.

Hon. Mr. POWER—We have been left under the impression that practically all the remainder of Major's Hill Park besides this small fraction of it that is being sold to the Grand Trunk Railway Company, will become a sort of backyard for the hotel, and I suppose the hated aliens who will put up at the hotel will disport themselves to the exclusion of the citizens of Ottawa, in the remainder of the park. One does not see as many of the citizens of Ottawa in the park as there should be; but if I were a citizen of Ottawa I should be, on the whole, rather pleased to see a number of respectable strangers enjoying the scenery and resting themselves there. I assume that the guests who will put up at this hotel, will be people of average respectability at any rate, such as you find in the Frontenac hotel in Quebec. If one had to look at the thing as a completely new question, and be guided simply by his own taste and judgment, he might have one opinion or the other about it, but under the circumstances, looking at the stage to which the matter has got, there is really nothing for us to do except to approve of the measure.