

agencies, containing a variety of recommendations by the Sub-committee. He moved that it be taken into consideration to-morrow. Carried.

OUR RIVER NAVIGATION.

The bill to enable Jas. K. Ward and others to place booms in the Channel between Isle St. Ignace and Isle du Pads, in the District of Richelieu, was reported from the Private Bills Committee without amendment.

Hon. Mr. GUEVREMONT moved it be read a third time.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST called the attention of the Government to the extraordinary demand of these people, not a Company either, for leave to create works to impede navigation to a certain extent, on one of the important channels of the St. Lawrence. These booms would prevent the passage of small craft. We should not concede such a privilege without exacting permission to all navigators to pass when they wanted. In this case we were asked to give up a public right for the benefit of a private interest.

Hon. Mr. OLIVIER said the inhabitants of the district, formerly opposed to this bill, had requested him not to impede it, as they wished for its object. The channel was navigable only by canoes and small scows, and used only by the inhabitants of the place. There was nothing in the bill to injure the public interest.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST replied that the farmers had changed their minds on the subject, because they anticipated the erection of saw-mills, and other advantages, if the bill passed; and other infractions of public rights would flow from this bill, including, perhaps the erection of a bridge (below the booms) across the channel, after it had been injured. If the booms were simply to secure timber, and not to obstruct the navigation, he would not object. As regards these applicants, it was only a question of cost. A little more expenditure would provide them with works not obnoxious on public grounds.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—What is the width of the channel there?

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST—Two or three hundred feet. The channel was a fine one for small craft. Suppose these people took only half of it, and left the other the deep part open to the public?

Hon. Mr. OLIVIER said this was one of the channels of the St. Lawrence, between these two islands.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—What is the

width of the other, or main channel of the St. Lawrence at that place?

Hon. Mr. GUEVREMONT—Between two and three miles.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said the question was not as if it was proposed to obstruct the river by its only or main avenue. The channel to be boomed was only four feet deep and 200 wide, so that the St. Lawrence navigation would not be obstructed. But the scheme or plan had to be submitted to the Governor-General, and approved by the Minister of Public Works, who would not sanction any measure likely to interfere with the navigation. The Ottawa was boomed in a number of places by joint stock companies. The booms were opened to let vessels pass. The booms in question might be worked to let vessels through, no doubt.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST—The bill did not provide for that.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL—Here the booms were across the whole Ottawa River, while those proposed would cross a channel of but 200 feet, beyond which was one a couple of miles in breadth. He saw no danger in this bill, particularly as the Minister of Public Works had to see it before anything was done.

Hon. Mr. SKEAD said there was this difference in the cases. The applicants for these booms would have the exclusive right to them, while every person could use the Ottawa on paying a toll. The same principle might be applied here, and the parties would get a percentage on their outlay. He disliked the bill in its present shape.

Hon. Mr. GUEVREMONT said there were errors in the bill which could be amended in committee, and other parties than the applicants might be allowed the use of the channel to be boomed. Nobody now used it, and this bill could not occasion any public inconvenience. A far better channel, ample for all public purposes existed to the other side of the Islands. He thought the bill should be sent to committee.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU said he had no special objection to the bill, but disapproved of granting exclusive privileges to any parties. This privilege might be granted, however, in condition that the navigation, on the public interest should thereby receive no injury. He pointed out possible inconveniences from interfering with the St. Lawrence navigation, including offence to the Americans, now at liberty to use it for trade.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL considered the Bill might be granted without danger.

Hon. Mr. ODELL thought there was a