

Blair, on behalf of the Government, and Sir Alexander Henderson, and his friends. But apparently Mr. Tarte had not then been informed of the amount of the guarantee asked by the London Bankers.

Indeed, so far as the Promoter of the Canal are concerned, they are doubtful whether Mr. Tarte ever correctly understood the offer made in London to Mr. Blair, and which was so unfortunately misrepresented by him to the Government in his Report of 5th September, 1901, to the Privy Council.

Mr. Tarte's
opposition
to the
Company's
Charter in
1902.

13. Seeing that no arrangement was possible with the Government in 1901, as to either a guarantee or subsidy, and the Company was busy making further detailed surveys, an application was made to Parliament in the Session 1901-2 for a further extension of time for the work.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Canadian Parliament had granted to the Canal Company and their British allies a Charter which included the right to build the section from the Georgian Bay to North Bay, the Government took advantage of the Company being compelled to ask for an extension of time to vary their Charter by excluding from its operation the French River Section, which Mr. Tarte stated only a few months previously was so important to the trade of Canada, and in his judgment should be built by a Public Company.

When the Company's Bill came before the House of Commons on 7th May, 1902, Mr. Tarte moved the insertion in the Charter of the following Clause :—

“ The Company shall not exercise its powers in respect of the Section from
“ Lake Nipissing to Georgian Bay, otherwise called the ‘ French
“ River Section ’ until and unless an order of the Governor in Council
“ is passed authorising the same.”

This is tantamount to saying “ You may build your house but you shall not have a front door unless we give you permission.”

Mr. Tarte apparently felt that the Government were doing an injustice to the Company and that some explanation was needed.

The following is an extract from Mr. Tarte's speech of 7th May, 1902, on the third reading of the Company's Bill :—

The Minister of Public Works, Mr. Tarte.

“ I might say that if we were not renewing a charter I would not vote for the Bill. I feel that in granting charters we should be very careful indeed, especially when we have to deal with the Rivers and Waterways. The French River and Lake Nipissing should no more be called a canal than I should be called the Pope or the King of England. The French River is essentially a navigable river, a deep waterway. Again, if Parliament had not granted the charter to people who have advertised that great waterway, I would not feel inclined to-day to grant this charter, but as Parliament many years