

rights, I have been wondering what he had in his mind. He told me that he thought that a Bill which he was going to introduce would accomplish the same purpose and perhaps in a better way. That is something like the language he employed. I have been waiting anxiously to learn just whether the measure which the hon. minister proposes would really accomplish what I want to accomplish. I wonder if he to-day can give us some more definite statement of what that Bill will contain so that I need not necessarily wait until the third reading to ascertain just whether the municipalities in which I am chiefly concerned are sufficiently protected without my moving the amendment again on the third reading which I proposed in committee. There is this point too and I assume that the government would give us some guarantee by which we could get over the difficulty, assuming that the Bill would go through committee without any amendment—and there is no amendment so far submitted—the Speaker would be in the chair on the third reading and he might take the technical objection to an amendment that there had been no change in committee. I think it is the ordinary practice that unless a Bill had been amended in committee we would have no opportunity to move an amendment on the third reading even if we had given notice. We do not know just what the Speaker would do, and although this Bill may be allowed to stand over for a third reading at some future time we must have some assurance that the technical point will not be taken against an amendment which might be moved on the third reading.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Go on with the Bill.

Mr. GRAHAM. Sections 1, 2 and 13 stood.

On section 13,

The company shall not sell, dispose of, or distribute electric power or energy within, or for use within, the limits of any city which owns and operates its own electric lighting or power plant without the consent of the council of such city.

Mr. SPROULE moved :

That section 13 be amended by inserting after the word 'consent' in the thirteenth line the words 'expressed by by-law.'

Where such consent is given it ought to be given by by-law.

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not think there is any objection to that.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. That is a very important clause. It is well known that the Ontario government have inaugurated a power policy and many of these towns and cities on the route of this railway have

Mr. HENDERSON.

already passed by-laws and are prepared to enter into arrangements with the Ontario government for supplying power. This clause may conflict with that policy, and if this clause is to apply only to municipalities already operating their own plants, it may happen that a town or village installing a plant say in five years' time, will be excluded from its protection. For instance, the city of Brantford is to-day paying great attention to the power question. We have a local company there and the city may, in the near future, decide to establish a municipal plant and why should it be subjected to this competition because it was not fortunate enough to be in the field as early as some other municipalities?

Mr. SPROULE. I do not think it would be; I think that the clause would apply say if Brantford established a plant next year and the following year this company undertook to supply electricity in that city. Brantford would then come under this clause.

Mr. GRAHAM. I would move that where the word 'city' occurs in lines 13 and 14, the word 'municipality' should be substituted.

Amendment to the amendment agreed to.

Mr. HENDERSON. When I spoke before I had reference only to clause 11 of the Bill; I simply wanted to make sure of an opportunity to move my amendment to clause 11. The difficulty, as I understand, has now been overcome as a change in the Bill has been made in the Committee of the Whole House and therefore any amendment can be moved on the third reading, after notice, and I have given notice. I hope the minister will be able to tell us whether he has provided a way out of the difficulty so that I will not be obliged to press that amendment.

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not wish to discuss a Bill before I have brought it down, but I think my hon. friend will not move his amendment if I get my Bill down before this one goes through.

Mr. HENDERSON. The government are so slow in bringing down their measures that we cannot tell what to do.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. member for South York (Mr. W F. Maclean) the other day pointed out that the different railway companies empowered to be amalgamated under this Bill have arrangements with several municipalities by which the passenger rate is limited to two cents a mile, and he thought and I think that under this Bill these roads may be allowed to charge what they like. The minister stated that if he would wait until the introduction of a Bill which he intended to bring down, that would be guarded against as he intended to