

ment gave that power. We are not in this Bill giving that extraordinary power. We are giving the right of expropriation, and a final tribunal will determine what the owner is to receive as compensation for the property which is taken from him. I cannot see any difference in principle, or for that matter, in a great many cases in practice, between the power of expropriation to a railway or giving it to a power company.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—Would the hon. gentleman give it to every private corporation?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I would give it to any company that is seeking a charter from this parliament, where it is of such a nature that the project cannot be successfully carried on without it.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—That has not been shown to us.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I am not acquainted with the locality in this case, but I assume it is similar to a good many other localities, and that a great many private interests will be affected, and one man owing a little strip of property, perhaps not worth \$100, might prevent the construction of a work which might give employment to hundreds of people, and which might supply power to electric railways and to factories all over the country. Is that right? Unless you have the right of expropriation, one man who might hold an interest not amounting to \$100, could block a very important project. That is why we give the power of expropriation. The object is not to take land at less than its value. The private interest has to yield to the public interest, and it will not be left in the power of any one man to prevent a useful public work from being carried on in the general interest of the public. My hon. friend from Russell started with the declaration that the whole Bill was wrong, because this work was situated entirely within the province of Ontario, and my hon. friend intended to refer it back on that ground.

Hon. Mr. EDWARDS—Allow me to correct the hon. gentleman. I said the streams involved from which this water is to be obtained are provincial streams, absolutely

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON.

within the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario, over which the Dominion has no control.

Hon. Mr. POWER—The Dominion has control over the canal.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I would not set up my view against that of a lawyer of standing on that point, but I am strongly of the opinion that if we grant this charter and give them this power, declaring the work to be for the general advantage of Canada, they can do anything they require to do; but if they have not that power they can go to the legislature of Ontario, as I have no doubt they will if necessary, and I have not the slightest doubt they will obtain there any powers necessary to supplement what we are giving here in order to carry on such a useful work as this is. I am quite convinced no parliament will refuse it because power companies are as essential for the progress of any country, just as railways are, and in other parts of the country irrigation is just as essential as either of them; therefore I have no hesitation in giving my assent to the Bill.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—Before the vote is taken, I desire to give my reasons for voting on this Bill.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Which way is the hon. gentleman going to vote?

Hon. Mr. WILSON—The hon. gentleman will find that out full well if he will wait a few minutes. I believe there is a principle involved in the Bill which we as members of this House ought to support. As far as clause 17 is concerned they may contend now that it comes entirely under the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario. If that is the case, why has not the principle advocated by the hon. gentleman from Russell been acted on continually? It appears to me that we frequently advocate principles just as it may suit the individual; that ought not to be. There is a reason for the passing of this Bill. We know that in Dunnville they have already a dam and water-power to a certain extent, by which grist mills are being run. If this was to arrest the water-power there, whereby it would flood the land and further interfere with the farming community along the stream above