

powers of the Dominion should get under the control of one company? Where would the people be? I think this is a clause deserving of some consideration from the House. I do not think we should provide machinery which would enable this company to absorb all the other water-power companies in the country. To my mind it is a backward step.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—I might call attention to the fact, that this is simply taken from the company's Act.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—That does not make any difference.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUÉ—The capital of the company is one million dollars; so that they cannot form a very big trust.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—I think there is a great deal of force in the amendment proposed by the hon. gentleman from Prince Albert. I do not care whether it is the Companies Act, or what Act it comes from, we are justified in fighting against combinations; and if this clause enables the company to bring together all companies possessing water-powers, and form one huge combination, I say it is legislation in the wrong direction. That is my candid opinion with regard to that clause. It is quite enough if we give this company the other powers mentioned in the Bill, without including the powers in clause 6. They can conduct their business very well without the provisions of this clause. If it is to be adopted, there should be a provision attached to it, that these consolidations of companies should receive the sanction of the Governor General in Council. They can come back if necessary for larger powers and they will get them. I want to know if there is any company in Canada that has come back to parliament for larger powers and has not received them. The proper way is to make that clause subject to the approval of the Governor General, if it is going to become law. I was opposed to that clause in the first place. I am opposed to every single enactment that will tend to bring about the consolidation of companies of this class, and create monopolies. In the United States, the people are bled to death by combinations, and we had better not lay the founda-

tion for such institutions getting a foothold in this country.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I do not think the effect has been to create combines in the past. If that were the case we should have had some evidence of it. I do not hesitate to say that there are over 500 companies incorporated every year in Canada with that clause in their Bill. It is invariably done.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—I do not care.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I never knew any mischief to arise from it.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—I do not think there is much force in the remarks of the hon. leader of this House. There might be 500 companies in that position, and still it might be wrong. We are legislating in the interests of the country, and if it be necessary to protect the interests of the public at large, this House has a right to do it. It does not matter whether previous legislation has granted certain concessions to other companies. We know that we have granted concessions to companies in the past, that are in combinations to-day. That is why we are objecting to such legislation at the present time. We would like to have these combinations done away with. It is necessary, as the hon. gentleman from Wellington has said, to consider carefully the combinations that may take place in the future. We do not want to grant to this company or any other company the right to gobble up the whole of the water-powers of the country, and later on when we need them for public utilities, or for manufacturing and other purposes, find that they are all in the hands of combinations and we are debarred from using them in a legitimate way. I say we should raise our voice in opposition to anything of this kind. My hon. friend who moved this amendment, deserves credit for having brought the matter before the House. If in Ontario to-day, the water-powers were all in the hands of combinations beyond the control of the legislature, I say it would be a serious matter for the province. It is no argument to say that there are five hundred other companies having certain rights and privileges. The question is, is it right they should