

Mr. AMES. (Translation.) I had a talk the other day with an engineer who seemed to understand the question thoroughly; he told me that in his opinion this was the best solution. I desire simply to ask the Minister of Public Works to take the suggestion into consideration.

I may state for the benefit of the minister that in conversation recently with an eminent engineer who is familiar with all the circumstances, he suggested that it would be possible to erect a dam near Lake Champlain so that the lake could be used as a reservoir, somewhat after the principle of the Assouan dam in Egypt, and the water could be permitted to go out more regularly throughout the season.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I would approach the construction of a dam at Lake Champlain with great hesitation, because of the great value of the property which would be flooded upon the shores of the lake by the erection of a dam. The damages would be simply enormous; and it would have to be an international dam also.

Mr. AMES. I did not mean a dam that would be high enough to flood the waters, but a dam that would prevent the lake from reaching the extreme low level in the summer, making of it a reservoir.

Mr. PUGSLEY. All along the shores of Lake Champlain the water is high in the spring, but it recedes in summer, and people cultivate the land upon the shores of the lake. But the moment you hold the water back to a high level, you flood all the land in the dry season when it is capable of being put under cultivation. We had a little experience of that in Lake Nipissing. We thought we could hold the water back at high level, and we found enormous claims coming in, even there; and we have been obliged to alter the plan and give vent to the water so as not to retain it at the high level.

Mr. AMES. In this case the root of the evil is a little further back than appears on the surface. In the early days when the Adirondacks and the Green Mountains were wooded, and before all the timber was off, the water came down gradually into the lake and went out gradually. Now that the timber has been cut off the result is heavy spring freshets that raise the lake and cause a large efflux of water.

Mr. DEMERS. If we were to construct a dam near Rouses Point, what would happen to the navigation between St. John and Rouses Point?

Mr. AMES. The idea this engineer expressed was that if a dam was constructed near Rouse's Point the movement of the

Mr. DEMERS.

water flowing out could be regulated during the summer so that the extreme low level would not be reached.

Some resolutions reported.

INSURANCE ACT—AMENDMENT.

Mr. FIELDING moved the second reading of Bill (No. 97) respecting insurance. He said: It was intimated when I introduced the Bill that we should send it quickly to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. I think the general disposition of the House is so to send it, with the understanding that no hon. member is committed to it in any respect, but that every one will have full opportunity for discussing it in committee.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, March 15, 1909.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

WESTERN CANADIAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

House in committee on Bill (No. 37) to incorporate the Western Canadian Life Assurance Company—Mr. Knowles.

On section 6—policy-holders and directors.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Is this in accordance with the Insurance Act?

Mr. FIELDING. A clause in this Bill provides that if in any respect its provisions are found to be at variance with those of the Insurance Act as finally passed, the general Act will prevail.

On section 11—Notice of annual meeting.

Mr. SPROULE. I think it would be well for us to fix a certain date before which the annual meeting should take place, so that the company could send in its returns to the government at the proper time. We have such a provision in all Railway Bills, and it seems to me we ought to have a similar one in Insurance Bills.

Mr. FIELDING. The returns must be made at certain dates, and the presumption is that the company will hold the annual meeting early enough to enable that to be done.

On section 15—Distribution of profits.

Mr. SPROULE. This Bill is a little more definite in regard to what is meant by pro-