

the House thinks we should protect the provinces in that manner, we should have a general Act, which would apply to every Bill passed through this House. I know there are a great many power Bills which have gone through the House with no such provision in them. The hon. gentleman from De Salaberry said that if the incorporators of this Bill found that any Act passed in the future by the provincial government of Ontario or of Quebec should interfere with their rights under this Bill—or in other words if it made their Bill useless—they could come back to us for redress. That is a very nice proposition. He acknowledges that such a thing is possible—that the provincial government may infringe the rights of the federal government by passing an Act which is going to interfere with an Act that we have passed, and that in order to protect themselves the promoters of this Bill would have to come back to this House for protection. I submit that if the promoters of this Bill have to come back to this chamber, it is just as well that they should go to the courts for protection. Under the British North America Act, there are certain things we cannot do. We cannot infringe on the rights of the provinces, nor can they infringe on our rights. If the rights of the provinces are infringed upon, they have their redress. If we interfere with their rights, as guaranteed under the constitution, they can go to the court. It is the proper place for them to go. I therefore think I must hold to my motion.

The House divided on the amendment, which was lost on the following division:

Yeas, 12; nays, 31.

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The Honourable Messrs

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Hon. Mr. DAVIS.

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The Honourable Messrs

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Gibson,	Yeo.—31.
Jaffray,	

Hon. Mr. DAVIS—I have given notice of a further amendment. I move that the said Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be amended by striking out clause 6 of the said Bill, which reads as follows:

6. The company may acquire and operate the works of any company having powers wholly or in part similar to the powers of the company; and may acquire the capital stock, bonds, rights, franchises, powers, privileges or properties of any such company; and may enter into agreements for an amalgamation with any such company, on such terms and conditions as are agreed upon, and subject to such restrictions as to the directors seem fit; provided that any such agreement has been first approved by two-thirds of the votes at a special general meeting of the shareholders duly called for the purpose of considering it, at which meeting shareholders representing at least two-thirds in value of the stock are present or represented by proxy.

This is the clause which provides for the combine. It provides that this company shall be allowed to buy stock upon the market, or to amalgamate or to absorb any other company in the same line of business. I submit that that is not a step in the right direction. In the United States they have had a lesson on combines, and are trying to get rid of them, and we are making it easy for people to form combinations. This is a power Bill, which gives this company the right to operate water powers all over Ontario and Quebec, which might be extended later to the other provinces. I wish to draw attention to the fact, that if we allow this Bill to pass, these people may be able to absorb every other water power in these two provinces, and extend their operations to other provinces. What would happen if the water-