

ought to be established, but there was no fault to be found with the Government in this matter.

The motion was carried.

LEASES OF WATER POWER ON RIDEAU CANAL.

Mr. JONES (South Leeds) moved an Address to His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR GENERAL for a statement of Leases of Water Power made by the Department of Public Works between the Dominion Dam at the Whitefish and Kingston Mills on the Rideau Canal, both inclusive. Date of Lease or Leases; Time such Lease or Leases expire; Quantity of power rented and approximate power used during past year, under each Lease; with copy of Reports and papers, if any, submitted by the Superintendent Engineer of the Rideau Canal during the past twelve months to the Department of Public Works on this subject. This motion, he said, related to an interference with private rights, which he would endeavor to explain. In 1866 he brought this matter under the notice of the then Minister of Public Works, and some action was taken on it in the way of making reservoirs for supplying the Rideau Canal* in low water. It had also been brought within the past few weeks to the notice of the Public Works Department but he did not know whether anything had been done in the matter. On reference to the office of the Superintendent of the Rideau Canal it would be found by the maps and plans there that there was a diversity of opinion among the Royal Engineers who built the western end of the canal, with regard to its outlet. One route was by the height of land and the Gananoque River through to the St. Lawrence; the other by the River Cataragui to the Bay of Kingston. It would be seen by the plans that locks were proposed to be placed at the Whitefish where the Dominion dam exists. The route by the way of Kingston was taken for the reason, he supposed, that it was the head of river and the foot of lake navigation and also for the reasons that it was a long distance from the American frontier and a well fortified place. In order to take that route it was necessary to place the dam at the Whitefish to divert the water from it and the Gananoque to the Cataragui River, so as to supply the Rideau Canal. Therefore, there was a diversion of the

natural outflow of the Gananoque and Whitefish by the building of this Dominion dam, thus interfering with important private interests in South Leeds. At that time it was not a matter of great importance because the country was not cleared up, and there was not so much use for the water, and therefore it was not brought under the notice of the Government at that time. But the Government not satisfied with diverting the water from its original channel, had also leased water powers on the Rideau Canal for the purpose of getting a few hundred dollars into their coffers. He did not object, though he might do so, to this, but he did object to their leasing the waters of the canal in such a way as to interfere with private rights. At Gananoque he believed the present Government were making some inquiries into the matter. At that town the manufacturing establishments gave employment to between five and six hundred persons, and were run with water power. On the Whitefish and Gananoque there were some 800 hands employed in mills and manufactories, while on the Cataragui there were only some fifteen men employed. In order to keep these men at work, the water supply was diverted from its natural channel, and 800 men were kept for months at work on half or three-quarter time. This was caused by leasing water to the extent of two or three hundred horse power where only twenty-five or thirty horse power was required. He hoped that the Government would see that these licenses when they expired were not renewed, or at any rate that no more water would be supplied than was actually paid for.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said the hon. member for South Leeds had no doubt brought the subject before the House in order to call attention to it. The truth was that when the canal was constructed there was an ample supply of water for the canal and the works on the stream down to Gananoque, but as the country got cleared up the sources of water supply failed, and now there was not sufficient water for both purposes. He had given directions that in every case the leases for saw-mills and factories requiring very large power in proportion to the number of hands employed be cancelled as soon as possible, and that the water power should be given, whenever it was to be given at

Mr. Davies.