

this agreement. Then we are told that there is only one running. The Soo mill has been running for many years and doing a very large business, and the Sturgeon Falls mill is also running. Then the Spanish River mill will be the next in order. The Spanish River concessionaires have expended a very large sum of money—\$750,000. Over eight months ago they had expended over half a million dollars on the plant and works and they have been steadily extending ever since.

Under the agreement, if there is more timber there than the plant can handle and any other company desires to erect another mill, and makes application, they will have the same opportunity to erect a mill. Do those Hon. gentlemen opposite who complain that these mills are not in operation the next day after the concessions are granted, realize what it means to complete, equip, and put in operation great plants such as these are. If they think for a moment they will not be surprised that it takes three or four years to successfully carry through—amid all the difficulties connected with the development of water-power—the erection of mills of this description. And when they think of the expenditure required, they will not be surprised that it takes time. I am glad indeed, that we have men in the Province such as those engaged in the operations on the Spanish River, men who are putting their capital into such enterprises. The Province owes a great deal to them. (App.)

#### Ontario's Immense Forest Reserves.

I now wish to ask the consideration of the House for a few moments to another feature which will have a very important bearing on budget debates in years to come in the Province of Ontario. I refer to our forest reserves. We might, perhaps, divide forestry into three important classes. First our permanent Crown forest reserves, which are set apart in the virgin timber areas that are unsuitable for agriculture and settlement. These are set apart, under certain conditions, for the purpose of producing a permanent revenue. Then, perhaps the second fea-

ture is the reforestation of areas which have been sold and under license and which have been cut over but are not suitable for agricultural purposes and have come back into the Crown. The reforestation of these areas with crops of pine will be of great advantage in years to come. Then there is a third feature, that of farm forestry, which, when inaugurated, will greatly benefit the farms of the older portion of the Province. This is a matter which more properly comes under the department of agriculture and I have no doubt that the Minister of Agriculture, in due time, will have something to say with regard to that matter. A few years ago we set apart the Temagami Forest Reserve comprising 2200 square miles and a couple of months ago we added 3700 miles more, making 5900 square miles now in this one reserve. Then, we have been working on another area, getting information, etc. for some little time past, and to-day by Order-in-Council, under the Forest Reserves Act we have set apart for the same purpose another large tract of territory to be known as the Mississauga River. We have, therefore, set apart as forest reserves no less than 9,000 square miles of virgin area on which the pine timber has not yet been sold. By this means the Crown will have the advantage of continual reforestation by the natural growth on these areas. Where we wish to clear the land for agriculture I do not know that any better plan has been devised for the disposition of pine timber than that which at present prevails in Ontario. Where agriculture is intended to follow it is necessary that timber should be cut clean, and in that way our present system works out very satisfactorily. But these areas set apart for reserves are lands which cannot be used for settlement, and on them the timber can be disposed of annually as the trees mature, allowing the timber that has not yet fully developed to remain until it is in proper shape for cutting to the best advantage. We are now considering the framing of regulations for the disposition of timber on these reserves. As there seems to be some misunderstanding I may ex-