

of this Act. Are we to understand that the government will make the plans and ask the company to choose a site?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—The hon. gentleman must remember this is a commercial enterprise to be gone into by companies which will get financial aid from the government. The business itself is an entirely private commercial business. The parties who will erect dry-docks in Canada, either stationary or floating, will erect those docks where they think they will have the best chance of getting business. That is the first principle. After having decided where to erect one, say for example, near the city of Quebec, they would come to the government, and say we propose to erect a dock of such a lifting capacity, or, if a stationary dock, of such cubic contents, and then the government might say to them: 'We are not obliged to make an agreement with everybody.' The government can use its discretion. If every firm in England that build docks were to apply, the government might say we need one in Montreal or Three Rivers or Quebec. And then the promoters of this enterprise would come to the government and say we propose to erect a dock, say at Lévis, and this is the kind of dock we propose to erect.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—All that has been said is absolutely correct. We all understand that, but it does not answer my question. It seems to me, even according to my hon. friend's statement, that a private company before preparing plans at great cost would have to know where to put the dock.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—The company selects the site.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—I understand that too.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—If it pays for the site, then it enters into an estimate of the cost. If the site is a gift from a province or town, it is deducted from the cost on which the subsidy is paid.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—Do the government prepare the plans before a site is found? If so, and the government should

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refuse to accept the site, it would put the company in a bad position.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Many plans have already been submitted to the government for dry-docks. It does not make much difference where floating docks are placed, but after a company decides to erect a dry-dock at a certain place, they would come to the government and say: 'We have a certain site for which we would like to have your approval.'

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—The estimate of the cost might depend very much on the site selected.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—For a floating dock?

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE—No, for a stationary dock. It seems to me the first step would be for the company to know where they were going to put the dry-dock, and then prepare the plans. In that case the government would compel them to accept their plans.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I would take it for granted that the first step any company would take would be to interview the government.

Hon. Mr. FORGET, from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment.

The Bill was then read the third time, and passed.

CITY OF OTTAWA IMPROVEMENT BILL FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

A message was received from the House of Commons with Bill (No. 230) An Act respecting the city of Ottawa.

The Bill was read the first time.

Rt. Hon. Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT moved the second reading of the Bill.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The Bill is not distributed, but it provides an annual grant of \$100,000 for making Ottawa the Washington of the North. This amount is to be paid quarterly to the commission, and there is a further contribution of \$15,000 to the city of Ottawa for fire protection.