

Hon. Mr. SCOTT said that this was the usual provision of late years in regard to international works.

Hon. Mr. RYAN observed that the Bill did not say in its preamble anything about the admission of aliens as directors, and was thus, he thought, at variance with this clause. His first objection was that this project had been given time enough. If it was a serious enterprise, or likely to be carried out, it had ample time to recommend itself to those likely or able to carry it out. He was quite hopeless of its being more successful within the next two years or five, than it had been within the last 25 or 30 years. His second and principal ground of objection however, was that this canal belonged to our great system of public works, and if required should be constructed under the responsibility and control of the Government.

Hon. Mr. GIRARD said that after looking at the Bill he thought it was objectionable to give aliens such power in regard to Canadian enterprises. He had no objection to aliens coming into the country and identifying themselves with such enterprises, but in a work of this kind British subjects should be a majority on the Board. He saw by the last clause that it would be sufficient if but three of them were on the Board, which was bad in principle, as the majority of them should be British.

Hon. Mr. PENNY said there were gentlemen in the House, who knew more about this subject than he did, one of whom had had charge of the Bill before now. As this Bill, if nothing had been done, though it was so long before the public, must have been a very innocent bantling. (Laughter.) If he was not mistaken, he thought there was a clause in it, enabling the Government to take charge of the canal scheme, whenever they pleased. He thought all parties concerned would be willing to have the Government take it up. [Hear, hear and laughter.]

Hon. Mr. RYAN—I dare say, as it would save a bill of expense.

Hon. Mr. PENNY said that if Government would not undertake this work it would be well to allow private persons to do so. All parties agreed that it would be a very valuable improvement, and especially to all the interests of Ottawa. They appreciated the importance of the widest water communication in all directions. A city to be great required not only easy means of getting at it, but of going away from it, for purposes of trade and travel. This project was intended to

connect the Ottawa and St. Lawrence with Lake Champlain and the towns and cities of the State of New York, by which the lumber trade of Ottawa would be greatly benefitted. This canal would give a straight cut to New York and other States, without a round about trip by Sorel and the Richelieu.

Hon. Mr. RYAN was understood to say that he did not deny the value of such a canal, but that if it were at all to be undertaken, it should be by the Government on their own responsibility. Government should judge whether it was a work likely to be useful to the country, and if so they should take it under their control. He thought it ought to be part of their canal system.

Hon. Mr. SKEAD admitted that there was some foundation for the remarks of the Senator for Montreal (Mr. Ryan) as to his promise under certain circumstances not to ask for this Bill again, consequently he had not solicited an extension of the time, but he did not say he would under no circumstances promote the demand, because no public improvement would be of so much benefit to the Ottawa section as the Caughnawaga Canal. It would greatly serve the prairie country and the western part of Ontario also, affording to their produce a short route to the Eastern States. They had no trouble in getting up a large subscription list, millions having been raised on the other side of the line, and U. S. municipalities had also been desirous of contributing to this work. As the chief promoter was a friend of the present Government, he thought it would be well that they should try and make the Government undertake this improvement. In order to attain such a result, he thought it best to leave the bill in the hands of the hon. gentleman from Montreal (Mr. Penny), who was also a friend of this Government. He thought that gentleman could urge the bill with more chance of success. (Hear, hear, and a laugh.) The canal might be made for two and a half millions, and if the Government undertook the work, he would vote for it, should it be the only vote he would give the Ministry this session. (Laughter.)

The Bill was read a second time and referred to the Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways.

On the motion of the Hon. Mr. SCOTT, the House adjourned at 10 p.m., until Tuesday at 3 o'clock.