

the affidavits, and so far as I can judge from the information I have had—and I purpose to give some of this information to the House and to correct the Honorable Minister of Power for mis-statements—I say, and say emphatically, that the farmers along the transmission line have not been dealt with fairly or honorably; nay, Sir, not even decently. (Applause). There is no reason under the sun why the Honorable the Minister of Power or the Commission should not have sent out one or two or three competent men who would be able to value those easements according to the width and frontage of the farm and the number of towers to be erected, the number of trees to be cut, the hedges spoiled, etc., and taking all the circumstances into consideration, these competent men should not pursue a system of dickering and brow-beating by offering \$200 and ending up by giving \$1,200 or \$1,500. Sir, I say that competent men should have gone on to these farms, gone over the ground, estimated very closely what the easements were worth, and then told the owner of the farm where they intended to run the line and the particular nature of the easement they required, and to have stated frankly and to have allowed him a fair and adequate allowance for that easement, and that if he was not satisfied with what they allowed in a dignified and fair way, to simply tell him there must be arbitration and let the matter proceed to arbitration, and let there be no dickering and brow-beating and bulldozing. (Applause). The Commission acting for the Province, nominally representing the Province, ought to have acted in a way worthy of the Province. It is really the Province of Ontario that is acting—it does not matter whether they are agents or not—it is the Province of Ontario that is acting just the same, and it ought to act in a manly, straightforward, equitable way worthy of the Province, and should not have pursued the brow-beating system that has been pursued. (Applause).

Now, Sir, let us consider what they have done. The Honorable Minister of Power read us out seven names and said that there were seven arbitrations, and I am bound to say, Sir, that if you took his statement just as he gave it, and if his statement on the floor of this House was what actually happened, we would not have much cause of complaint. But, Sir, what he says and what actually happened are absolutely and entirely different things. (Applause). Take the case of Wesley Smith, which he refers to. The Honorable the Minister of Power tells us that there was an arbitration with reference to his easement; that he wanted \$1,200 and the Commission offered him \$600, and as a result of the arbitration he got \$520. Now, Sir, I stand here and say that the Minister of Power's statement is not in accordance with the facts. There is a good deal in his statement entirely left out and there is part of his statement that is absolutely untrue. (Applause). Wesley Smith lives on Lot 12, Concession 2, Township of Glanford, in the County of Wentworth, and he is prepared to substantiate what I say. He was first offered \$25 for each tower, \$66 for the trees cut down, and \$114 for the right of passing to and fro across his lands, in all but \$355. One would gather, Sir, from the Honorable Minister's statement that he was first offered \$600. This is not true. The first offer was but \$355. Now, Sir, take this method of dickering in connection with my criticism, and I am willing to be judged by this House. My proposition is, Sir, that a competent man ought to be able to go along that line and tell within \$100, or \$200 at the most, what would be fair and right—they ought at the very outset to have offered the farmer what was fair and right. I repeat, Sir, my former argument; the Province of Ontario is only the agent after all, and, acting as agent for the municipalities, it ought not to be unjust to any farmer for the benefit of any town or city in the Province of Ontario. Neither, Sir, should the valuers go beyond a fair value, because they are acting as Trustees between the farmers and the city or town municipalities interested in this scheme. They ought, at the very outset, to offer the farmer what is fair and right. Take, Sir, this particular case that the Honorable Minister quoted, of Wesley Smith; let us follow it up. First of all, I repeat they offer him \$355. Later on, when the parties are about to sign a submission to arbitration—which submission was signed on the 17th August, 1909—and just before they signed it they raised their offer to \$600. (Applause). Still, Sir, Mr. Smith declined to accept it and the arbitration proceeds. The Honorable the Minister of Power says the arbitrators allowed him only \$520, and I tell the Honorable the Minister of Power now and here across the floor of this House that his statement is absolutely incorrect. (Applause). I have the authority of Mr. Gage, the Warden of the County of Wentworth, the sole arbitrator, and who says the award was not \$520, but \$850. (Applause). I take this very case, Sir, which he gives and which he attempted to make much of, and which shows the Honorable the Minister of Power in a light which is anything but