

mere option. There are in the bill itself three or four points that I fear are weak and which I do not think the people of either town, if they understood them, would agree to. In the first place, they have to pay a flat rate of fifteen dollars per horse power for forty years—I think that is a long period at that rate, and it is not a cheap rate. Then, they are exempt from all taxes except school taxes for forty years—a pretty long time, too; but the most objectionable feature is that it provides that they have exclusive right for the sale of electricity in the Town of Fort William for forty years. There are several water powers on this river nearly as important as this water power, and there is no reason why the Town of Fort William should be made a closed box. I fear in the drafting of this agreement the lawyers have gone astray. I know the good disposition of the Mayor of Fort William, his energy and desire to promote the interests of his people in every way, but I assume these matters have escaped his notice.

Mr. Pattullo, M. P. P.. I desire not to discuss the bill. I judge from your suggestion, Mr. Chairman, that you wish to see the matter pressed to a conclusion. I took considerable interest in this question when it was up before, and I felt then and I have always felt since that this committee of the legislature did Mr. Jenison an injustice before. I shall not press this bill upon you to remedy an injustice, but the recollection of it ought to lead us to consider very carefully the proposals from that quarter now. I am going to support the bill because I see the two towns are united upon it; they know their local interests there. I have had occasion sometimes to criticize or judge the wisdom of proposals that have come, but at any rate I think it is safe to assume that these two towns know their own interests, and for that reason I support it.

The bill was then put to a vote, and on the yeas and nays being taken it was declared lost.

I certify the foregoing twenty-one pages to be a correct report of the discussion upon this bill (No. 96) before the Private Bills Committee of the Ontario Legislature, Toronto, May 27th, 1903.

ERNEST NIELD,

C. S. R. Official Reporter.