

over the use of the waters of Niagara river, above and below the Falls of Niagara at points where it is contemplated to take water from the river for power for commercial purposes. This opinion, along with other related documents, was made public a few weeks ago in a committee report of the United States Senate, and as throwing an interesting and reliable light upon the probable outcome of the agitation, the following excerpt may be quoted:

Whatever jurisdiction the state of New York has over the waters of the river and their use is subject and subordinate to the power of the national government in two respects:

First. With respect to navigation, as to which the laws of Congress are supreme.

Second. As to the subject of boundary between this nation and Canada, in respect to which the United States and Great Britain have the right, by treaty stipulation, to impose such conditions and regulations upon the use of the river and its waters as they deem mutually proper. A treaty duly negotiated between these two powers and ratified by the Senate of the United States would be the supreme law of the land, and if in such treaty it were provided that no such use of the waters as is contemplated should be hereafter made and this regulation were enforced by Act of Congress, the treaty and the legislation would be valid, the rights of the state of New York and all private riparian owners to the contrary notwithstanding.

That article therefore goes to show that if the United States and Great Britain, by treaty, determine that no further water shall be drawn from the Niagara river, the state of New York, the province of Ontario, or this Dominion government, have no control whatever over that water and that would mean that if that treaty should be ratified by the congress of the United States, the river practically as far as we are concerned, as a commercial proposition, would be entirely taken out of our hands. That being the case it appears to me that it becomes a very serious proposition for the province of Ontario that is now spending a good deal of money there and has got its eye upon that water-power with a view of furnishing motive power to all the industries, traction companies and railways in that section of the country. Having dealt thus briefly with the question of jurisdiction over the Niagara river, I want to submit just a few facts in regard to Niagara as a power proposition. A computation of the value of Niagara river as a power proposition has been made by Professor Fessenden who is at present a resident of Washington, but a former Canadian, and who was the expert employed by the municipal power commission to collect all the available data in regard to the transmission of electricity and also to criticise the report of Messrs. Ross and Holgate, of Montreal, who did the hydraulic and electrical work for the commission and upon whose figures all the recommendations of the commission have been based. I may say that I believe that the firm that were engaged upon these

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engineering enterprises occupy a place in the front rank of Canadian engineers, that the figures have been gone into with great care and can be looked upon as authentic and reliable as far as figures can possibly be. The actuarial end of it has been looked after by a gentleman in Toronto, named Mr. John McKay, who is also as eminent in his profession as are Messrs. Ross and Holgate who had charge of the engineering. Therefore, I think, I am quite justified in saying that the figures contained in this report are as authentic and reliable as any that have ever been collected by any body of men in this country in regard to Niagara as a power proposition. Professor Fessenden has given the value of the Niagara river simply as a power proposition and without any regard to its scenic effects. We all recognize that the beauties of Niagara are great and that they should be preserved to a very large extent not only for this present generation but for all time to come. But, the question arises: Is it proper for this country and particularly for the province of Ontario to allow such a vast amount of energy to be running to waste day after day and year after year as it has been running to waste for centuries? The great basis of industry to-day is cheap power. Niagara is at our door and it is there to furnish us with cheap power. We have no coal in that district, our wood is also gone, we have nothing with which to produce power but imported coal, and I say that this white coal which Niagara is furnishing to the citizens of Ontario is a valuable asset that we are justified in husbanding and utilizing in so far as our railways and industries require it. Professor Fessenden has given us a few figures in regard to the value of Niagara river. I believe they have been prepared with great care and they are perfectly astounding when we look over them and see the value in dollars and cents that is represented by this great water-power. I will read briefly, because this statement gives much more concisely than any words of mine could, what Professor Fessenden estimates the value of Niagara river at as a commercial enterprise; that is for the generation of power to be employed in manufacturing enterprises and for other utilities in Ontario.

A source of water-power is valuable to a country, both directly and indirectly. Directly, in the actual cheapening of the cost of power. For example, if a manufacturer pays a thousand dollars yearly for coal, labour, rent and insurance produced by steam the power he needs, and he can develop a water-power which will give him the same amount for \$250 a year, the hydraulic plant is worth to him \$750 a year. Indirectly, if the manufacturer finds that his operations are conducted more efficiently, that his yearly output is larger, that he can deliver his goods to market cheaper, that the ability to obtain cheap power has led other manufacturers from whom he purchases sup-