

traffic and commerce of the two nations, but now, with the march of time and the progress of invention and the growth of our economy, these facilities have become out-moded and they are no longer adequate to carry the ships which it is desired to move through them in the service of our expanding industry even in peace; and certainly these navigational facilities have been proved, by the most careful analysis, not to have the capacity to measure up to the requirements which are necessary for defence in the very anxious times and uncertain conditions through which we pass. Similarly, as regards power, there have been substantial developments. At the rapids and falls on both the Canadian and United States sides of the great waterways of the St. Lawrence system there have been created hydro-electric plants for the generation of power; these represent a very great continuing value, particularly on the Canadian side where the developments are being pressed forward in Quebec and continue to be pressed in the International Section by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to the very limit of what is permitted by international agreement. Nevertheless, as matters stand, not more than perhaps a third of the power potentially available from the falling waters on the St. Lawrence including the Canadian Section is being used. Some of these developments we can make ourselves at our own convenience, but in most cases international considerations are involved, and so, in respect to navigation and in respect also to power, there are projects of immense importance which need to be freed from the existing international inhibitions so that they can be undertaken at the earliest practicable date and carried out for the benefit and welfare of the peoples both of Canada and of the United States.

So also, in such matters as the stoppage of the pollution of these waters by sewage and by the discharge of the wastes of chemical and other industries, in the conservation of their scenic beauty and in their use for recreational purposes, there are many problems of great concern both to Canada and to the United States that call urgently for solution.

In the considerations that must be taken into account in working forward to the solution of these many and varied and complex problems so that benefit and satisfaction may come to the people of Canada - and more especially to the people who live in the region -, we are never at liberty to forget that there is always another group of people, usually more numerous than ourselves, who have a like interest and equal right with us in the outcome. In fact, no solution for any major question arising in the use of boundary waters is possible except by agreement which respects the rights and interests of our neighbours; and certainly we have learned by long experience, which on occasion has been very painful, that progress with these matters only becomes possible when the views currently held on either side of the boundary and the wishes of the two peoples have come into full accord and have found expression in a unified purpose preferably by Parliament and Congress.

Whether this takes the technical form of a treaty or of an agreement duly ratified or merely of an understanding, informal or otherwise, by which the matter may proceed without objection by either side, does not seem to matter very much, because once great works have been created in agreement, however arrived at, we