

development commercial equivalent for the power produced.

The question before us now is not the maintenance of present conditions of navigation, but how can these conditions be improved, and they must be improved if we are to secure to the Port of Montreal what nature has given us.

The minimum amount of power that may be developed on the St. Lawrence River between Lake Ontario and Montreal, is the vast amount of 3,500,000 horse power. The absorption of this amount of power will be very gradual. It is not now commercially possible to utilize this amount of power, but we do not know what the future demands will be.

Is it not common-sense to think about this, and to provide for the future as broadly as we can? What I would urge is that a careful study of this whole subject be made now, so that a definite policy may be adopted in order to get the greatest efficiency out of what nature has given us. This study devolves primarily upon the Government of Canada, and I would urge that such a study of the river's possibilities should be made, and a comprehensive report be submitted before any commitments be made by Canada for the damming of the St. Lawrence River at any points on it, or the carrying out of any other great scheme of canal transportation.

Let us first decide by logical deduction from definite data what scheme is better than the other, and then carry out that scheme in the most efficient way possible.