

*Prairie Transmission Lines*

If on the other hand this cheap heat and power is to be diverted and sent across the border, then all these small towns of the northwest states, where they produce fruits and vegetables which compete with fruits and vegetables produced in British Columbia, are apt to flood the Vancouver market with these products to the detriment of the tomato growers, particularly, not only in the interior but on the gulf islands, that archipelago which lies between Vancouver and Vancouver island. There many returned veterans have gone into the production of tomatoes, and they look to Vancouver for a market. They will be deprived of an opportunity of selling their seconds and their dessert grades in that market at this season of the year, because it will be glutted with tomatoes grown in Washington and Oregon. Are we going to give these competitors of our fruit growers an added advantage by diverting Canada's gas to the northwest states, so that they will have an even cheaper type of fuel than they have at the present time? Surely we should first consider our Canadian horticulturists; surely we should take advantage of this opportunity to give our small towns and villages throughout British Columbia this economical heat, before we consider the advantages that will accrue to similar towns in the United States if this pipe line goes in that direction.

I do feel that it is important for many reasons that we should encourage the location of industry in British Columbia towns. It is quite obvious at the moment that the flood of immigrants to British Columbia from other parts of Canada and from the old land is being concentrated in the metropolitan area of Vancouver. Anything we can do to have those newcomers move into the smaller villages, say up the Fraser valley, will benefit the economy of that province. Many small industries could be developed. One of these is pottery, for which clay is available at Clayburn in Sumas valley and which could be developed if the necessary power and heat were provided.

Then I remember vividly what was taking place at this time last year on Vancouver island. Due to an exceptionally bad winter and due to the loss of British markets for our forest products, many thousands of men were out of employment. According to the official returns there is more unemployment in British Columbia today than there was a year ago, and there is no likelihood that those camps will be kept open all winter. So hundreds of men who are accustomed to working in the mills and in the forest camps will find themselves out of employment, and will be looking to this government to provide them with something to do. The government is fond

of referring to a number of projects which are being delayed until there is general unemployment, when certain works will be undertaken. It seems to me that if this pipe line could be diverted and made an all-Canadian line, running through British Columbia, it would be of immense value not only in the future but immediately, during this very winter, in providing employment for men who otherwise are going to be out of work.

It is not merely the question of a pipe line. One is apt to think that only involves digging a hole in the ground and laying the pipe. This is not drain pipe; it is big pipe, 24 or 26 inches in diameter. A big construction project is involved, not only in laying the pipe but in surveying, cutting through the forests and developing roads over which heavy transports can carry this pipe, which must be placed at a sufficient depth so it will not be harmed by any frosts which may occur in the mountains.

From time to time we have been considering the possibility of building a trans-Canada highway. We want more than one route across Canada. From the remarks that have been made it is quite obvious that several routes are required through British Columbia; and there is no reason why a road originally built for the construction and maintenance of this pipe line should not be developed by the province into an alternative route which would feed various portions of that province from Alberta to the prairie country. Let us say the trans-Canada highway were to follow what is sometimes called the southern route, going from Calgary and Banff to Golden and Revelstoke, and so on. Might it not be possible that this pipe line, tapping the northern Alberta fields, could be run down the Blue river or the Canoe river, on down to the Thompson and so on, feeding an entirely different part of British Columbia?

For these reasons, and because of my firm belief that this Alberta natural gas can provide heating and cooking facilities for innumerable homesteads, villages and towns throughout the province of British Columbia, and also may be used to start new industries, I feel it is important that this line should be routed through British Columbia. In order to ensure that this is done, these bills should be so amended as to include definite instructions that this is to be an all-Canadian line.

As far as the immediate future is concerned, I feel that something must be done this winter. We must be warned now that there is going to be unemployment in British Columbia; that thousands of people will move to British Columbia this winter from other