

to the public commensurate with the value of the water-power taken. I think that would meet a good many objections to the Bill.

There are two or three other things which might just as well be fixed up while I am at it. I think the Board of Directors, or at least the majority of them, should be Canadians or naturalized Canadians. Although it is settled, I would suggest that a clause be incorporated in the Charter which would prohibit the exportation from the Dominion of Canada of any hydraulic or electric or other kinds of power developed in connection with, or for the purpose of, the works, to any other country outside of Canada. I do not know that that is necessary, because they could not export power without a further license, which of course, would not be given.

In addition to those amendments, there are certain things which you will take up in detail in connection with the Bill. There is the ambiguity as to the duty of the company in preparing their plans for approval, and the duty of the Department of Railways and Canals in connection with the approval of these plans. This should be cleared up so that there will be a regular order, and a specific method to be followed in preparing these plans, and acquiring the approval of the Department.

We will now take up the contentious features of it, and the general atmosphere surrounding it. As a matter of fact, the power business in the Dominion of Canada has been a profitable business; in my opinion, it has been altogether too profitable. Under provincial charters large water-powers have been granted to private companies; that is, in the province of Quebec, they have been to private companies, and in the province of Manitoba they have been to public commissions. Great water-powers have been granted in return for very small rentals, with the result that the power business has become the most profitable business there is in America. Companies have been given the opportunity to develop great water-powers, and are asked to pay the province a small rental per horse-power per year in exchange for the power privileges, which are very profitable, and great companies have been developed. In the province of Quebec there is a combination of power companies, pulp and paper companies, etc., which, in my opinion, have attained far too much size, and they have been so profitable that it has given rise to this great ascendancy which they have enjoyed. But the members of this committee of the House of Commons should simply consider the main facts when dealing with this question of power.

With regard to the Ottawa River; you have the first opportunity that Canada has had for some time to get more for your water-power than was ever received before. I have read a great deal of these reports about waste, and about stealing water-power, and so on, but let me submit there are three facts in connection with it. I have always thought that the water-power on the navigable rivers, after navigation and canalization had been completed, was at the exclusive disposal of the Federal authorities. That has been my opinion. We heard the Minister of Justice make his speech the other night, in which he confirmed that view, or rather, gave the legal proof of that view. I might say that my opinion of the framers of our Constitution, and of our early lawyers, went up a great deal when I saw that they fixed it in the British North America Act so that we could have this power of the Ottawa River. That was clearly settled by the Minister of Justice that night, that water-power, after it had been developed, incidental to the improvement of navigation, was at the exclusive disposal of the Federal authorities. That means this; that this committee, after it has made its recommendation to the House, depending on how they act upon that recommendation, can dispose of the water-power of the Ottawa River without contest from any other authority whatever. That part of it is dealing with the facts.

Now, with regard to what—