

limits of the Province of Ontario, and, amongst other incidental powers, conferred the right to take and hold land, lakes and water powers in Ontario, and also in the county of Ottawa, in the Province of Quebec. The City of Hull is not mentioned, although it is intended that the water mains shall be carried through that city, and probably water disposed of there. Subsequently a special Act was passed by the Dominion Parliament, which I need not examine; and the Municipal Council of Ottawa is endeavouring to obtain legislation in the Province of Quebec and to make arrangements with the City of Hull.

In October last, Sir Alexander R. Binnie, having taken into consideration and estimated the cost of various waterworks schemes, reported in favour of obtaining a water supply from Thirty-one Mile Lake, Pemichangaw Lake, and Long Lake, in the Province of Quebec, and that the undertaking would cost \$7,985,200. The Mayor of Ottawa thereupon transmitted the report, and a great number of other estimates, reports, and proceedings relating to a waterworks system for Ottawa, to the city council, and strongly recommended the adoption of the Binnie report and the prompt carrying on of the work on these lines. Amongst other things, the Mayor's report stated: "The estimated cost of the whole proposition, including the acquisition of the lakes, land, and watershed of 150 square miles, right of way, etc., is \$7,985,200, say \$8,000,000. . . . Under the special Act obtained at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, fifty-year debentures can be issued for the scheme. The annual interest and sinking fund on \$8,000,000 is \$412,000, as per the letter of the City Treasurer attached. To this is to be added \$15,000 per annum for maintenance, making a total annual expenditure of \$427,000."

At a special meeting of the council holden on the 17th October, 1913, called for the sole purpose of considering the Binnie report and waterworks question, the report of Sir Alexander R. Binnie was approved and adopted, and thereupon, following and based upon this report and the matters reported by the Mayor, and on the same day—whether at the same meeting or not I do not know—the by-law in question, authorising the construction of these works, was introduced, read a first, second, and third time, and passed by a two-thirds vote of the council.

This by-law is moved against, and a great many reasons are pointed out why it should be quashed: but, although many of these objections may be well taken, I still think, as I thought upon the argument, that the broad outstanding question, and