

to get the water through in the winter-time. That proposal was not supported in the commission by the local authorities.

I think everybody recognizes there are developing needs in Manitoba and there will come a time when more waters will be required in Manitoba. The consequence of that is that the proposals which we have made to the government and which have now been approved are in the nature of interim proposals. The matter is still before the commission and if Manitoba makes representations which will establish the uses, the matter can be very easily taken up again. Of course, the procedure requires consent on both sides, but we have reached the point in the discussions that, generally speaking, although perhaps not specifically in this instance, the needs for human consumption and stock watering have been placed in a high priority. I do not have any doubt whatever that our colleagues on the commission would entertain a proposal on that basis.

Mr. DINSDALE: I presume that the Manitoba government is presenting the issue rather strongly in view of the problem which occurred there last winter?

General McNAUGHTON: Yes. As I recall it, there was very little coming out of the Souris, and there was not enough water in the dam on the Souris at that time. Remedial measures were taken to sandbag the dam and to provide a little more head, so that the intake pipes and so on would be covered and pumping could go on. Additional water was arranged to be let down. We got it from North Dakota, I understand, through the courtesy of the wildlife service, and it was a temporary solution pending the agreement for an increase in the height of the particular dam. At any rate, in recent months we have had no representations that the situation had not been met.

Mr. DINSDALE: Is it contemplated that the proposed diversion on the Souris river to the Pembina region would increase the flow across the border?

General McNAUGHTON: It would very materially increase the flow of the Souris. The proposal which is under consideration is to use that channel of the Souris to transfer water into the Pembina. There has been no suggestion yet, or no demand as yet, from either side that this would constitute the water supply of the region although that might be arranged if desired, because there would be additional water.

One thing you must bear in mind is that we must be very careful about any arrangement which we make. The water which will reach that channel is water which would already have been used for the irrigation of regions in the Souris loop. There is a lot of alkali in that region and of course the water will leach out that alkali and it will acquire a considerable salt content. That is one of the things we must be very careful about before we consent to the use of that channel for the movement of water, because it might have an effect on the usability of the water for domestic and stock watering purposes.

I cannot give you information on that as yet, Mr. Dinsdale, because the matter is now under study by our engineering board out there. But in my talk with the officers concerned I learned that all these various questions are being taken into consideration and assessed.

Mr. DINSDALE: It would appear that there would be no action to implement this proposed scheme for some time and that negotiation would occupy a considerable period of time and discussion.

General McNAUGHTON: In talking with the chairman of the Canadian section of the board, I understand that studies are being pressed ahead, and that they hope that at the commission's meeting in Washington in April we will have at least a progress report which will outline the possibilities and practicabilities of this situation to us. I beg your pardon: I should have said at a meeting in Ottawa in October this year.