

*Atlantic Provinces Power Development*

Where Newfoundland needs assistance is in the matter of transmission, and that is where this government is giving assistance to Newfoundland.

The other day the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Stuart) complained because Grand falls in New Brunswick was developing power for private concerns. I might point out to the house that in Newfoundland about 95 per cent of the power produced is produced by private companies. Those private companies are willing to develop electric power from the rivers, and so on. One thing they do object to is the building of transmission lines, and that is what the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Hamilton) provides for in this bill.

The hon. member who just spoke said that the bill is discriminatory as far as other provinces are concerned. Again I point out that assistance to the Atlantic provinces, on the basis of need, on the basis of endeavouring to bring them up so that they can be on a par with other parts of this dominion, has been discussed for years. Where is there any discrimination against the province of Quebec, for instance? They are not claiming it. Where is there any discrimination against the province of Ontario? There is no claim of discrimination there. Where is the discrimination against the province of Manitoba? I am told that the cheapest power we have in the Dominion of Canada is in the province of Manitoba. I come to Saskatchewan. I will deal with it last.

Take the province of Alberta. I was astonished to hear an hon. member from the province of Alberta say there was discrimination against his province. He spoke about an abundance of coal. Coal is not being used, or will not be used in the future, in Alberta. Why? Because they can produce power more cheaply with gas and oil. If we had the great abundance of gas and oil in the Atlantic provinces that they have in Alberta there would be no need to have a bill of this kind, Mr. Speaker.

What about British Columbia? British Columbia is not making any complaint. They can produce, and they are producing, cheap electric power in the province of British Columbia. With the tremendous development which must come in time on the Columbia river they will have more power than they will know what to do with. As a matter of fact, there is an international problem there now as to how much power British Columbia should have and how much power the United States should have. There is a controversy going on not only between British Columbia and the United States but between different interests in British Columbia as to how that

[Mr. Brooks.]

power should be distributed; but there is no discrimination across this country, Mr. Speaker, as far as other provinces are concerned.

I now take the province of Saskatchewan. If there is any province in Canada which would have a complaint it would be the province of Saskatchewan. But Saskatchewan is not in the same position as we are. They may be in a position that perhaps more nearly approaches our position than does any other part of Canada. But there is talk—and I hope it is not only talk; I can say to my hon. friends I am sure it is not only talk—that if the province of Saskatchewan and the Dominion of Canada come to an agreement Saskatchewan will have a development on the South Saskatchewan river and they are entitled to it. But do not let us draw a red herring across the trail as far as this bill is concerned. It is intended to help, and will help, the Atlantic provinces. It is intended to try to place them in the position which we have felt we should have been placed in many years ago, and that is on an equal footing with the rest of the Dominion of Canada.

I have been a little surprised at the length of this debate, because to my mind this bill speaks for itself. This bill is something which is presented in justice, and nothing but justice, to those provinces.

If there has been discrimination, and there has, it has been against these very provinces over a great number of years. This is a time when the parliament of Canada can do justice to a people who have been long suffering. I remember when the Duncan report was made. I remember being in London in 1945 and having dinner with Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, the father of the Duncan report on the maritime provinces. I told him I was from New Brunswick and he said to me, "Mr. Brooks, you people in the maritime provinces are the most long suffering people I have known." He said, "You have suffered for many, many years."

I think the time has come when we should not have to suffer any longer. I think the time has come, if I can judge the House of Commons, when the representatives of the people from all over Canada intend to see that the people of the Atlantic provinces get some of their just dues. I said a moment ago that we have been discriminated against. When I was a boy at school and looked at the map of Canada I saw the boundaries of the provinces. The maritime provinces were circumscribed by water. We could not extend our boundaries but the boundaries of other provinces of Canada have since been extended. Millions of dollars of resources in