

Mr. Barwick: But here are the Mayors of the two towns, and they are the people who speak for the towns.

Mayor Dike: I am advised that Mr. Marks does not own a foot of land in Fort William, and if that is the fact I submit Mr. Marks has not any ground for opposing the legislation which the Town Council and citizens are asking for.

Mr. Lee: Why do you not make the assignment to Jenison?

Mayor Dike: In reply to that question, I outlined in my remarks that a proposition was made to me from Mr. Clergue; that proposition was not acceptable in any degree by the people of the town, and we proceeded to raise money for the development at Ecarte Falls, and we were met with an appeal against the legislation of last year. Before proceeding further I went to Ottawa and interviewed gentlemen there and gentlemen here and we were advised that the wisest course, the most equitable course to pursue in the interests of justice, was to take the course we are doing.

Mr. Lee: Under this Act here you have the power to lease or transfer over your authority.

Mr. Barwick: No.

Mr. Marks: I wish to say that I own a quarter interest in 500 lots in the Town of Fort William, and my partners and myself this morning bought 700 lots in Fort William.

Mr. Lee (reads statute): Why did not they transfer their power over?

Mr. Barwick: They could not; they had no power under that Act to transfer their rights, and Jenison had no power of exercising the rights and going on with the works unless his rights were restored under the Acts.

Mr. Lee: The whole difficulty arises in about two-thirds of the bills of this kind because they come here charter mongering, and having no money to carry out their schemes. If I had my will I would make them put up security before the bill goes through.

Mr. D. C. Cameron, Member for Fort William: Not being so well informed I will not say very much. I have been referred to as one who has seen the agreement. I may say, so far as I can judge, they are acting in good faith, but I cannot, of course, assume responsibility for what they say they will do. I can only say, so far as I can judge from the correspondence, they seem to act in good faith and mean to carry out the contract. I could not assume responsibility further than that, as there is no guarantee except their statement.

Mr. Royce: In the absence of counsel for the Mackenzie-Mann Company I was asked to state that Mackenzie & Mann object to this; they say it would interfere with their roadway and with their bridges at Ecarte Falls. They are opposed to the bill on that ground, and on the ground that they do not believe it is put forward in good faith.

Mr. Cameron, M. P. P.: With regard to the favor of the people in Fort William and Port Arthur to this bill I think I am justified in saying that the great majority of the people in those towns are in favor of carrying out this proposition contained in this bill.

Mr. Barwick: Under this present bill unless this company puts up one hundred thousand dollars in four months to be expended in the construction, everything is restored to the two towns as under the bill of last session.

Mr. Conmee: I am not opposing the bill, but I do not see anything in the measure that if this bill goes through the power will be developed. I do not see anything in this agreement that will amount to more than a