

Mr. BOYCE. Not seriously?

Mr. CONMEE. Yes, I am quite serious, and I am quite prepared to back up my opinion with sufficient evidence.

Mr. FOSTER. On what do you base it?

Mr. CONMEE. On common sense.

Mr. FOSTER. Let us have a chunk of it.

Mr. CONMEE. I know my hon. friend would perhaps be the better of a little of it. I was trying to enlighten him, if I could. I won't say at this stage that I will undertake to satisfy my hon. friend that I am right, but if he will tell me where he can draw the line between what is international and what is not international water, he will give me some information that I would like to get. The Pigeon river is an international boundary,—there can be no doubt about that.

Mr. PERLEY. For what distance is it an international boundary?

Mr. CONMEE. Perhaps three hundred miles.

Mr. BOYCE. Oh, no. Do you include the lakes?

Mr. CONMEE. Yes, the Pigeon river and the lakes in that water route extend from Lake Superior to the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods, a distance of nearly three hundred miles. If I understand correctly the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite, the question of jurisdiction would be a fair subject for legislation. I have read some newspaper articles in which it is declared that there is no more right in this parliament to grant a charter to deal with an international stream than there is to deal with any navigable stream. Perhaps some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side will enlighten us upon that point. I was referring to the Bill that passed this House in connection with the Rainy River Development Company—the Ontario and Minnesota Power Bill. That Bill did not afford sufficient protection to the public. Local interests petitioned parliament for and obtained sweeping amendments to the Bill providing for the distribution of electricity, for the outflow of the water through the waste weirs, for the establishment of the works on the Canadian side of the international boundary,—for if these waste weirs were not on the Canadian side of the boundary how could this government control the flow of the water? and how could navigation be protected below the dam if the company could hold back the waters for a week, or, as they might do, for months? For the area of Rainy lake is very great, and it would take a long time to raise its level greatly even though all the water were held back. By exercising this power, the

company could destroy navigation on the river below. I do not need to argue that question very much. But it is to the interest of a power company to hold back the flow of water until the period of low water, and then to draw the level down gradually so as to maintain their power at their power station. The result of this policy might be to make a difference of twelve or fifteen feet in the level of the lake—I am speaking of Rainy lake. I have seen differences in the level of that lake varying from six to twelve feet, the result merely of natural conditions, the precipitation and the nature of the season. These are matters that must sooner or later be provided for and dealt with by some authority; and I would ask hon. gentlemen opposite if they think the provincial authority has power to regulate it. I believe it has not, for it has no power over navigable waters. It is said that because the province owns the land over which the waters flow they have paramount control.

Mr. SPROULE. May I ask a question? Does the hon. gentleman contend that if, in a river three hundred miles long, there is a portion fifty miles long that is navigable, therefore the Dominion has control over the whole stream?

Mr. CONMEE. It certainly has control over that portion that is navigable. I am not going to draw so fine a line as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) has in his mind.

Mr. SPROULE. This Bill takes over the whole stream.

Mr. CONMEE. No, but one point on the stream. In my opinion 'navigable stream' means not only the river itself, but also the tributaries back to the watershed of the river. For, if that were not the case, it would be an easy matter to dry up the stream. I can give the hon. gentleman a case in point. In the United States the control of navigable waters is in the Secretary of War,—as these waters may be needed for purposes of defence, they are put in control of that department. The Fox river, in Wisconsin, which is the outlet of Lake Winnebago, enters Lake Michigan at Green bay. It is in about a similar position to the Nipigon. The distance from the mouth to the source of the Fox river is 45 miles. There are established along this river at Appleton, combined locks and at other points, some of the largest pulp and paper manufacturing industries in the United States. These power companies, in order to secure water for their works, had control of the lake by a dam. They drew the water down to such a level as to destroy navigation. The wharfs at the villages along the lake shore could not be reached by boat because of the low water. The federal