

*Prairie Transmission Lines*

before our committee in the House of Commons which was considering the north country and the lands up there. We had several of them before us at that time, including Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop Vachon and some others, who showed what could be done in that northland to develop the natural resources of that great country. Many of the great discoverers never realized the blessing they were conferring and what they were doing for the humble generations of workers and for trade and industry in this country when they made their great discoveries, nor did they realize the great development that would take place of the mineral wealth which the country had up there.

A country does not belong to those who inhabit it today. It is an inheritance from the past. It is just a possession for the present. It is a trust for the future. That is what I say about these natural resources. They are trusts for the future. This generation has no right to give them away in the haphazard manner in which we are doing it at the present time. I believe that is a correct doctrine. We know the blessing of employment at the present time; but we know that our own trades and industries will require this work in the future if we should run into a depression. So I say that we should be assured first that the pipe line, before it leaves Canadian soil, is going to be required to be built by this pipe line company in the manner indicated. It will be noted that, to the motion for second reading of the bill, an amendment has been moved. It was dealt with recently in connection with forest development. I was referring in another debate to the export of power, where a former president of the United States, who died after the first war, referred to this matter. President Theodore Roosevelt said:

The people of our country are threatened by a monopoly more powerful than has ever been seen, as it affects very closely their domestic and industrial life. Our next generation will witness a shortage of those natural resources, petroleum and gas. The price of coal will be such that hydraulic power—

He dealt with that, but I cannot refer to it here. He is referring to the erection of a steam plant and all that kind of thing. He then went on to say:

The major portion of these powers is not developed and remains the national property. It would be madness to part, without conditions, with one of our greatest resources. If we become guilty of this crime, our children will be bound to pay an annual royalty on a capitalization fixed at the highest price that the trade will stand for. They will see themselves struggling with powerful sweaters entrenched behind the doctrine of discharged rights strengthened by all means of protection that money can buy and the cunning of corporations defended by legal men. These ogres

[Mr. Church.]

of finance will have succeeded long before then to monopolize those resources so as to be able to dictate to the people the management of their affairs and their ways of existence. Public opinion will be their least worry.

That is the reference he made to it. The late Theodore Roosevelt was a great statesman of that time.

I remember when he came to our city and addressed a meeting in the armouries before the first war closed in 1918. He came and addressed a magnificent meeting there. Colonel Denison, the police magistrate, who had been the defender of the natural resources of the country, introduced him. The late Colonel Denison won the Czar of Russia's prize in 1878 for Canada. He was a great statesman as well. He believed that we should conserve the natural resources of the people of this country for the people of the country. We have no right to part with them or to give them away in the manner indicated.

I do not wish to be unfair. There are other hon. members who would like to speak on this bill. I cannot refer to the text of the bill on second reading, and I do not intend to. I just wish to say this about the pipe line companies. They were placed under the control of the board of transport commissioners. They were given wide powers under the general Pipe Lines Act. I noticed that this bill was taken out of the general act. They will no doubt have to get a permit from the province of Alberta, an export permit I believe it is called. I think that is the phrase used in the statute. I have the statute here but I shall not read it.

The Alberta act requires the permit to be taken out by the company before the gas can leave Alberta. When it does go through Alberta it heads for the Pacific coast. The amendment will provide for that. But before it leaves Canadian soil the pipe line must meet certain requirements laid down in the proposed amendment to the bill. So far as I can see that is a very wise proviso.

We used to be called a nation of property owners. Years ago we were a nation of property owners. Everybody owned some property. It may have been a small mill, a little grocery store, or a small wagon. It may have been a little factory, but we were all property owners. We have been slow to see how we have become a nation not of property owners but of people who do not own a foot of property. In the city from which I come we were looked upon as a nation of property owners. Nearly 75 per cent of the people in that city owned their own homes. Now, everything has been given away. We do not own anything. I doubt whether anybody wants to own anything, because sooner or