

## Water Resources

I notice that the same section which gives the minister the power to make agreements also stipulates certain conditions in regard to reforestation. That brings me to something which was mentioned by the hon. member for Kootenay West. The hon. member was blaming private enterprise for the conditions which exist today in many provinces where natural resources have been depleted.

I think in the past governments were not sufficiently aware of the speed with which natural resources could be depleted. The passage of time has brought to the attention of all persons and governments the desirability of adopting measures to protect our natural resources. I think it can be said that the private paper companies have shown special interest in introducing the most advanced practices in fire control. I think they have done more along these lines than the governments because their whole operation depends upon the availability of forest resources.

In Newfoundland they have worked things out in such a way that the forest resources will be available in cycles. They will cut an area today and it will grow again so that in 25, 30 or perhaps more years the company can come around and cut that area again. In the meantime they will be cutting in other places. They are doing that in the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company's operations around Grand Falls, where a paper mill was established in 1904.

There is great value in flood control from the point of view of the tourist industry. I have mentioned this before, and I know that hon. members who come from provinces where there are salmon rivers realize that rivers are becoming depleted of fish because of a lack of regularity in the water flow whereby the salmon are prevented from having ready access to the headwaters of the rivers. If there is not sufficient flood control a river will dry up in the summer and the salmon cannot enter. If there are no salmon there will be no tourists visiting that particular section.

I assume that if this bill is going to have its full effect a provision will be incorporated in the agreements so that sort of thing can be done. Provinces could erect dams to regulate the flow of water in salmon rivers to enable the salmon to ascend regularly and thus provide more sport. There is no doubt about it that the salmon rivers are more valuable to the province as a sporting attraction than merely for the spawning of salmon for commercial fishermen. They bring more revenue.

**Mr. W. Chester S. McLure (Queens):** Mr. Speaker, when this matter was up previously I mentioned that we had no large rivers or bays in my province, but I wondered whether old mill properties, mill dams, could be renewed under this legislation. At one time the power was used for milling purposes, but today they are idle. Some of them have fallen into disrepair.

After I spoke about that matter I received a great many inquiries from interested people. Would that be too small a proposition for the government to undertake, the rebuilding of these dams and turning them into fishing ponds with the co-operation of the individuals concerned and the local government? Some of the people also wish to use these dams and ponds that have gone out of use so they may have small power plants. Perhaps the minister might advise me on this matter at the present time.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Robinson in the chair.

On section 1—*Short title.*

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Is the minister going to make any observations in reply to what has been said?

**Mr. Winters:** I do not think I need to make any general observations at this time. If there are specific questions I will be glad to answer them.

Section agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3—*Agreements with provinces.*

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** I should like to ask the minister whether agreements can be made for the purpose of the development of water power.

**Mr. Winters:** It is not contemplated that agreements will be made with respect to the development of water power because such projects are normally revenue-producing and amortize themselves. There is a general provision under which water power might be contemplated as a subsidiary or perhaps ancillary development, but the primary object is not to develop water power projects.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** What is the purpose of preserving water if you are not going to use it for something? The idea is to preserve water so you can use it. If you build a dam and use the water to produce electricity and turn it into a revenue-producing venture it is more valuable than just having the water to look at.