

now the opportunity has come for them to join in establishing a really modern, up to date bridge, one which should be, as I have said, toll free from the day of its completion.

Niagara falls is recognized everywhere as one of the wonders of the world. On one side of that great panorama is the Dominion of Canada and on the other side the United States—two of the most progressive countries in the new world, countries which have done a great deal in removing old-fashioned ideas and out of date customs. I believe we should take such action as will enable people from the old world who visit us to understand something of why the boundary between our two great countries is unprotected by troops and forts, and we should be able to show them something which will symbolize the good fellowship and friendly feeling which exist between us, who may truly call ourselves cousins. I believe the construction of a toll free bridge would encourage tourist traffic between us and would make us better acquainted with each other and with the possibilities of our respective countries.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I ask the hon. gentleman whether by a "toll free bridge" he means a private bridge or a publicly constructed bridge?

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): If the hon. member will be so good as to wait a minute, I shall come to that point. A toll free bridge would be made possible only through the association of the United States and Canada in bearing the cost of construction and maintenance. Under those circumstances I should not be greatly concerned about the general expenditure which will be involved. The expenditure involved should not be an obstacle, because, divided between the two countries, it can be but very small. When one considers the great advertising possibilities of this bridge, as a monument, for one thing, to the neighbourliness of two great countries that have lived in peace and harmony side by side for over one hundred years, without any force to keep the peace between them, why should that fact not be advertised? I do not want to take up much of the time of the committee—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CLARKE (Rosedale): Well, I suggest that the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Damude) ought to thank me a little for this speech. I was about to say that I should like to see this matter referred back to the committee and brought back into the house

with a proposal for a toll free bridge; and that should be done as soon as possible, because every day of delay means that the town of Niagara Falls, and for that matter the whole dominion and the United States as well, are losing revenue which would be derived if the bridge were constructed forthwith. The only point that seems to me to favour the present company is that they will be able to construct the bridge immediately, and I believe there is a possibility of these two great countries getting together and taking care of any expenditures that may be required and protecting any rights that the Niagara Falls Observation Bridge Company may have in the matter. I submit that the parties concerned should get together and construct a toll free bridge for Canada as soon as possible.

Mr. DUFFUS: This is the fifth occasion on which this matter has come before the committee. I have in my hand a copy of Bill No. 15, to incorporate the Niagara Falls Observation Bridge Company, and also a draft copy of the United States act dealing with the same matter. I wish to refer to the discussion which has taken place on this bill, and it is not my purpose to take up the time of the committee talking about the people of the United States or Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: Did the hon. gentleman say that there was a United States act? My information was that they declined to pass it.

Mr. DUFFUS: I said I have a copy of it.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the one which was introduced, but it was not passed.

Mr. DUFFUS: May I say I have listened to the discussion of this important international matter, and to say the least I am amazed to note that the objections have emanated almost entirely from one group in the house. I have before me a list of the names of those hon. gentlemen who have spoken, and in addition to that of the hon. member for Rosedale, who has just sat down, we have had speeches from the hon. member for Davenport—

Mr. MacNICOL: You can always count on him.

Mr. DUFFUS: —the hon. member for Lincoln, the hon. member for Danforth, the hon. member for Broadview, the hon. member for Danforth again, the hon. member for Waterloo South, the hon. member for Davenport once more, and the hon. member for Rosedale.