

the statute in accordance with the terms and tenor of the explanations made by representatives of the Government in the House. So I think I was right in asking what this word "emergency" meant—whether it meant an emergency in the United States from a shortage of power, or whether by a stretch of imagination it might be taken to mean the existence of a situation wherein somebody produced more power than he could use. Having no explanation of that term, I do not know what it means, and I do not think anybody else does, because nobody has touched the kernel of it.

Those people for whom I am speaking, who have power plants erected in Canada for the purpose of developing power here, who accidentally—because of failure of orders in our own country, or because of high water and such conditions—produce more power than they can use, and who have power to sell, must be very small in number. As matters now stand, I believe that the Cedar Rapids Power Company and the Niagara Power Company, I think it is, export 96 per cent of all the power that is exported, and the smaller concerns in Canada export only 4 per cent altogether. These smaller concerns are the people for whom I am speaking. They are not covered by either of these provisos, because they have no licenses as yet. Under this proposal, if it carries as it is, should these people have a few thousand extra horse-power to export, they will be put to the expense and delay of having to apply to Parliament for a Bill. Parliament might not be sitting at the moment of need, and even if Parliament were in session, the time taken in passing the Bill would seriously militate against any profitable transaction.

What I hoped for was that we might have an amendment to this Bill to provide that these small exporters of power might apply to the Governor in Council to procure the necessary permit with the least possible delay. With that end in view I had prepared an amendment, which might go in as a third proviso:

Provided that the Governor in Council may grant licenses to export power when such grants are consented to by the Government of the province where the power originates.

That raises another question of provincial rights—the question of the right of a province to have some say in the disposal of power, while recognizing clearly the right of control by the Federal Parliament. The Provincial Government is on the spot and knows the situation. If, having granted its own terms to corporations or companies developing power in a small way, the Provincial

Government is of the opinion that those small companies should have the right to export their accidental surplus and thereby add something to their revenue, the Governor in Council might be well advised to agree to such a small export under a special Act. Otherwise, under the terms of this Bill, all those small exporters who have no licenses for the exportation of even the smallest quantity of power—and who, according to my recollection number a hundred or so—must come to Parliament for a private Bill. They must put up the necessary funds, and in addition to that expense must endure a delay of several months in getting the Bill through. In many cases the result will not justify the expense. It is to these small exporters that I would direct the attention of the House.

I am inclined to agree with the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry. From conversation with other honourable gentlemen I am led to think we are actuated more or less by the motive of panic when we propose passing this Bill at all. We ought to know a great deal more about the subject before we solemnly embalm in a statute of Parliament our somewhat unconsidered views on the matter.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: I may be allowed to add this, that on referring to page 367 of the Debates of the House of Commons honourable gentlemen will see that this measure, which is a very important one, did not receive the attention that it deserved. The second reading and the passing of the Bill are covered in five or six lines of Hansard. It was not discussed at all. A motion was made for the second reading of the Bill and was agreed to immediately, without any debate. Then the Bill was read the third time. I think that is an additional reason for us to defer consideration of the measure until next Session. We ought to be fully advised.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: May I ask the honourable gentleman from Edmonton if he has any idea where those small exporters are? I can understand that they would have to be near the international boundary.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: I think most of them are.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: It would not pay them to build long transmission lines. They must be immediately adjoining; but I do not know or recollect any such, and I thought the honourable gentleman could tell us where they might be.