

are dependent upon the adaptation and utilization of this mighty force.

But instead of going into any of the details on the mechanical or electrical or business side I would rather speak to you of Niagara power in its international aspect, and in its relation to the future of Ontario.

On my own side of the river public opinion in regard to Niagara seems to have crystalized into the cry "Save the Falls." On your side of the river the only sentiment which I hear is "Transmit and distribute the white coal at the lowest possible price." In the United States there is a feeling, largely due to misunderstanding, that the Falls are in danger of being destroyed, and this is supported by a sentiment practically unanimous that this must not be permitted. In Ontario no one believes that the Falls are in danger of being destroyed, and owing to the absence of coal in Ontario there is an almost unanimous sentiment that the future development of the industries of the Province is, in no small degree, dependent upon the development of Niagara power and its distribution over a wide area, either by means of government ownership or otherwise, at the lowest possible cost.

In the United States public sentiment has found expression in the Burton Bill adopted in Congress on the 29th of June, 1906, asserting the paramount rights of the United States against the rights of the state of New York and the riparian owners in the waters of the Niagara River; expressing the determination to control the navigation of the River, protect the integrity of the frontier and preserve the beauty of Niagara Falls; and thereupon forbidding the diversion of water on the American side from the Niagara River or any of its tributaries, in the State of New York, for power purposes, without the written permit of the Secretary of War, and forbidding the introduction of electricity from the Canadian side of the Niagara River into the United States without a similar permit. Incidentally this law destroys the rights of riparian owners as they and their predecessors have believed them to exist for the last 200 years, and destroys them as completely as if a wall had been built at the