

canal if you are going to get in exchange a twenty-four foot canal or a thirty foot canal?

Colonel DUBUC: There are, for instance, at the present time, certain rights on the Ottawa River, and the whole scheme had to be arranged so that they would not be interfered with.

Mr. McLEAN: Are they the rights of the Dominion of Canada?

Colonel DUBUC: The rights of navigation, as protected by the Dominion.

Mr. McLEAN: Your argument was that by flooding eighteen thousand acres of land it might be dangerous.

Colonel DUBUC: Quite.

Mr. McLEAN: Provided that eighteen thousand acres of land was compensated for, as far as navigation was concerned, what effect would that have as long as the land was paid for that was drowned?

Colonel DUBUC: It would have a material effect upon the canal, which would not stand such an elevation possibly.

Mr. McLEAN: This Company is responsible for building a larger canal, so surely you are not worrying about the nine foot canal if you are getting a thirty foot canal in exchange.

Colonel DUBUC: I did not know what we would get in exchange.

Mr. McLEAN: Would it not be under the control of the Railway Commission?

Colonel DUBUC: No, it has nothing to do with the canal.

Mr. McLEAN: Do you have power to regulate the construction of the canal?

Colonel DUBUC: Absolutely.

Mr. McLEAN: Then that would remove your difficulty.

Colonel DUBUC: But I did not know what they were going to do. The plans did not show.

Mr. McLEAN: Did you know that you had power to regulate the construction?

Colonel DUBUC: Eventually, yes.

Mr. McLEAN: And did you know it at that time?

Colonel DUBUC: Yes, of course.

Mr. McLEAN: Then that removes your difficulty about the eighteen thousand acres of land.

Colonel DUBUC: Not at all. The Government may have material reasons, not only navigation but many other reasons, which would prevent regulating the water at elevation one hundred and forty, for the low ridge at Carillon. They equally may have very material reasons which would prevent raising Lake Nipissing by ten feet, four feet above flood level at present, in view of North Bay and all the towns around Lake Nipissing. Those are reasons outside of navigation alone.

Mr. McLEAN: But the reason which you did advance as to the flooding of eighteen thousand acres is another thing, and I want to know what other reasons you have. The upper level I am coming to later.

Hon. Mr. STEVENS: This level is 140.

WITNESS: That is seven feet higher than those of which we have information, 133.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Quite so.