

and I trust that if at next Session we are discussing any arrangement that has been made, the honourable leader of the Government will be able to say that this has been the interpretation upon which action has been based. That is the point I wanted to have cleared up. My desire to have it thoroughly understood is one of the reasons why I speak this afternoon. We who live on the St. Lawrence have had so much trouble in the past, or there have been so many possibilities of getting into trouble, with this company, through action which they have taken, that I think honourable gentlemen will agree that it is not too much for us to take every precaution we can for the future. It is for this reason that I am expressing some of my fears. Let me add that personally I took a strong position three or four years ago, and subsequently. I agree with the right honourable Senator from Brockville when he says that the development must go on. It may not be carried out immediately, but the time will come when it must be made, and I would like to see it during my lifetime. When the question came up about four years ago it was due to propaganda started by the United States, in which they did not hesitate to say that they were willing to pay a large share of the cost of this great work—whether it was one-half, or what proportion, I do not remember. I thought we were justified in coming to some arrangement with them, but after a little while it turned out that we were to be in the same position as in the case of the St. Lawrence Power Company: that the Aluminum Company was behind the whole scheme; that it was not going to cost the United States Government one dollar, as the company were going to do all the work and to have the power. Of course they could very well afford to undertake the development, because it would not be too expensive. So, as soon as I realized that we were to be entirely in the hands of the Aluminum Company again, I was opposed to any such proposition.

As I have stated, the evidence adduced before our Committee has been very valuable and of great assistance to us. I trust that the information obtained on the St. Lawrence waterway will be brought up and discussed in the House at some future Session. My fears are more than ever justified. The honourable leader of the government in this House will undoubtedly discuss this whole question from time to time at Council meetings with his colleagues. He has had, I believe, an advantage over other members of the Government in having heard the evidence given before the

Committee. I believe he is in a much better position than he was to understand the situation. I shall be pleased if at another Session the honourable gentleman can inform us that, he having taken an active part, the Government have arranged to place the canal and the power-house entirely on our own side and we are not under obligation to any other country, but are in exactly the same position as at present, with respect to our navigation and power. If the honourable gentleman can give us that assurance. I shall feel just as proud of him as I did of the right honourable gentleman from Brockville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) when he knocked in the head the proposal that was made in 1908; and I am sure Ontario will feel grateful that our power is saved for ourselves. We cannot develop and use 1,100,000 horse-power within the next two, three, four, five or six years: we have to develop the units as we require them.

Now, a certain proposition has been made. I do not know whether it is worth considering, or whether the Government would consider it. The Aluminum Company have offered to develop the navigation and power without cost to the United States Government if the company may have the power. Why cannot the Canadian Government offer to allow the Government of Ontario to take advantage of a similar proposition, if the decision of the court is in favour of the Dominion Government? Such a proposition might be made to the Hydro Electric Commission to take over the construction of the power plant and its development, and, if they refused, why should the Government not let Canadian citizens have an opportunity to build our portion on condition that they may have the power at rates to be agreed upon? If, on the other hand, it is decided that the Ontario Government own the power, let them proceed with the development on our side. As I remember the evidence given by members of the Joint Engineering Board, they stated—and honourable gentlemen who were present will know whether I am putting the facts correctly or not—that if the two-stage proposition were undertaken we should have at Crysler Island about 300,000 or 400,000 horse-power on the Canadian side, and 300,000 or 400,000 on the American side. I asked whether we could develop 200,000 horse-power on our side at Barnhart Island, and the engineer who answered the question said, "Yes, 200,000 or 300,000." I am not quite sure that he did not say 500,000. At all events, between the two points we should have probably 600,000 or 800,000 horse-power on the Canadian side.

I am so anxious to see Ontario and Quebec protected in so far as the control and oper-