

sequence is that the people of this city are forced to pay a high water rate, and an additional charge to get pure water. People all over the city are glad to go long distances to get pure water, just as they did five and thirty years ago before we had a water system. All this could have been prevented if Parliament had taken action years ago, as it should have done.

In view of the conditions that prevail I hope the House will not hesitate to adopt the Bill before it.

I trust that the Government will not feel inclined to send this Bill to a committee again. It has been in committee for two years. We have obtained all the information that can be obtained on it. The Bill is framed in such a manner as to leave it entirely in the hands of the Government to determine when it shall be called into operation; that is the Government can withdraw any of the waters from its operation whenever it sees fit. It empowers the Government to make regulations under which the Bill will be enforced so that the enforcement of the legislation will rest entirely in the hands of the Government. The point that it is an interprovincial question has been raised, but I do not think it is a serious difficulty in the way of the adoption of this proposed legislation. I am not a lawyer but I have discussed the question with able lawyers and I have been assured that there is no reason why the federal power should not pass legislation that would control the disposal of sewage throughout this Dominion. There is no question to my mind that the federal Government have absolute control of navigable streams. That question was settled by the case we had up here some years ago, when the millmen undertook to deposit their sawdust and slabs in the Ottawa river. It was demonstrated then that the Government could control our navigable waters and prevent the millmen from polluting these waters in any way. The same thing prevailed in connection with our fisheries. We can prevent the millmen or anybody from polluting lakes by depositing sawdust or any material that would militate against the fisheries. I claim that we can enact legislation in this House to control not only navigable waters but every stream that runs into a navigable water and say whether sewage may or may not be deposited in the streams. The Bill has been discussed from every standpoint by the best informed men in Canada. There has been no source of information left uncanvassed by the committee. Every

man in Canada that the committee thought could throw any light upon this important question was summoned to attend that committee and to give his evidence and the summing up of the evidence—and we have two volumes of it—proves beyond a doubt that some legislation ought to be enacted by the federal authorities.

I noticed a few days ago that the International Waterways Commission, which has been doing some splendid work, has at last induced the nation to the south of us to join with that commission to prevent the pollution of the great rivers running between these two countries. This will also apply to the lakes. This is a move in the right direction. When this Bill was first introduced one objection raised against it was that it would be perfectly useless for this House to take any action until we could induce the American people to take similar action. I did not agree with that contention. My position was that this condition that prevailed in Canada demanded redress, it was the duty of Canada first to take care of the situation in this country; in other words, to clean up the condition which existed in our country and then we could reasonably appeal to the nation to the south of us to join with us and do its share. But the International Commission, has, I see, accomplished a good work in securing the consent of the United States Government to join with Canada in preventing the pollution of the St. Lawrence and, I presume, the great lakes contiguous to their own country. In view of this fact I submit the time has come for this House to act and I venture to say that the Bill, while not perfect by any means, will be a step in the right direction and it can be amended if necessary from year to year. Therefore, I beg to move the second reading of Bill No. 5 entitled an Act respecting the Pollution of Navigable Waters.

Hon. J. D. HAZEN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): My hon. friend from Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury), who has introduced this Bill, and who, during the past two years, has introduced Bills very similar in character, has suggested that the matter should now be dealt with by the House. In the session of 1913 a Bill of this character was introduced which was referred to a committee of the House and a similar course was taken in the session of 1914. The committee, as pointed out by my hon. friend, met on a good many occasions and gave a great deal of consideration to the matter. They heard the opinions and the