

is completely finished—I will have to leave my emoluments to my heirs, administrators, executors and assigns, and by my heirs I do not mean heirs of my body, because I have not got any. These gentlemen who were interested, and who put up their money—I will speak of the money they put up later—were men like the late Sir Edward Thornton, who was formerly the British Minister at Washington. There was Sir Fletcher Moulton, then a very distinguished counsel, and afterwards Lord Moulton of the Court of Appeals of London, a very eminent man whose services, because of his knowledge of patents, was used by the British Government during the late war. He is now dead.

There was also Sir Robert Perks. He was a member of the very large contracting firm of C. H. Walker and Company. There was also Mr. C. H. Walker. This firm has been engaged in the construction of very large works all over the world. They constructed works at Buenos Aires, and very many other places.

These men were capable of carrying out this work if they had been given the opportunity of doing so, because this was a matter with which they had been connected all their lives.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: You say that these men could have completed this if they had been given an opportunity to do so?

Mr. RITCHIE: I think so.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: I understand that they had ample opportunity. I would like you to explain what you mean by that.

Mr. RITCHIE: The company has never been given an opportunity to build this canal, from the day it was thought the charter was passed until to-day, because we cannot turn a sod until the Government has approved our plans. In 1907 we filed our plans with the Government; from that day to this no Government has ever said, "your plans are all right," or "they are all wrong." Do you think it is fair to these people who have spent over two millions of dollars on the surveys of the levels and the collection of data connected with this thing, to allow our plans to lay there with this amount of money involved and never say, "your plans are rotten," or "your plans are all right." They do nothing and then accuse us of being in default. Surely, there is no justice or righteousness in that.

The Committee adjourned until 11.00 o'clock a.m. April 7th, 1927.