

horse-power not only pays for the cost of the power but provides a sinking fund, which, at the end of forty years would pay the cost of installation and plant, so that the whole thing might then become the free property of the people interested. In the meantime, power would be sold at \$5 per horse-power plus transmission charges, provided sale could be found for the full 100,000 horse-power as developed in Niagara Falls. This would represent an income of \$500,000 which would be 5 per cent on \$10,000,000 which, I believe, would very nearly install the works. I need not weary the House by giving the details upon which these results are based; it is enough to say that everything is carefully figured out. The cost of transmission is also thoroughly gone into. It is shown that power can be delivered on the switch board at Toronto at from \$16 to \$17 per horse-power per annum, with a twenty-four-hour day. In Toronto, I believe, they are now paying about \$40, and, in many cases a good deal more than that. The saving on electric power in the city of Toronto alone, according to these figures, would be about \$500,000 per annum, which would pay 5 per cent interest on the \$10,000,000 which it would cost to establish the works. When you look at it in that way, and when you consider also Hamilton, Brantford, Woodstock, Guelph, Galt and all these other places that have great manufacturing industries and are within transmission distance of Niagara Falls you see the vast possibilities in the Niagara river for the development of the industries of Ontario. I do trust that this government will be in no haste to make an agreement with the United States that will limit the quantity of water that we may withdraw from Niagara for power purposes. I believe there is something more at the bottom of these 467 petitions from the United States than a desire to save the scenic beauty of Niagara. I think they are actuated by a desire to prevent the people of Ontario from getting cheap power. The delivery of cheap power would be a benefit not merely to the manufacturers but to producers of every kind, and to every one requiring light, heat and power who is within transmission distance of Niagara. Niagara river is one of the great assets that Providence has given to Ontario to make up for the lack of coal, and it should continue to be the property of the province of Ontario. I would like to know from the government what their attitude on this subject will be—whether they are going to withdraw the jurisdiction so long exercised by the province of Ontario over the Niagara river. During the long time that the Ross government and its predecessors were in power, a period of thirty years, nothing was heard of such a suggestion. But now that others are in power, there seems to be a tendency to withdraw from the supervision of the

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province this river which has so long been under the unquestioned control of the provincial government. The Ross government gave without let or hindrance several valuable franchises. But if it is decided that no more franchises shall be given, see what that will mean to those who already hold franchises. They will be able to charge \$40 or \$50 horse-power per annum, when they should charge only \$5 or \$10 according to the amount developed, because the power can be developed at that cost. It may be that these companies have experimented, and it may be that they have installed their works less cheaply than can be done now, when we have the benefit of their experience. But, whether that is the case or not, we are justified in taking all the benefit we can get from the work of those who have gone before us, we are justified in using the best means we can find to develop power from that river. The matter has passed the experimental stage, and any government, any combination of municipalities, or any company now in possession of a franchise on that river, is justified in taking advantage of all the latest and most up-to-date improvements in machinery and methods for the cheap and efficient generation and transmission of electric power. The people are entitled to receive the advantage of that power delivered under the most enlightened conditions. This is the position as it presents itself to those resident, within transmission distance on the Niagara. And there is no question in my mind that this is at the very base of the development of old Ontario to-day—to get power to the users at the lowest possible charge I have already shown that there would be a saving in Toronto alone of half a million dollars a year. Think what this would mean to that city and to other towns and cities as favourably situated. It would mean a vast influx of people. It would mean that old Ontario would be the workshop of the Dominion, perhaps of the continent of America. I say that there is no place on the whole North American continent that is so favourably situated for power as the two hundred miles of territory surrounding Niagara Falls. This power is the great national asset of the Dominion, and no government should withdraw either by legislation, or by treaty with the United States, or in any other way, from the province of Ontario the rights it has exercised in the past.

So far as I am able to read international law and the law of jurisdiction in relation to waters, it is laid down as an uncontroverted and infallible rule that the party living upon the bank of a river has an alienable right to use the water of that river for his own purposes, provided he does not pollute that water and does not interfere with the navigation of the river. That is an infallible rule, that the party living on the banks of the river has an in-