

In 1962, the Minister of Natural Resources sold the shore rights to citizens of Saint-Denis and Saint-Louis-de-Kamouraska by patent letters, at the price of \$1 per arpent. From now on, the price will be \$1.50 per arpent.

At present, the dike is in its initial condition. There are no construction plans, no estimates, no evaluation and above all no money. The dike should be rebuilt closer to sea and according to a master plan.

Dikes were built some 50 years ago at a time when each did his bit as he saw fit, when timber was not selling well. Nowadays, timber is too expensive.

The Saint-Germain dike would allow to recuperate from 1,000 to 1,200 acres of land; the one at Saint-André, a few hundred acres; something could also be done at Notre-Dame-du-Portage. At Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière and Rivière-Ouelle, recuperation would be more significant, which in my opinion, means that despite the high cost, it would be worthwhile to achieve the project. With machines and materials available today, the dikes could be built under favourable conditions. The county council is very interested and so are a great number of farmers because many think the best lands would be those close to the river.

It is obvious the assistance of public authorities is needed to achieve this vast project. I believe it is an area where ARDA could apply, but decisions must be taken by the responsible authorities. It is not enough to say in reply to requests for assistance that the problem will be taken into consideration while results and decisions never come.

I have here a letter dated July 21, 1970 from the Assistant Deputy Minister, Central region, Department of Regional Economic Expansion, which says that the matter will be discussed with representatives of the Quebec Department of Agriculture. On November 2, 1970, the secretary of the municipal corporation of the Kamouraska riding received from the assistant executive secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Colonization of the Quebec government the following reply:

According to the information received, I am sorry to advise you that we will be unable to implement your first resolution concerning the construction of functional dikes on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. The reason for this refusal is very simple: all problems relating in any way whatsoever to the river fall strictly within federal jurisdiction.

I say therefore to the members of the government party that the time has come to act with regard to the dikes in the riding of Kamouraska.

The resolution that was the object of the debate adds that the government helped disorganize the finances of the provinces and municipalities, and was prejudicial to rural communities. Allow me to point out that that disorganization unfortunately dates back a long time and that several successive governments contributed to it in no small measure. The defenders of the corrupt financial system we have today are responsible for that situation.

During a federal-provincial conference held in Ottawa on January 14 and 15, 1941, the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn, read part of a letter he had

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received from the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Mackenzie King, on November 2, 1960, and I quote:

While the cost of unemployment relief has been reduced, the war has cast additional burdens on governments and taxpayers alike. It has inevitably increased the competition between governments to secure revenues, and has aggravated the overlapping, cumbersome and discriminatory character of much of our tax structure.

Things were already going rather badly at that time.

At the end of his speech, the Premier of Ontario said to those participating to that conference, and I quote:

And while you thus obligated yourselves to fight this war with the last drop of printer's ink and to the last page of *Hansard*, confusion, utter confusion, would prevail in all governments as existing tax machinery bogged down.

Hon. T. D. Pattullo, Premier of British Columbia, said the following as shown on page 42 of the report:

MONEY ROOT OF TROUBLE

Money, of course, is at the root of this whole question. While monetary measures should be based upon the productive capacity of our people, the productive capacity of our people can be amplified by wise monetary measures and other considerations.

Another premier, Alberta's Honourable William Aberhart—he who had succeeded in putting the financial administration of that province back in order—after having mentioned the advantages and disadvantages of speaking last, made the following remarks intended to the various heads of governments:

I do not believe that the British North America Act, or confederation, or whatever you like to call it, has been responsible since that time for the three D's which have marked the industrial history of some of our provinces—I mean, decadence, debilitation, and death. I do not believe that confederation was the cause of these things, but I avow, sir, that something has been responsible for the awful plight that has settled upon the provinces. I notice sadly that the Ethiopian is still at large; the blight continues.

And further in the same speech, Mr. Aberhart stated and I quote:

Now, what is the job of each of us at this moment? Is this conference a ration line, where we are to receive our dole, or is it a place in which each must grab all that he can carry away with him? Is it not rather a conference to which we are privileged to bring, for the benefit of the Canadian nation, the combined gifts of thoughtfulness, wisdom, foresight, vision, tolerance and understanding with which we Canadians may be endowed?

Is this not our golden opportunity to lay the foundations for the never-before realized gifts of fraternity, freedom equality of opportunity, and, what is also important, financial security? We are here, honourable chairman and gentlemen, I take it, to make it possible at some near future date to formulate for Canadians a series of decisions which will give them security in old age and the right to enjoy, according to their needs, the abundance of food and clothing and the comforts of adequate and sanitary shelter which the limitless resources of this great dominion can provide. We are here, I assert, to establish a heritage of education for those who seek to learn; of health for those who suffer pain or disease; of security and deliverance from debt of those who have builded homes in their prime of life and who may face eviction and the loss of their sacred firesides when the lean years descend.