

*Great Lakes Levels*

volved. This lowering of the levels is a menace to navigation on both sides of the border as has been proven time and again, and the resultant damage to shipping and trade and commerce is enormous.

It is most important that the Canadian and British governments should take some action in this matter as governments and not merely send two or three officials down to Washington to join private citizens. What can they do? They cannot accomplish anything; they can only go around in a circle. The Prime Minister said recently in the House, when questioned on the orders of the day, that Canada's representative held a watching brief; a watching brief before whom? I say that Canada, through the British government should immediately call on the government of the United States to respect the boundary waterways treaty and to deal with the law breakers, the sanitary drainage authorities of Chicago, who for the past eight or ten years have apparently regarded this treaty as a scrap of paper. The interests of navigation should be paramount, and they are made paramount by treaty. Ontario and Quebec are vitally interested from the standpoint of water-power, because Canada's share of these surplus waters which are not required for navigation purposes may be developed for the purposes of power and the surplus waters including the bed of the rivers, the banks and rapids belong to the provinces.

But while these provinces have an interest in the matter it is recognized that the federal governments of both countries alone are interested from the view of navigation. This matter was debated in the House on March 26 of last year, when I moved a similar resolution, and attention was called to the great damage that had been done to the lake levels by this diversion. It was hoped that something would be done during the recess of parliament but I am not satisfied with what has been done; in fact, nothing definite at all has been done except to have representatives of Canada listen to a lot of American politicians talking in the Rivers and Harbours committee and having Canada represented before some one United States cabinet minister at Washington; Canada's representative being mixed up with a lot of private Canadian citizens and others in Washington politics. When we have a treaty it should be adhered to. There is an International Joint Commission before whom this case should be taken with a view to obtaining relief for Canada from an intolerable state of affairs. The Canadian government are only wasting their time.

[Mr. Church.]

The authorities of the city of Chicago have made a football of this matter for the last ten or fifteen years. True it is that last fall the final judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States was given, but it was away back in 1911 when the matter first went before the courts. First Judge Landis handed down his decision. Appeal was taken to the state courts and on to the Supreme Court of the United States, who held that the city of Chicago was illegally diverting water in violation of the treaty. When a treaty is made with a foreign country, especially with the United States, people of our own kith and kin, surely it should be respected and they should not be allowed to treat it as a scrap of paper.

I am glad to say there is a widespread organization along the Great Lakes and on the upper lakes on both sides of the border against the Chicago pirates, in the cities of Detroit, Cleveland and other cities and towns on the American border, who are all organizing a league against the city of Chicago and are opposing its demand that it be allowed to steal this water out of the lake in perpetuity,—take it away from Canada and divert it to the purposes of a greater sewage system. Why do they not set up a modern system of sewerage as every other city on the Great Lakes has done? Why, if every other city on the Great Lakes did what Chicago is doing there would not be enough water in the lower gulf or lower river to enable small ships to come in.

Not satisfied with the diversion of 12,000 cubic feet per second more than the 4,167 cubic feet allowed by the treaty, the city of Chicago are utilizing a lot of this water for sewage purposes and to generate power for distribution in the district of Chicago to private power users. The treaty is as clear as daylight; there can be no doubt about its construction or interpretation. It provides that there must be no diversion in excess of 4,167 cubic feet per second and that any diversion in excess of that amount must have the joint consent of the two countries. But the city of Chicago do not propose to get the consent of the two countries; they do not propose to get even the consent of their own country; they simply take the law into their own hands, ignore the courts and their own government and go on diverting that amount of water. The courts for years issued injunctions restraining them, but the courts have no way of carrying out their injunctions. Having been beaten in the court of last resort the authorities of the city of Chicago are now appearing before the Secretary for War and asking that in the interim, until such time as they can adopt a new sewage system