

the use of such power, on account of the expense and the number of persons necessarily added to the population by reason of the man-power required for building and operating the works.

Unless it is shown that there is a special reason for dealing with this measure now, I would suggest that it would be wiser for this honourable House to wait until next Session, and then, early in the Session, entrust to a committee of this House a study of the whole situation under the different existing contracts in regard to the export of power. I cannot suppose that there is any hurry. If it were not so late in the Session I would move for a reference of the Bill to such a committee as I suggest, but it is evidently too late now to do so, and therefore I think it is our duty to defer the consideration of the Bill until next Session, and then to make a complete study of the whole subject.

An additional reason for taking that position would be the fact that in several respects the relations between the United States and Canada are to a certain extent in the making, and while taking steps towards conserving the whole of our national wealth for this country, we should be very careful, on the other hand, to avoid infringing upon any contract.

The terms of some of those contracts may be renewable with the consent of the Governor in Council. If there were any such provision if would be an infringement of the contract to substitute Parliament for the Governor in Council, and I think we should be careful to avoid the danger of committing a mistake of that kind.

In dealing with a Bill I always try to understand it fully, but in this case I feel that we are not sufficiently enlightened to pass judgment upon the proposal. Unless honourable members should think otherwise, I should be tempted to move that the committee rise, and the adoption of such a motion would of course kill the Bill for the present Session.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: Honourable gentlemen, I have been endeavouring to interest the House in an aspect of this Bill which is not without some importance. I have spoken for the power plant that has been established in Canada for the production of power for use within this country, but that accidentally, owing to falling off in demand for power or because of exceptionally high water or some other condition, has a substantial surplus of power, which, unless it can be disposed of, would be a dead loss.

I am in the heartiest agreement with those who think that in the past some of our

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE.

arrangements in the matter of exportation of power have been valueless, and that the situation has some elements of danger in it. I am rather inclined to agree with the honourable gentleman from De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Beique) that we are very ignorant of all the circumstances involved in matters of this sort. I should be disposed to think favourably of the proposal he has made. If, on the other hand, the House desires to proceed with the Bill, then I feel that I ought to move an amendment which would bring out in bold relief the situation in which those domestic producers of power will find themselves.

As has been said by the honourable gentleman from La Salle (Hon. Mr. Bureau) and the honourable gentleman from Pictou (Hon. Mr. Tanner), under the Bill of 1907 the power to license resided in the Governor in Council. It is the purpose of this Bill to remove that power from the Governor in Council and place it in Parliament, but not wholly so. The two provisos are pretty far-reaching in their nature. The first reads:

Provided nothing herein contained shall be deemed to affect the right of the Governor in Council to renew or cancel wholly or in part any license for the exportation of power issued before the first day of January, 1929.

In other words, by the terms of this proviso the disposition of all electric power now under license remains where it was before. I cannot conceive of its being transferred to Parliament unless the Governor in Council were able to cancel the contract outright, and then I am not sure that the proviso would not apply. What is being transferred to Parliament's control is the right to export power that may be developed and leased in the future, but is not now in contemplation at all.

Then there is this further clause:

Provided also that the Governor in Council may grant licenses, or may authorize an increase in the amount of surplus power to be exported under existing licenses, in cases of temporary emergency.

I have endeavoured to ascertain from anybody what these words "temporary emergency" mean. When I asked the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) what they meant, his answer, as given him by some member of the Government, was that any dictionary would define an emergency. But I am not asking for a definition; I can go to a dictionary and get a definition myself. What I want is an explanation of Government policy in respect to this matter. On a previous occasion I added the further observation that Government officials, in interpreting a statute, ought not to interpret it as a court of law does, but should carry out