

Mr. EVANS: Have you the addresses of these gentlemen?

Mr. RITCHIE: Well, I cannot tell you of the exact addresses of those who are deceased, but you may be sure that it is either up or down.

Mr. Ross apparently thought well of this project in those days. Apparently, from reading his Journal, he has seen the light but where that emanates from I cannot say, but of course one can surmise.

Those gentlemen were all of Ottawa. Then there were certain people outside of Ottawa. There was Mr. William C. Edwards; then member of Parliament, and later Senator, of Rockland.

William T. Hodgins; then member of Parliament, of Hazledean.

Alexander Fraser of Westmeath; a very well known lumberman on the Ottawa River.

James Joseph O'Connor of Port Arthur; Arthur Joseph Martin; John Bryson; George H. Macdonnell; Hugh F. McLachlin and Claude McLachlin of Arnprior; and so on.

You see, if this measure was born in sin that it certainly had at the opening very respectable parents.

Perhaps in that day there was a touch of iniquity in the charter, although Parliament did not think so because in Clause G of Section 8, the company was then authorized;

To lay out and lease or otherwise dispose of water lots, and use, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of water brought by or for the said canals or works but not requisite for the same, and produce, lease and supply, or otherwise dispose of hydraulic, electric and other kinds of power in connection with the works hereby authorized.

You will see that the power that was then given this company was very wide. Under that I imagine that they could have gone into the power business to any extent they pleased; apart altogether from the canal. In 1912, the Ontario Government and the Hydro, headed by Sir Adam Beck, came down upon one occasion when we were applying for a renewal of the commencement clause in our charter, and after much discussion that was taken out of the charter. The clause has been read to you by Mr. Harry Sifton, but under that, that was the clause by which it was provided that only the surplus hydraulic, electric and other kinds of power developed in connection with and for the purposes of the works hereby authorized should be disposed by the company at rates or prices at or for which such hydraulic and electric power may be disposed of by the company to be fixed or determined by the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada in accordance with the provisions of Section 360-A of the Railway Act.

This creature of Parliament then, I submit, became free from sin, and if there was any remaining vice left in it, surely the proposals which have been made by the Messrs. Sifton, as to the company not obtaining one dollar for those who are behind the company; that the shareholders in the company cannot obtain one dollar until the whole works are completed, surely it removes any possible vice that may remain in this venture.

The reason I have mentioned these very respectable names, and why I made the remarks about good faith and honour, is because on the faith of this charter the company authorized the late McLeod Stewart to proceed to London, the money market of the world, to obtain capital to further the project. He went there fully authorized on the faith of this charter passed by the parliament of Canada. He interested English capital, and the people that he interested in this matter were people of no mean estate. Amongst those who went into the project and formed the new Dominion syndicate, which is the company which has been reorganized, of which I, myself am a shareholder for some modest fee of my own, but which I apparently will not get until this canal

[Mr. J. A. Ritchie.]