

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

provinces to upper Canada—much larger sums, it seems to me, than were ever voted for this purpose before?

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I have not been a member of this house for very long, certainly not as long as the Secretary of State or the hon. member for Gloucester. I do not think these sums amounted to very much; I think they were just ordinary. But the previous government voted money to build up the Atlantic provinces, and I have no reason to think that the present government are not going to continue to vote the same amounts. I certainly hope they will, and so far I have no reason to think that they will not. But I do not think the so-called Gordon report on Canada's economic prospects should be the determining factor in amending this piece of legislation passed by parliament in December, which would now go out of existence. That is my point, and I submit that it is a valid point and should be considered by the government.

A few minutes ago I said that the government should consider my proposal, and the Secretary of State has proposed an amendment. I think these new appointments should be made. A few minutes ago the Secretary of State rose in his place and spoke about commitments made during an election. I have no doubt that he spoke with sincerity, but I think he should also recognize that governments have a degree of responsibility in carrying out commitments as well. These gentlemen who were appointed should be continued in office for the length of time for which they were appointed, otherwise they will be in an inferior position and I do not think their position would be tenable. They would be in an inferior position to the new appointees, and I think their position would be such that they could not out of respect to themselves continue in office unless they were continued for at least the same length of time as the new appointees. I suggest that they be continued for the full time for which they were appointed.

Last night I was very much interested—

**Mr. Lloyd:** Would the hon. gentleman permit a question? What seems to be the great anxiety about the persons being added as against those already there? Surely everybody knows the names of the present members and what they are capable of performing. The hon. member does not know who will be appointed and—

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** If the hon. gentleman wants to speak when I am through, that is his privilege; but what is his question?

[Mr. Pickersgill.]

**Mr. Lloyd:** What is your anxiety? What are you trying to protect by this change? You are making a lot of allusions to what is going to happen, but what are you trying to protect?

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I am trying to see that the decent thing is done, and that seems to be something which is unknown to some hon. members on the opposite side, although I did not think that applied to the senior member for Halifax. Last night we listened to a speech from the Secretary of State in which I was greatly interested because he mentioned his conception of what the board should do and what it should particularly stand for. He mentioned among other things that it should create a climate, and with that I agree.

Two other things he mentioned, and which I remember at the moment, were power and transportation. When I talk about power I immediately think of the very large potential existing in the province of Newfoundland, in Labrador at Hamilton falls, and of the great plans underway to make that power available to the national grid. When we speak of a national grid, Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might say that in my opinion nothing brought more promise to the Atlantic provinces than did the suggestion of a national grid for electricity from one end of the country to the other. When one considers that something like 4 million horsepower is available in Labrador, which I believe is classified under that most desirable heading of firm power, for use by a national grid to supply cheap electrical energy to eastern Canada, for which we have suffered, it seems to me that the Secretary of State is undoubtedly right. We also have the benefit of the experience we have had of the grid which now exists as between the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

One hon. member yesterday stood in his place and said that he understood that the savings so far from the grid system which had been established between those two provinces had been in the order of \$60 million. I think that was the amount he mentioned; certainly it was an amount of great magnitude. If this figure is anything like correct, then it has been a tremendous success. If the power which is presently about to be developed in the northern part of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, which I understand is something in the order of 4 million horsepower—

**Mr. Pickersgill:** About six.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Then that makes it all the more desirable—can be put into a national grid, it seems to me that the possibilities of power development become tremendous, and as a consequence industry