

*Bridge at Saskatchewan Landing*

reached its full course, you have either to construct a tremendous dam, which is not feasible, or build tremendous dikes which, again, are not always a sure safeguard against flooding.

There was some doubt; I remember the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) himself was not convinced last year whether the suggestion put forward by me and by others along those lines was the correct one. I should like on this point to read to the house some extracts from the interim report of the Fraser valley diking board which was appointed after the floods of last year.

May I ask the house to bear in mind that there are now two boards. There is the diking board which was appointed to repair the dikes in the lower Fraser valley where the greater flood damage was done, and there is also the Fraser river board, which is a board appointed in conjunction with the province to survey the whole Fraser river system with a view to seeing what can be done in an over-all way to prevent floods from occurring. I am now going to read from the report of the Fraser valley diking board, which substantiates the view put forward that the proper way to deal with this matter is to prevent floods taking place by controlling the waters at their source. The passages I am going to read will be found at pages 5 and 6. After describing the nature of the Fraser river system, they say:

The facts are that the great wall of water which rushes through the canyon at Yale, some 100 miles upstream from the mouth of the river, is at the moment completely beyond human control. No one can predict when the peak of this flood will come, and no one can predict its magnitude. If the lower snows, the upper snows and the spring rains all come together, as happened in 1894 and again in 1948, then the lower Fraser valley is in grave danger.

Another passage reads:

It is obvious from the above that dike construction in the valley below Yale can at best only give relative security to the residents and never absolute security.

By careful engineering methods one can restrain the river in spots, one can nudge it here and suggest to it there, but never without fabulous expenditures can the lower Fraser river be harnessed and controlled by a system of dikes.

They conclude by saying:

The two governments involved—

The provincial and dominion.

—have recognized the uncontrolled features of the Fraser river, and have very wisely set up another authority, namely, the dominion-provincial board, Fraser river basin—

Now called the Fraser river board.

—to study the possibility of impounding and harnessing waters in the upper reaches.

The approach which is necessary is to dam the rivers at their source. I have

referred to some of the rivers. There is the Fraser river; then there are the Thompson and the North Thompson rivers with their sources in the Shuswap and Adams and Clearwater lakes. Then there is the Nechako river and the whole Chilko river system having their origin in lakes. There is a whole system of other lakes such as Hobson and Quesnel lakes, and the other lakes which I have mentioned.

As set out in the report which I have just read, the great necessity is the construction of dams at these lakes and headwaters. After a proper survey to establish the proper dam sites, such a project would provide the whole province with a tremendous network of power for the building up of secondary industries and for the pumping of water for irrigation, as well as the control of our spring run-off. This would ensure a constantly steady flow instead of a sudden rush in the spring up until June, causing tremendous damage, and then low water in the fall.

That is what is necessary. My complaint is that this board, which has been founded on sound lines, is apparently not impressed with the urgency of its task; or, if it is impressed, it is not empowered to deal with it in any spirit of urgency. I repeat that the prospect of not even having a report until the end of this year and of not having any commencement of action until next year at the earliest is not a situation that will satisfy the people of my province with respect to this problem.

CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT SASKATCHEWAN  
LANDING

**Mr. T. J. Bentley (Swift Current):** Mr. Speaker, I have a grievance but I shall not take very long to state it. It is similar to the grievance mentioned this afternoon by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker). In looking over the estimates of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) I do not see a dam item in them for the South Saskatchewan river. That word is spelled "dam" and perhaps I should have put it the other way. While I was listening to the hon. member for Lake Centre the thought went through my mind that that part of the house was the last quarter from which a complaint of that kind should come. I can remember back in the years from 1930 to 1934 when there was a Tory government in Saskatchewan and in Ottawa, when hundreds of thousands of people were unemployed, but yet no suggestion of a dam came from them. Why the hon. member for Lake Centre should take the trouble to bring up a grievance of that kind is more than I can understand. I believe he was trying to embarrass the Minister of Agriculture, who is a Liberal. But