

Alberta Natural Gas Company

which I worked at one time, Britannia mine, one of the great copper mines of the world, a mine which has been in operation for over forty years. Britannia mine at times reached production of 8,500 tons a day and today still produces 4,000 tons. We have never done any more than take the ore out of the ground, mill it and ship it to the American side to Tacoma, a city which is built upon British Columbia ore, Britannia ore.

At the beginning, it was thought not economically feasible to smelt the ore in Canada. We had the lime, the coal and the copper ore, all on sea water within twenty miles of each other, but still it was said to be not feasible. But down it went to Tacoma where they also used our coal and lime, only because again it was American interests who owned the mine and who naturally were anxious to spend their money on the American side. In that forty years we could have built a smelter town in British Columbia of the size of Tacoma; but for forty years that ore has gone to Tacoma, in the same way as our logs and our pulp in the past have gone out of the country. Only in the last twenty years have we seen the beginning of secondary industry in British Columbia. Now again in these pipe line bills we see this desire to export our resources to the United States as fast as possible. That is why the British Columbia legislature, city councils and boards of trade across our province have said, "We are opposed to the granting of any franchise or any charter to a company whose announced policy is to take gas through the American route."

Finally I want to deal with this monopoly cry. The cry is that if we oppose these charters and if we vote against these charters and deny them, we will then be fastening a monopoly on the country, because we will be protecting the one charter given to the West-coast Transmission Company a year ago. That charter has not been shown to be of much use so far because the government of Alberta have refused to give it any consideration until other firms are in the field with charters.

I want to say at this point how proud I was two years ago before the railway committee to hear geologists of two of the largest companies say—and to see their remark repeated the following year at the mining convention to which I alluded earlier—that the oil and gas policy of the Alberta government today is the best on the entire continent. That is why they are refusing to deal with just one company, for after all they said they will not give gas to this one company as long as they are alone. They will only give gas when there are competitors in the field and they can pick the best of them. No monopoly

[Mr. Sinclair.]

has thus been created so far when the one company with a charter cannot proceed any further because of the vision and good management of the Alberta government. The only people who are creating a monopoly are the actual sponsors of these bills. All they have to do to ensure their passage is to agree to an amendment providing a Canadian route. I do not think this parliament should foist such an amendment on them, because I think that is contrary to the spirit of a private bill. The company or individual who brings forth a private bill has that knowledge of the thing which he wants. If he cannot get that, if parliament says he is not to get that, then it turns it down. To add an amendment to it unacceptable to the sponsor is useless, because the company will not go on with it; they will let the thing lie dormant. If these pipe line companies are sincere, and if they want to end the pipe line monopoly that the Westcoast Transmission Company has, then let them come forward and give the assurance in a form which will carry weight, this assurance that they have apparently promised outside the house where it has no real weight, by amending one of the sections of this bill, of their own volition, to specify building a Canadian route. If that were to happen there would not be one member in this House of Commons who would vote against these bills. We would then have three pipe line companies with charters, and it would be for the Alberta government to choose between them as to which one they thought best fitted to carry the gas to this market in the way most beneficial both to Alberta and to the people of Canada generally.

For these reasons, on the third reading of this bill, I intend to vote against the granting of these charters, not to create a monopoly but to make these companies realize the day of the ready and quick export of the raw resources of this country is ended and we must think in terms of Canada first.

Mr. Byrne: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MacInnis: British Columbia is falling in line. Don't carry this filibuster too far.

Mr. Byrne: I had not expected to speak on this bill this evening, because I thought I had said enough in committee, but several objections have been raised as to the way in which the committee carried on its business. Personally, I felt at times that probably it would have been better if we had allowed more time for the taking of evidence. It is quite evident from the disclosures we have had here tonight that any evidence that might have been given by Mr. Dixon particularly would not have carried a great deal of weight anyway,