

sary is to attempt briefly to place before the Chamber some of the main facts leading up to the preparation of this Convention.

As stated in the document released by the Department, the tremendous rush of waters over the falls has been gradually eroding and wearing away the underlying rock ever since the Niagara river began to run, with the result that the channel of the river has been continually changing, some parts being left without any water at all at certain times of the year. This matter was taken up by the two Governments, both realizing that this great work of nature, one of the world's wonders, is a very great attraction to a large number of people. In Mr. Stewart's statement it is estimated that no less than 2,000,000 people a year visit Niagara Falls to see that wonder. I think it is desirable that steps should be taken to preserve the scenic beauty. Indeed, it is strange that such measures have not been taken long ago.

There may be some who hold the view that there is something behind all this; that the power interests are involved and that this is merely a scheme to withdraw certain waters from the river to develop power for industrial purposes and so on. While the Treaty provides for the withdrawal of certain waters under certain conditions, after reading all that is contained in the Treaty itself and in this very carefully prepared statement, I have come to the conclusion that that is not one of the real objects, but is merely incidental.

There are only one or two features of the Treaty that I wish to bring to the attention of this House. The first is this. During all the negotiations the Dominion Government have kept in constant touch with the Government of the Province of Ontario and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of that province. Not only that, but after the negotiations were concluded the Government of Ontario agreed to this Treaty in all its details. I am sure we all realize that the Province of Ontario is primarily interested: if any power is developed it belongs to that province, and if it has seen fit to ratify the Treaty, I think we should have little hesitation in doing so.

Not only have the Ontario Government and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission approved this Treaty in its entirety, but the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States appointed a Board called the Special International Niagara Board, to deal with the matter. This Board consisted of four prominent gentlemen, all, I dare say, eminently qualified for the work in hand. Our two members of the Board were Mr. Johnston, an engineer of the Interior Depart-

ment, and Mr. Charles Camsell, Deputy Minister of Mines. The members of the Board worked together for two years and finally drew up a unanimous report of their conclusions, which was submitted to both Governments and approved by them, and, I presume, by the Province of Ontario and the Hydro-Electric Commission as well.

There is but one other feature, and that relates to the diversion of water. There are the Province of Ontario and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and the Niagara Power Company of Niagara Falls, New York, with their plants on both sides of the river. Under the proposed arrangement the initial works are estimated to cost \$1,750,000. It was proposed that these two power interests should pay that cost, and that in return they should have the right to use the power developed on each side of the river by withdrawing 10,000 cubic feet per second for a period of years. That is not to be continued in perpetuity. The Convention provides, not for the immediate diversion of 10,000 cubic feet, but for diversion as the Board thinks necessary. The amount of water to be withdrawn may be increased up to a maximum of 10,000 cubic feet, or decreased to any extent. That arrangement is to be continued for a period of years until all parties see what the effect will be on the scenic beauties of the falls by the construction of the works proposed.

In view of all this I do not think there is any reason why we should hesitate at all to approve of this measure. There are those who hold the view that in any international arrangement with reference to the creation of power on our side of these international waters we should always retain such control that there will never be any question of the diversion to the other side of the line of the power so created. It is held that once the power goes to the other side we shall never get it back. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the problem to be able to speak in that connection. It is a problem that we shall have to consider very fully when we come to deal with the larger scheme along the St. Lawrence river. While Canada at the moment may not need this power, if we continue to grow and develop the time may come when we shall need it, and if it has been exported we may not be able to get it back. However, I do not think that possibility should stand in the way of the ratification of this Treaty, for after all, in this particular case, any power diverted under the Treaty belongs to the Province of Ontario, and if the Government of Ontario has thought it