

EVIDENCE

FRIDAY, April 1, 1960.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

As the first order of business, Mr. Côté is going to give us some information, which he has obtained from the Department of Works, in regard to a definition of "navigable waters".

Mr. E. A. CÔTÉ (*Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources*): Mr. Chairman, two meetings ago the committee asked for a definition of "navigable waters", and the federal responsibility for erosion.

We inquired from the Department of Public Works and have received the following reply from the Deputy Minister of Public Works:

In regard to your first question, the term "navigable waters" refers to such waters in respect of which the public right of navigation exists. This right does exist in all rivers that are in fact navigable, including small streams or creeks, whether tidal or non-tidal, even if navigation by, say, canoe only is possible. A canal, being an artificial highway by water, does not come under that definition.

The second question which the committee asked was related to erosion, and this is the reply which the Deputy Minister of Public Works proposed to the question:

The second question concerns the responsibility of the federal government with respect to navigable rivers, particularly as it affects the problem of bank erosion. In this regard, I may say that parliament approves the use of funds for protection works each year, only where damages are caused by or endanger commercial navigation or federal government structures, and for the completion of works already under way. There is, however, no statutory responsibility for the federal government to do such work.

Mr. Chairman, those are the answers which the Department of Public Works have supplied.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have with us this morning Mr. McTaggart-Cowan, director of the meteorological branch of the Department of Transport. Mr. McTaggart-Cowan has come from his headquarters at Toronto.

At this time I would ask Mr. McTaggart-Cowan to proceed with his presentation.

Mr. P. D. McTAGGART-COWAN (*Director, Meteorological Branch, Department of Transport*): Thank you very much, sir.

I thought perhaps the best way of presenting the meteorological aspects of water was to first give you a very brief outline of what meteorology is, because the scope of it has changed substantially over the last 20 years; and then proceed to relate meteorology directly to the water problem.

I might say also, Mr. Chairman, that I brought with me copies of certain reprints of scientific articles to which I think the committee might wish to refer. I will make mention of them in my presentation. Also, I have single copies of other articles, of which I could not get multiple copies. If you wish, I will leave these as reference material.