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THE COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION.

The Canadian Conservation Commission are now organized and watching closely every new development or exploitation of our public wealth.

Their views and the stand they are likely to take on water-power development is well set out in a resolution passed at a meeting held in January. This resolution is of considerable interest to engineers, and we give it in full:—

That in future no unconditional titles to water-powers should be given but that every grant or lease of powers should be subject, among others, to the following conditions:—

(1) Development within a specified time.

(2) Public control of rates.

(3) A rental with the power to revise same at a later period.

It is unfortunate that governmental commissions are required to protect people against themselves, for every restriction placed upon the individual lessens his individuality and initiative and is not good either for society or commerce.

Following up the general principles enunciated as to water-powers in general, the Commission have taken up a particular situation, and in reference to the dam across the St Lawrence River and the export of power at Fort Frances they have adopted the following resolutions:—

1. That a memorial be prepared and submitted expressing the opposition of the Commission to the proposition to dam the St. Lawrence at the Long Sault, or to any similar proposition involving the construction of a dam across the St. Lawrence.

2. That the meeting records its opposition to the export of power at Fort Frances being authorized by the Government.

Canada is to-day taking advantage of her natural resources, but it should be remembered that we will not develop by hoarding up.

UNITED STATES STEEL RAIL OUTPUT IN 1909.

The output of all kinds of rails in the United States in 1909 amounted to 3,062,582 tons against 1,921,611 tons in 1908, or an increase of over 59 per cent. In 1907 the production was 3,633,654 tons.

The output of 1909 would indicate a busy year, and is a fair forecast of the activity that may be expected in 1910. An active year in the United States means a busy year in Canada. Despite the tariff wall, business conditions in one country affect the other.

The production of Bessemer rails in 1909 amounted to 1,806,621 tons; in 1908 it was 1,354,236 tons.

Of open-hearth steel rails in 1909 there were 1,255,961 tons rolled, in 1908 567,304 tons.