

such jams. I do not agree with my learned friends who say they are satisfied with the ruling of the Chair to-day that the matter of detail will not be gone into, but that there will be a report as to the feasibility. With all due respect, the report on the feasibility only carries weight when the question comes up as to how these other interests are conserved or will be taken care of. The whole feasibility of damming the river depends upon how the vested rights along the river bank, and of the villages such as Farran Point, Osnabruck, Morrisburg, etc., are taken care of. Such vested rights have a prior claim. The Company says it will have ice-breakers. If a dam 40 to 45 feet high is built at the Long Sault, there will be, dead-water back to Farran Point, a distance of 5 or 6 miles. The Company tells us that it will raise the water 2 inches at Morrisburg. How does it know? There is not a man living can tell how much, in a tortuous river filled with islands, with different currents, the dam will affect the people of Morrisburg. Now, if such ice jams are allowed to form, the village of Morrisburg will be destroyed. I have seen these shoves take place. I have seen them cut off large trees on the banks of the river, hard maple, two feet thick at that. I have seen the people who live along the river front in the county of Dundas, remove all their implements, all their carriages, everything that could be moved, to the high land close to the Grand Trunk Railway line—which practically constitutes a height of land—and I have known them to keep watch by night fearing that these shoves would cause them to be flooded out at night time. Now, I say this is one of the tremendous effects that would be likely to result from the damming of this river at the Long Sault. Gentlemen, look at one patent fact. In a distance of fifty miles, from Prescott to Cornwall, the river drops ninety feet. West of Prescott, the river freezes over. There is no danger of anchor ice west of Prescott. There is no danger of any gorge west of Prescott. There is danger however, of a gorge at Cornwall and east, but nature provided for that. Lake St. Francis with its broad expanse and great depth, almost every winter takes care of this anchor ice that is formed in the running water to the west. Now, I can easily conceive that, if the proposed Long Sault dam made a complete bond, so that it would be frozen over entirely to Prescott, we would not have any particular objection to the project. While it would block out our power there, we might get compensation for our power in the shape of other power, or in the shape of being bought out. But when it only dams the water back so as to give us still water to Farran Point, we are in jeopardy. The current being "slow to two miles an hour," any man who knows the records of this northern climate, will understand that the river will freeze over.

I say that, before this scheme is reported upon, this Commission should not make any interim report, but should ask for permission to