

2. (1) The Committee sat from the 15th day of June, 1931, to the 22nd day of July, 1931, held on most of these days more than one session and examined 35 witnesses.

(2) On the 1st of July, the members of the Committee visited and inspected the site of the works.

There were filed with the Committee 129 exhibits.

3. SOULANGES SECTION—ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

(1) The Soulanges section of the St. Lawrence River is that portion thereof lying between Lake St. Francis and Lake St. Louis which are some $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles apart, and between which there is a fall of 83 feet. The average normal available flow of the river through this section is in the vicinity of 230,000 cubic feet per second for 50 per cent of the time, making possible a development of 2,000,000 horse power of commercial electric energy at 85 per cent load factor. The site is in close proximity to the City and Port of Montreal, and is conveniently located on what must soon be a waterway capable of accommodating ocean-going vessels. It has therefore great possibility for industrial development if cheap power is available.

(2) It is apparent that the Soulanges section thus presents an opportunity for hydro-electric development almost if not quite unique on the face of the globe. It is one of the greatest national resources in Canada, and in its natural state of great potential value.

4. HISTORY

(1) About the year 1800, Edward Ellice, the Seigneur of Beauharnois, erected a small "moulin Banal" at the mouth of the St. Louis River and in order to increase the flow of the river, in 1807 built a small feeder, four miles in length from Lake St. Francis to the head waters of the River. This constituted the first diversion in the Soulanges section of the St. Lawrence River for power purposes. Whatever water rights were incidental to this feeder later passed into the hands of a family named Robert and apparently formed the basis of the applications for power rights hereinafter mentioned. Details concerning the Robert "rights" may be found in a judgment delivered in the Exchequer Court of Canada in the case of Robert vs. the King (9 Exchequer Court Reports). Reference may be had also to Exhibit No. 29, a memorandum prepared by Mr. R. C. Alexander.

(2) In 1855 the Government of the Province of Canada built a dyke, known as the Hungry Bay Dyke, as a protection against floods. It rebuilt the control gates of the feeder and in 1883 the Government of Canada deepened and widened the feeder and installed new gates in the dyke at the feeder entrance, considerable sums of money having been appropriated for this purpose.

(3) In 1902, J. B. Robert, as the grantee of the representatives of Edward Ellice, brought action against the Crown for a declaration of his rights and judgment was pronounced on the 17th October, 1904, deciding that Robert held substantial rights in the feeder. A compromise was arrived at by which the feeder was leased to the heirs of J. B. Robert by the Department of Public Works under date of the 28th December, 1909, for a period of 21 years. This was authorized by Order in Council, P.C. 2168, of the 9th December, 1909.

(4) In 1902 by Quebec Statute 2 Edward VII, Chapter 72 of the 26th March, 1902, the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company was incorporated with power to enlarge and extend the feeder. As a consequence of the finding of the Exchequer Court that J. B. Robert was not the owner of the