

Natural Resources—Development

to be developed at the wellhead in northern British Columbia. Therefore it holds true that the same thing would have taken place in the Crow'snest pass area where people are unemployed at the present time, people whose homes are there and who are ready to work.

The line would have continued through to Cranbrook and would have supplied that small city of about 4,000 people. I am using the figures presented at the time the pipe line company was seeking a charter. The line would have served Kimberley, the home of the largest lead-zinc mine in the world and a city of about 6,500 people. It would have continued on to Creston and have served another community there of about 3,000 people. It would have continued on from Creston over the proposed Creston-Salmo highway route to Trail.

Mr. Green: May I ask the hon. member a question? Is the hon. member contending that the plan of the promoters was not to go down into the states at Kings gate long before they even got to Creston?

Mr. Byrne: Before answering the hon. member's question, I want to remind him that while he was speaking yesterday I sought to ask questions, and I was allowed only one question. If the hon. member will assure me that he will not interrupt me during the rest of my speech I will be glad to answer his question.

Mr. Green: Go ahead. That is fair.

Mr. Knowles: If a man asks you to go with him a mile, go with him twain.

Mr. Byrne: Would the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre like to get into this debate?

Mr. Knowles: I am just offering a helpful suggestion.

Mr. Byrne: The application by the Alberta Natural Gas Company was to build a line to serve almost the identical market as that proposed to be served by the successful bidder for the franchise, Westcoast Transmission Company. To satisfy the hon. member for Vancouver-Quadra and some others who maintained that the line must be built over the top of the mountains at all costs, the Alberta Natural Gas Company was prepared to build the line entirely within Canada. No lines would be built in the United States whatsoever except the feeder lines that would be required for heavy users such as the atomic energy plant at Hanover, the city of Spokane, and so on. So I hope that answers the question.

Mr. Green: Of course that was not the main point at all.

Mr. Byrne: I say that their plan was to go into the United States. If the hon. member will bear with me, I will give him some figures that might cause him to begin to wonder whether his plan was the wisest one after all. They would have continued to Trail, where at that time there was a consuming public of 12,000 souls. However, according to the evidence as set down by Mr. A. F. Dixon who was appearing for the company, and I think that no one disputes his knowledge of pipe lines and their economy, he pointed out that Trail and Hanover, Washington—that is the atomic energy plant, which is directly south of Trail—would consume as much natural gas as the entire Vancouver area; that is the lower mainland. So while the population of about 30,000 souls in Kootenay and West Kootenay was not large, yet the consumption of gas itself would be certainly very large indeed. The line then would have continued on to the Okanagan and from there into the Vancouver area.

To prove my contention that Trail would be a large consumer, the largest consumer in Canada, the one single plant together with the small atomic energy plant would use as much as the greater Vancouver area I shall later quote a text. These were the figures, of course, in 1951. Undoubtedly there have been changes since that time.

The Consolidated company, being a large consumer, would have been treated by the Alberta Natural Gas Company as a distributor and would have received the gas at the distributor's rate or in other words at the wholesale price. I do not know what their plans were but undoubtedly the cities of Trail, Tadanac, Warfield and Rossland would have enjoyed much the same consideration.

I will quote from the report of the committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines in the first session of 1950, at page 65. This question was asked by Mr. Ferguson:

Q. You will sell to the people who have that franchise already?

A. Yes, the only exception to that will be in the gas supplied to the Consolidated Smelting Company at Trail and to the atomic commission.

That would be the atomic energy commission in Hanover, Washington. And further on:

Q. Trail and the atomic energy commission?
A. Yes, they have a much larger market than the city of Vancouver.

That is a quotation which means that those two consumers would consume as much as the entire Vancouver area. The witness was later