

in operating for nineteen days he had pumped down to the Caron saturation plant about fifteen million gallons of water, and that the maximum in any twenty-four-hour period was only 270,000 gallons. That is wholly insufficient for cities of that size.

Mr. GARDINER: They did not try to pump any more.

Mr. MacNICOL: The pumps went out of commission, anyway. I do not want to get into any argument; I want to help the minister, and I want to help those cities. I am just saying that while the present plan may have some merits, it is utterly inadequate as far as those two cities are concerned.

Mr. GARDINER: The present system would not take care of Regina at all.

Mr. MacNICOL: Well, Regina needs water also. I am getting close to the end of my time, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to ask for an extension. My argument is that the west is entitled to a much better deal, as far as engineering works are concerned, than it has had up to the present. I have no doubt that before long a delegation will be coming here from cities in western Ontario such as London, Chatham, Stratford, Ingersoll and other cities and towns in the Thames river valley, asking this government to do for that valley what it has begun to do for the Grand river valley. I spoke on this subject ten years ago; as far as I know I may have been the first to bring it up in this house. I did so after making exhaustive surveys of the rivers in the northern United States on which flood control and water conservation works had been erected. In that survey I learned that the United States federal government paid 37½ per cent of the cost of such works; that the state governments also paid 37½ per cent, and that the municipalities benefiting paid the remaining 25 per cent. That is a good ratio. That matter was argued in this house, and the government of the day—I have forgotten which government it was but that is neither here nor there—agreed to build the Shand dam north of the town of Fergus on the Grand river, the first dam built in Canada, as far as I know, for the purpose of flood control and water conservation. This government paid 37½ per cent of the cost of that dam. It should do the same in connection with flood prevention works on the Thames or any other river.

Therefore I am going to appeal to the minister to bring forward a real plan to provide an adequate, permanent supply of water for the two cities I have mentioned, Regina and Moose Jaw, and the surrounding municipali-

ties. According to the city engineer of Regina that would cost approximately \$10,000,000 for water for the two cities for domestic purposes alone. According to the city engineer of Moose Jaw it would cost approximately \$15,000,000 for both domestic water for the two cities and water for irrigation purposes. The government should determine what ought to be done; then this government should put up 37½ per cent of the cost; the provincial government should contribute 37½ per cent, and the two cities and other municipalities should make up the remaining 25 per cent. I will go further. Since neither those two cities nor the province of Saskatchewan can borrow money as cheaply as this government can borrow it, I would say that this government should meet the whole cost and accept notes or bonds from the province and the municipalities for their share, which might be paid off as per agreement. This money could be advanced to them at a rate not more than three per cent, which is the rate at which this government can borrow money.

I am in earnest on this subject. I have kept away from politics; I have attempted to speak from the point of view of one who has been associated with industry for a long time, one who saw what it meant to industry to have the west grow. I am thoroughly convinced that if both Regina and Moose Jaw are given water to the extent I have suggested, that is not less than eight million gallons a day in the case of Regina and four million gallons a day in the case of Moose Jaw, with provision for doubling those amounts if and when that is required, it will result in the population of those cities doubling and in the rebuilding of many of those little dried-out communities between Regina and the South Saskatchewan river. As an easterner I hold that it is the duty of the east to see that those cities and the little municipalities in southern Saskatchewan whose growth has been restricted so greatly through the lack of water are given a chance to live in the sun. Every dollar spent for this purpose will be returned in profits from the manufacture of the goods required to build them up and the goods that will be distributed through the growth of those centres. The government will be repaid through taxes of one kind and another, and in the long run it will not cost the country anything.

Let me close with these words. As an easterner I feel that this is the least we can do. As I said in commencing my remarks, my suggestions could be applied to many other centres in the west, but I believe this is the least we can do in return for what those