

Northern Ontario Pipe Line Corporation

the time was the best thing for Canada, yet they were actuated by entirely different motives from the motives actuating the present government of Canada. They would not allow United States financial interests to control that great band of steel which was to unite this great country from one end to the other, economically and socially. Read the biography of Sir John A. Macdonald. Read the letter he wrote to his friend in which he made that abundantly clear.

Come down through the years and you will find that Canadian statesmen right up to the present time have endeavoured to protect the integrity of this country. I want to say that if this trend continues—the trend of the control of our industries, the trend of the control of our economics and, most of all, the control of our great resources like this one by the United States—our political independence one day will disappear, and the people who will have been to some degree responsible will be the hon. gentlemen seated opposite us on this occasion. Make no mistake about it. Then Mr. King went on to say this—

Mr. Garson: I wonder if my hon. friend would permit a question?

Mr. Coldwell: Yes, I shall permit a question.

Mr. Garson: In the course of his research into the building of the C.P.R., did he come across any figure for the Canadian investment in that great venture at the time it was built? Could he tell us what that was?

Mr. Coldwell: I certainly did come across the figures. The figures of Canadian investment at that time, the Canadian population at that time being about 4 million, was relatively small. The bulk—

Mr. Garson: What percentage was it?

Mr. Coldwell: The hon. gentleman asked me to give the percentage. I cannot give him that, but I can tell him this, that the bulk of that investment came from the United Kingdom, and at that time Canada was a dominion within the British commonwealth. Canada today is not a dominion, nor is it a nation, I hope, within the North American union of the United States. The two things are entirely different. I do not know the percentage.

Mr. Gardiner: What part of the early development of railways and industries in the United States was financed by Great Britain?

Mr. Coldwell: I know that.

Mr. Pearson: Did it make them a colony?

Mr. Coldwell: I know perfectly well that a great part of the development of industries of the United States was financed by Great Britain. I agree. But as the years went by the British investments diminished. The trouble with us is that, as we are growing stronger, United States control increases. That is the difference.

Mr. Pickersgill: The statistics do not bear that out.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

The Deputy Chairman: If the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggarr does not resume his seat the minister may not ask a question.

Mr. Coldwell: I have resumed my seat twice, which I think is quite generous, and I want to say this to the Minister of Agriculture; that he and his government can find almost \$200 million, if my estimate is right—and we shall subtract the \$35 million of Ontario money from it, of course—for this United States corporation, but they could not find \$50 million, \$60 million or \$70 million to build the South Saskatchewan dam. Nor can they find money to help the depressed areas in the maritime provinces. Nor can they carry out the plan recommended by General McNaughton in connection with the Columbia river basin. Nor can they find money to improve the conditions of the old age pensioners of this country. Nor can they find money for a national health plan. But they can find nearly \$200 million for a United States corporation. Let us take a look at Mr. Mackenzie King again and see what he says.

Mr. Knowles: His ghost will haunt the cabinet tonight.

Mr. Coldwell: He said:

They say, "We will not even allow you to discuss in committee matters which relate to the control by parliament of expenditures; we will not allow you to say another word in regard to this right, under the peace, order and good government provision, which we are claiming, to be independent of parliament and to legislate as we please, whether parliament is in session or not. They have used the weapon of closure twice in the course of a short debate—

It was a pretty long debate by the standards of this debate.

—in order to end all discussion and debate on the most important question which has engaged the attention of parliament since this ministry was formed.

I want to say that the closure motion indicated by the Minister of Trade and Commerce this afternoon closes debate on the most important question from the point of view of Canada's economic independence to come forward since this ministry was formed. I do not