

*Supply—Northern Affairs*

quarters because people have been studying this question. In the first instance people thought it was only natural that the group of 1,500 or 1,600 small farmers who would be flooded out would object. That is understandable, but this is not the whole case. These objections are being raised on a wide basis by people who have given the question the most serious consideration, not only people in the Kootenays and in British Columbia generally but in other parts of Canada as well.

Delay in signing an agreement with the federal government is urged by the British Columbia chambers of commerce and by the British Columbia research council. These groups have studied the Columbia river treaty from four angles, national interest, provincial interest, Kootenay interest and local interest. They are completely non-partisan in their objectives. They include the Arrow lakes committee and the Revelstoke city committee composed of people from all parties and chambers of commerce whose members are supporters of all parties.

The facts coming to light indicate that this problem has not been properly assessed. Our local people are communicating with the energy board in British Columbia. They are glad to get the information. The cost of the High Arrow dam is going to be millions of dollars more than was anticipated. The cost of getting logs through to the pulp mill below the dam is going to be in excess of what was contemplated, and the problems are going to be greater. The sociological impact is going to be much greater than was anticipated. The cost of compensating for the loss of public facilities and private investment in the district over a period of 60 years is going to be much greater than was anticipated. We have had the co-operation of various engineers, including civil engineers and hydro engineers, who have offered their services free because of their interest in this problem.

The treaty has been studied from various angles by competent persons who have presented their views to the government of British Columbia and to the water commission, and who are presenting them to the energy board from various angles such as economics and engineering; the impact on agriculture; the impact on forestry; the impact on fish, game and wildlife; the impact on the tourist industry; the sociological impact and the impact on the city of Revelstoke where the opposition to this High Arrow dam was led by one of the old time Conservatives, whom I have known for many years, and one of the old time Liberals, a friend of mine, who both make it a point to

[Mr. Herridge.]

attend, when possible, any meeting where this question is being discussed. They are opposed to this project at the present time.

To indicate that it is not a local matter or a matter of people objecting to certain circumstances, may I say this. No one would object if this was absolutely necessary, or if there were not another way of producing this power. These people object because they think it is an unnecessary destruction of Canadian natural resources. Those opposed include the Arrow lakes and the city of Revelstoke water resources board, the city of Revelstoke municipal council, the West Kootenay farmer's institute, the West Kootenay women's institute. In that connection may I say that I received a very nice letter from the women's institute of Kaslo, the birthplace of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. They inform me that they are strenuously opposed to the building of the High Arrow dam.

I get such letters every day from such organizations and others. The British Columbia federation of labour; the mine, mill and smelter workers union and other unions in the Kootenays; the Vancouver and lower mainland council of unemployed and rod and gun clubs in southeastern British Columbia all are unanimously opposed to the building of the High Arrow dam, as are the Arrow boat club, the Nakusp launch club, the Nakusp stock breeders' association, and the chambers of commerce of Revelstoke, Arrowhead, Nakusp and lower Arrow lakes. The chambers of commerce of southeastern British Columbia are opposed to the High Arrow dam until it is proven to be beneficial to the Kootenays. Only recently the leader of the provincial Liberal party was speaking in Revelstoke and he expressed his strong views. I quote from the *Revelstoke Review* of May 4:

In respect to the Columbia river development, Mr. Perrault said the government never gave even a few minutes to the delegates from this district protesting the High Arrow dam—

He is speaking of the provincial government.

—and these gentlemen had to be content with discussing their problems with the parties in opposition. Mr. Perrault made it perfectly clear that the Liberal party in B.C. wants the Columbia developed as soon as possible—

So do we all.

—and that it wants the plant proposed by General A. G. L. McNaughton, not the High Arrow which is only the Kaiser dam under a new name. He said General McNaughton should be brought to testify before the B.C. energy board and given a chance to defend his plan against Mr. Williston's so-called experts.

I have indicated the study that has been given to this question, and I am receiving letters now from various parts of British Columbia. There is one here from a lady in