

Then again on the 20th May, 1931, he made a further speech in the Senate, referring to previous speech made on the 19th April, 1928. A portion of which is as follows:

Honourable members of the Senate, before the Orders of the Day, I rise on a question of privilege. According to the newspapers of this morning the honour and integrity of myself as a member of this House have been attacked in another place, and I desire to draw attention at once to a statement which I made in the Senate in April, 1928, regarding my position in the much-discussed Beauharnois Power Company. Newspaper articles had reflected on myself and other members of the National Advisory Committee reporting on the St. Lawrence waterways. It was insinuated that our decisions and recommendations were influenced by personal interest in power developments on the St. Lawrence. In this House I stated at the time that I had no interest in the Beauharnois Power Company nor in the syndicate. That was absolutely true and correct. I may say at once that up to that time I had been invited on many occasions to become a member of that syndicate, but had always declined. After that date I was asked again, and had the whole project investigated from every angle. When I was satisfied that it was a proper project for me as a member of this Senate, as a business man, and as a citizen of Canada, to take a financial interest in, I agreed to do so. Some six months later, in October, 1928, I took an interest in the Beauharnois syndicate, and was influenced solely by my business judgment.

I may add that I put into the syndicate dollar for dollar with every other member of it, and when it was dissolved I received my portion of the common stock in the new company, and my portion of the money distributed, as did every other member of that syndicate.

Now I have no apology to make for accepting the chairmanship of that company, nor have I any apology to offer on behalf of the company. I state at once that the men who had the vision and the courage to undertake the building of that great power canal, with all its potential advantages, should be commended instead of being condemned.

Then you went on:-

At the present moment the Beauharnois Power Company are employing 3,000 men on the site of the work--

and you recited the work they had been doing, and the sale of debentures, saying that part had been taken care of by the best legal brains in Canada. Then you concluded in this way --