

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 230

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF PERMIT No. 38786/64 GRANTED 10th SEPTEMBER, 1917, BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXTEND TO LONG SAULT ISLAND, BY MEANS OF A SUBMERGED WEIR, THE JETTY OR DEFLECTING DYKE IN THE SOUTH CHANNEL OF THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER AT THE SOUTH OF ITS POWER CANAL AT MASSENA, NEW YORK.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, D.C., AND OTTAWA, CANADA.

The Government of the Dominion of Canada has given this matter most careful consideration. The Government of the Dominion of Canada realizes the importance of internationally co-operating with the Government of the United States in any manner that is conducive to the maximum of war efforts of each nation, and if such were all that were involved in this application there would be no difficulty as to same. There are, however, other questions affecting (a) the navigation of the River St. Lawrence, Canada's great artery to the sea, and (b) the future development of great potential water-powers along and upon the St. Lawrence.

At the Long Sault Rapids there is a potential development of some 700,000 horse-power if developed internationally by the Governments of the United States and Canada. Of this potential horse-power there has been developed by the applicant only 35,000 horse-power. The Government of Canada would readily enter into intimate negotiations with the Government of the United States leading to the immediate development and utilization by both countries of this large potential water-power. The Government of Canada believes that such a question involving as it necessarily does the question of navigation and canal systems, should only be dealt with internationally. The Government of Canada has been advised that navigation interests at this point will be seriously affected by the construction of the proposed works.

Therefore the undersigned as Counsel for the Dominion of Canada, respectfully submits:—

(1)

The Applicant Company is a corporation chartered by the State of New York, with principal office at Massena, New York. It is believed to be a subsidiary corporation of the Aluminum Company of America. It has for some years developed hydro-electric-power in its power-house at Massena, New York, by diverting water through its power canal, from the South Sault Channel of the St. Lawrence River to Grasse River. The diverted water later returns to the St. Lawrence River above St. Regis, Quebec.

(2)

The Company represents that whilst it has a capacity of 85,000 horse-power at Massena, during normal conditions, generated from the water diverted from the St. Lawrence River, this is reduced to between 5,000 and 15,000 horse-power during the winter months by huge ice jams in the South Sault Channel, and the Company represents that in the production of aluminum this means a loss of six million pounds every winter.

The Company has applied for approval of plans for the construction of a weir in the South Channel of the St. Lawrence River at the mouth of its power canal.