

Mr. CHEVRIER: Just on that point if the engineers did not regard them seriously, did they ever at any time communicate that information to the interested parties?

Major BELL: Not in writing—I believe not.

Mr. HANSON: How about the head—

Mr. CHEVRIER: Just a moment. I have the right to ask the question, as the committee has extended to me the courtesy of asking questions. Did the government at any time, in any manner whatsoever, ever intimate to this company that these plans were not being considered seriously?

Major BELL: I cannot tell you that; I can only answer for myself.

Mr. CHEVRIER: At all events, you did not communicate it?

Major BELL: No.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Do you know whether anybody else has?

Major BELL: No, except that I understand verbally it was intimated they were not satisfactory.

Mr. CHEVRIER: There is nothing in your Department to show that that was ever communicated?

Major BELL: Nothing in writing.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Were there or were there not conferences between our departmental engineers and the engineers representing the company?

Major BELL: I understand that, from time to time, the company's engineers were in. However, the chief engineer can confirm that.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: We will call the chief engineer on that point.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Let us find out from someone who knows, and not create a false atmosphere here.

Mr. FANSHER (Last Mountain): Might I ask if the promoters furnishing these maps to the Department considered that these maps were complete?

Discussion followed.

Mr. HANSON: Regarding the head of the Chaudiere; under present conditions how long is the high water head maintained at the present time?

Major BELL: I suggest you ask that of the Engineering Department.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: We will call the Chief Engineer, when Major Bell has finished. If there is no one else who desires to ask questions on that point, I would like you to give the committee some information regarding the existing leases on the Ottawa River, so far as those leases were granted by the Department of Railways and Canals. What leases are existent, granted by this Department only?

MAJOR BELL: Really, only one lease is in existence. That is the lease of 1921 at Carillon, and if that were to lapse on the 1st of May, then the old lease for 250 horse-power would be the only one remaining.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: The 250 horse-power would be the only one remaining, providing the lease which expires on the first of May is allowed to lapse on that date?

MAJOR BELL: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: Regarding the 1921 lease, give the committee the information as to the date when that was executed.

MAJOR BELL: December 1st, 1921.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: What were the terms of it, briefly? Summarize the terms.