

*The Address—Mr. Hopkins*

only proposal which protects the Canadian water heritage by recycling, not by diverting, northern rivers. By its very name the basic goal of the Grand Canal lies in linking the major, multiple, and urgent water services needs of the mid-continent to the important long term development needs of Canada's north, and its vast water resources. Further, it would do this important job for the profit of all concerned and with the full protection, in perpetuity, of Canada's water heritage as its foundation stone. The plan calls for a large dam across the lower part of James Bay. Behind this dam the fresh water from the Ontario and Quebec rivers flowing into the lower end of James bay would be collected. This water would then be pumped up the Harricanaw river by means of a series of pumping stations equipped with locks. The lift over the height of land would be approximately 950 feet. The water would then be transferred southward through a series of locks to the lake Témiscamingue system and hence into the Ottawa river.

This concept proposes to pump water up the Mattawa river, into Trout lake and then into lake Nipissing, the French river and hence into Georgian bay and the great lakes. Not only does this idea provide for the replenishment of the great lakes, but it also provides for Northern development. The eventual plan calls for barge navigation through to James bay. It also calls for ship navigation of the French river, lake Nipissing, the Mattawa river and the Ottawa river route to the St. Lawrence. Thus it would bring back to modern life in a realistic form the historical use of the Ottawa river.

We must also note at this stage that this route is 282 miles shorter from the Lakehead to Montreal than the present great lakes system. Hence, it would cut down on shipping charges for grain. As we advance as an industrial nation the twin locks at Welland will not suffer from the loss of any diverted traffic.

What we must remember is to look ahead. Without a water replenishment system for the great lakes, industry in central Canada could very well be in trouble for a few years. We are already hearing reports that lake Erie is a dying lake. This country cannot afford to have this danger hanging over it, let alone the possibility of reality, if such is the case. The saviour of the Canadian economy is water replenishment of the great lakes, and the salvation of our Canadian culture and identity as a strong nation would seem to be

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northern development, of which the navigation and water control of the Ottawa river canal to Georgian bay, and navigational development of the water route to James Bay, are integral and necessary parts. We seem to be prone to move farther inland and take up challenges of development. I would also like to point out that such bold steps as these may seem odd, peculiar and hard to realize. But if someone had told us ten years ago that man was going to fly to the moon we would have sneered. Today it is within the realm of possibility.

The Fathers of Confederation did not pick Ottawa as a capital just because it was an inland town. They chose it also because it was on a main water route. Today we have time to act in such a way that provincial rights under the British North America Act would be protected. A royal commission could be appointed to investigate the feasibility of the entire Grand Canal project. If we wait until a crisis arises, then stronger action will be necessary and this strong direction would of necessity have to come from the federal government, and use of the elastic clause in the British North America Act may have to be called into play.

• (8.30 p.m.)

It is, therefore, Mr. Speaker, with all these considerations in mind, and with all these benefits for the country in mind, that I strongly recommend to the Prime Minister and the government department concerned that a royal commission, made up of capable economists, businessmen and engineers be appointed to investigate the feasibility of implementing this great replenishment and northern development concept at the earliest possible date. This commission should be made up of people from the business community of the nation and should be national in its composition. It should have the power to hire other competent people as the need arises.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that without northern development we will become stagnated. Without adequate water supply we will be in grave economic danger. The Grand Canal provides the answers to these problems, as well as providing the key for progress in eastern and northern Ontario, western and northern Quebec, and other parts of Canada on the great lakes system. This type of development will provide economic stability and, with economic stability, history has taught us that we will have a strong, united nation.