

blow to the enterprise, and leave that whole territory with its vast potentialities, that rich source of power, the Ottawa river and the French, open to the people of this province to develop as they have developed other resources in the many years during which we have had the hydro; and open too, on the other side, to the province of Quebec, so to utilize their own natural resources that they will not be hampered by their being placed in the hands of private interests, who naturally will, as they always have done, farm those natural resources, exact high rates through monopoly control, and bring about the very state of affairs which Ontario had to get out of years ago.

Let me tell the House the origin of the hydro-electric power enterprise of Ontario. It was just because private enterprise had their hands upon the supply of power, with the government of the province of Ontario session after session giving away new power advantages to these private corporations, the rates the people were being charged became unendurable. The people were being milked. Moneys were exacted from them till they rose as a unit and said: "No more of this. This private control of public utilities without which we cannot do must no longer remain in the hands of private corporations to be exploited only for their own selfish interests. It must be in the hands of the people who originally held this water-power tumbling over falls in the course of nature. It belongs to the people of the country, and it should be utilized for them alone." And we in Ontario rose to the occasion. We had the courage of our convictions, and in town after town, township after township, city after city, we put up tens of millions of dollars, and in Toronto tens upon tens of millions of dollars, backing our faith with our money. And we are successful. We are meeting all our obligations, and the people are getting what they are entitled to—power at cost, free from all the unrighteous demands that private enterprise from time to time has put upon them.

I have just this word to say in conclusion. We must not be criticised for fighting this bill at this stage. We have got to take every opportunity to strike a blow for the principle that underlies our opposition to this bill. If hon. gentlemen opposite can convince themselves that they should allow the Ottawa river to be given to private enterprise, let them pass this bill. If, on the other hand, they believe as we do, that the power belongs naturally to the people of this country, and should be developed by the people for the people, and at cost, free from all the un-

righteous profits made by private enterprise, they should determine at this stage to cast a vote in favour of this amendment, and thus do away with any possibility of this interprovincial stream with all its potentialities being diverted from the uses of the people to the uses of private interests.

Mr. BENIAH BOWMAN (East Algoma): It has been interesting, Mr. Speaker, to listen to the discussion upon the bill before the House respecting the Georgian bay canal. We in northern Ontario are vitally interested in this matter, because a waterway from the Atlantic to the head of the lakes that would pass by our front door would mean something to northern Ontario. It would mean a great deal to the district of East Algoma, which I have the honour to represent in this House.

Listening to the discussion as it has proceeded I could not help wondering whether we were afraid that the canal would not be built, or whether the fear was that the canal might be built. Frankly I almost think the apprehension is that the canal might possibly be built. I am convinced it would be of great advantage to the Dominion of Canada. It could not help but prove of wonderful advantage to northern Ontario to have this great waterway pass along just where it is needed in order to benefit that section of the country. During the past number of years that district has made rapid progress. For a long time it has been asking for hydro development and it is greatly interested in this scheme. It is true that in old Ontario the hydro-electric has made wonderful progress because of the fact that behind the project are strong municipalities that are able to give their bonds under the guarantee of the government of Ontario. That is the system on which the Hydro Electric Power Commission is able to function in Ontario.

The discussion so far, rather than following along the line of the canal, has drifted into a discussion of power development; I wish, therefore, to speak for a few minutes on that phase of the question. Northern Ontario has not had the advantage of hydro-electric development. I think I am correct in saying—and someone will correct me if I am wrong—that there has been only one power development in northern Ontario by the Hydro Electric Power Commission, and that development would not be possible were it not for the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. Northern Ontario is a new country and it has not been possible for the hydro-electric commission to develop those powers, owing to the lack of municipalities strong enough to get