

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): I would like to ask Mr. Sifton, if it raised the water at the Chaudiere, would the interests of Canada suffer thereby?

Mr. SIFTON: That is a matter, Mr. McLean, you will have to ask the gentlemen who own the Chaudiere plant. I will say this with regard to the Chaudiere plant; very far from doing the Chaudiere plants any injury, the plans of the canal company, as shown here, show a dam about two miles above the Chaudiere plants, which we will have to build. The Chaudiere plants do not use the entire head of the river at that point. We are providing them free of charge with regulated storage; we increase their minimum flow, and make them a present of it, and we double the value of their property.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Would it not be well to charge them for that?

Mr. SIFTON: I would like to. If you include it in the charter, I would be very pleased to have the authority.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Guthrie requests the opportunity of making a statement.

Mr. N. G. GUTHRIE: Needless to say, I appear here with great reluctance, but I could not allow certain statements to pass unchallenged. The International Paper Company, whom I officially represent here as counsel, will be before Parliament again. I do not want the members of this Committee and of the House of Commons, and the public, to get a wrong impression. I am sure that my friend Win. Sifton and his brother have made these statements under a misapprehension.

When the question first came up through Mr. Chevrier I took advantage of my old friendship with Mr. Fred Chevrier to assure him that the opposition of the International Paper Company to this Bill was an absolute myth. I represent them here, and when the matter was first discussed about eight or ten weeks ago I requested instructions, and I was informed by Mr. Graustein and Mr. Montgomery, that the International Paper Company desired to take no part whatever in this Bill. They have not, up to the present moment, opposed the Bill in any way, shape or form, and they are not now opposing it and have no intention of opposing it in the future.

I wish this to go on record so that these statements which have been made, as I have no doubt through a misapprehension of the facts, maybe set at rest once and for all time.

Hon. Mr. DUNNING: What are you going to do with the directors who oppose it?

Mr. GUTHRIE: The directors of the company, of course, have their own personal responsibility. I am speaking officially for the International paper company.

Mr. PARENT: Did you receive any instructions from the International Paper Company to favour the Bill?

Mr. GUTHRIE: No, I did not receive any instructions to favour it, but in the course of conversation an indication was given to me, along the lines which Mr. Win. Sifton suggests, that possibly if Parliament saw fit to grant the charter we would not feel very much displeased with it. If anything, we have no interest in the matter, but if we had any sympathy in the matter it perhaps leaned a little towards Mr. Sifton.

Mr. J. A. RITCHIE: Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I am speaking here as counsel for this company, a position which I have occupied for many years, almost from its inception.

There are aspects in this matter which I do not think have been brought before the Committee, and it is a matter that I think might interest you. It

[Mr. J. A. Ritchie.]