

lakes, authority to flood ungranted Crown Lands, authority to erect poles for electricity—such powers as the people are in almost constant rebellion against companies obtaining; and I venture to say that there is no legislation on the statute books of this Province where any individual has obtained such extraordinary powers as were given there. That was extended in the year 1890, and was done for the purpose of developing the interests of the community.

Mr. Carscadden: The time was extended, you mean?

Mr. Watson: Yes; he was to develop within a limited time as provided for in this Act; the time was extended in 1890 by supplementary legislation. He retained those interests until the year 1902. The Town of Port Arthur and every one else about there was entirely dissatisfied with the position of affairs because nothing had been done and because Mr. Jenison was a man of no means and had no ability to perform the undertaking. An agreement was entered into between the Town of Fort William and Mr. Clergue and those associated with him, by which Mr. Clergue and the Kakabeka Falls Company would proceed in the matter—that is, an arrangement was made by which they would undertake within a reasonable period to develop these Falls, and the Town of Fort William then made application to this committee and to the Legislature to rescind the extraordinary rights which had been granted to Mr. Jenison, and those rights were rescinded. That was tardy justice to Mr. Clergue and those associated with him, but it was no more than fairness and justice to him and his associates to give back what was theirs by original grant, and what they had paid for and upon what in the meantime they had expended the sum of \$65,000 upon. Mr. Jenison had his extraordinary rights, and his chance for five years. He did nothing during those five years; he was wholly unable to do anything, and then the rights were given back to the Kakabeka Falls Company—the rights which they possessed. Now, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I submit this is no time for a change against Mr. Clergue and those associated with him. This is no time for the committee or the Legislature or the members of the committee to make a change as against the Kakabeka Falls Company, Mr. Clergue and those associated with him, to take again from them all their rights and all their property interest, because they are the ones that had expended the money there, the ones that have the capital and are prepared to do it; and in connection with that I may say that Mr. Clergue has stated to me that by the autumn of next year he will undertake to develop at least ten thousand horse power on these Falls for the use of the towns and others requiring horse powers, that the engineering staff is now ready to go to work, and will go to work immediately, and by the autumn of next year he will undertake to the Town of Fort William and the Town of Port Arthur if necessary, that at least ten thousand horse power will be developed and completed and ready for delivery. What more do you want than that? As against that, what is proposed? Mr. Jenison is out of the matter altogether, the promoters say he is unable to do anything himself, and he has assigned all his interest to some Anglo-American company; therefore the man who acquired these rights in 1897 has now no interest in the matter.

Mr. Lee: See what he says in section 8.

Mr. Watson: Yes; but I was going to refer to section 7, where it is proposed that "The said company shall within four months from the passing of this Act pay to its credit at the Bank of Montreal at Fort William the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, which sum shall be expended by the company upon the works referred to in the agreement set forth in the said schedule within twelve months from the passing of this Act." So that nothing is proposed to be paid now, and if the assignment was made you will see it is provided for, and in section 4, in the event of the assignment being made and completed to this company—and it may not be, and meantime Mr. Jenison has no means—if it is completed, then this company may within four months put up one hundred thousand dollars. If they do not, where is your protection? You are just precisely in the same position and Fort William is precisely in the same position—there is no guarantee here by any one who has any means—the Anglo-American does not guarantee or give any undertaking—