

that case I have no doubt parliament would be generous enough to give him some allowance.

I know of men who have been ministers of the Crown who have been provided for even by those with whom they were not politically connected. The present government provided for one man who had been a minister of the Crown from confederation, generously provided for him by giving him an appointment enabling him to draw a sum to maintain him for the balance of his days. Nobody ever found fault with that or considered that any wrong had been done, and I surely think that all governments will be patriotic, considerate and charitable enough to deal with any worthy case which may arise without putting upon the statute-book of this country the tempting offer to retired ministers to make a demand upon the Dominion treasury and become a charge upon the country as long as they live. I do not favour that legislation and I earnestly hope the government will see it as their duty to abolish it.

Now, with regard to the question of Canadians taking charge of the fortifications at Esquimalt and Halifax, I very much regret, in a way, that the government find themselves compelled—if they are compelled, to assume that responsibility. I regret that England took the attitude—if she did take it—of leaving these fortifications to be looked after by Canada. I regret it because it will unquestionably lead to very heavy expense, which I believe will increase year after year. We will have to undertake the construction of some kind of a navy sooner or later, if we are to protect these two ports. I fear Canada's entry into or undertaking an expense of that kind. More than that, the trouble may be greater than anything that has yet been intimated by anyone who has spoken here. Canada may unfortunately do something through the equipment of those fortifications which may give offence to the United States and lead to international difficulties. We have always depended upon England to guard us against trouble of that kind. I wonder if England would be willing to turn out her ironclads and supply men to protect us against any attack which we might bring upon ourselves? We would have to assume all the responsibility of an attack and protect ourselves.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN.

I hope nothing of that kind will arise, but I would have been glad had the government been able to make such terms with the imperial authorities that by our voluntarily contributing, as Australia does, a sum each year towards the maintenance of the British Navy, and left to them the care of these two fortifications. That would have been very much better policy for many years to come, and I fear that something may arise to show that it would have been better had we adopted that policy.

The question of the international waterways has been referred to many years ago, when I was a member of the House of Commons. When the Chicago drainage canal was being constructed, I drew attention to what I thought would be the result of the very heavy drain that canal would have on Lake Michigan and consequently on Lake Huron and Georgian bay. The waters of our ports on Georgian bay and Lake Huron have been receding. They are to-day from two to three feet lower than they were twenty-five or thirty years ago. Last year there was an improvement, but up to that time they had been receding considerably. I have not the slightest doubt but the construction of such waterways as the drainage canal, which runs from Lake Michigan through Chicago and empties into the Mississippi, has contributed very considerably to the fall of the water level in Lake Huron and Georgian bay, and diminished the volume of water that passes over Niagara Falls. A resident near the falls showed me, when I was there some time ago, a large stone on the United States side of the river and told me that he could remember the time, years ago, when the water ran over the top of it. That stone is quite close to the falls and stands something like four or five feet out of the water. I have no doubt that the drain upon the source from which that water comes, caused by the construction of such canals as that at Chicago, is partly responsible for the diminution in the volume of water at Niagara.

With regard to the Minnesota Power Company's Bill, the hon. Secretary of State said that an agreement had been come to in this House at the last hour. That is quite correct. There was a fight over the division of the power, but at last an understanding was arrived at. What was that understanding?