

Hon. Senator McDougald is reputed to be connected with the Beauharnois Power Company, which recently obtained a charter from the Quebec Legislature for a gigantic development in the Quebec section of the St. Lawrence.

The report also contains a number of statements relative to the merits of private and public construction. I am concerned, however, only in giving an immediate unequivocal and absolute denial to the implication of the Gobe despatch that I am connected with the Beauharnois Power Company. I want to say here, and to say it with emphasis, that I do not own a dollar's worth of stock in this enterprise, and have no interest in or association with that company in any way, shape or form.

Now let me deal with a despatch which appeared in the Toronto Mail and Empire, also an April 18, and similar to that of the Globe, with the exception, perhaps, that where the Globe "reputes" the Mail and Empire "suspects."

That the report was written by Senator McDougald, Sir Clifford Sifton and Thomas is believed, and the other members of the committee played unimportant parts and did not influence the decision. These three capitalists are either known or suspected of being interested in power schemes, and the proposal to develop the national section first at the expense of private interests who would have the power, is credited to them....The criticisms so far advanced are many and pertinent.... that the proposal endorsed by the Government was prepared by power interests represented by Sir Clifford Sifton, Thomas Ahearn and Senator McDougald.

Speaking for myself, I want to make a further positive and absolute denial of the implications and suspicions of the Mail and Empire. The report was prepared by the Advisory Committee, and by the Advisory Committee alone. That the Government put upon that committee men who presumably knew something about power and power schemes was probably for the same reason that it puts upon the Railway Commission men who presumably know something about railways:-

You perhaps have not appeared before many of those boards. They vary.

--but for two of the prominent newspapers of this country to put out an impression to the public of this and other countries that the members of the committee were actuated by motives or private gain, or collusion with power interests, is, I think, an action which is undue, unfair and unwarranted. So far as I myself am concerned, I cannot add too much emphasis to my denial of the suspicions and aspersions which these despatches have cast upon me as a member of the Advisory Committee, as a member of this honourable body, and as a private citizen. Perhaps I may take some slight comfort from the fact that this sort of thing seems to be one of the ordinary penalties of public life.