

Still reading from page 21 of the majority report:—

In conclusion we would suggest that early opportunity be taken to reply to the overtures to Canada which the United States has made in regard to the St. Lawrence project, and we are of opinion that Canada's reply should contain the general sense of the views herein expressed. We would add the suggestion that, in view of the delicacy of the international negotiations involved, it would be inadvisable that our report be made public until such time as, in the discretion of the Government, it might be published without prejudice to Canadian interests.

The minority report,—it is not stated as a minority report but it is stated to be "Observations upon the report of the Canadian National Advisory Committee, by certain of its members." That is signed by Beaudry Leman and Hon. Adelard Turgeon, and it says, at page 27 of the report:—

It would appear of great importance that the Crown retain permanently its proprietary rights in all the improvements connected with this vast undertaking and pertaining to both navigation and power development. It is not difficult to visualize the immense value to Canada of retaining the control and disposal of such a large amount of hydro-electric energy admirably situated and which may be advantageously developed. In respect of an undertaking of this magnitude, which may insure the prosperity of many generations of Canadian citizens, the permanent ownership of this great Canadian heritage should not be surrendered to private interests but the operation of the power works developed by such a project could be leased or farmed out, under conditions to be studied and determined.

In the opinion of the undersigned, the project is feasible and practicable and may be proceeded with when the important economic and financial questions involved in such an undertaking, a few of which are outlined in the preceding paragraphs, have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Now, proceeding shortly to the report, which you have before you—

The CHAIRMAN: What is the date of the report?

Mr. MANN: The date of the report, Mr. Chairman, is the 11th January, 1928.

Further to the importance of the power project, I draw your attention to page 6 of the report of the Commons committee, after hearing the evidence for a month and a half. That is page 6 Roman numerals of the Fourth Report of the House of Commons Committee:—

(1) The Soulanges section of the St. Lawrence river is that portion thereof lying between Lake St. Francis and Lake St. Louis which are some $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles apart, and between which there is a fall of 83 feet. The average normal available flow of the river through this section is in the vicinity of 230,000 cubic feet per second for 50 per cent of the time, making possible a development of 2,000,000 horse power of commercial electric energy at 85 per cent load factor. The site is in close proximity to the City and Port of Montreal, and is conveniently located on what must soon be a waterway capable of accommodating ocean-going vessels. It has therefore great possibility for industrial development if cheap power is available.

"(2) It is apparent that the Soulanges section thus presents an opportunity for hydro-electric development almost if not quite unique on the face of the globe. It is one of the greatest national resources in Canada, and in its natural state of great potential value."

Now, I think that view was shared by one honourable member, and I may refer you, without reading, to the speech of the honourable member, Senator