

*Beauharnois Power Project*

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Yes, it is exporting power because it took over a concern which was under contract to export power before the hydro took it over; that is all; it does not export power itself.

Mr. MALCOLM: Yes, it does.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): My information is that it does not.

Mr. MALCOLM: Yes, it does.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): In any case, that does not detract from my argument, because I contend that it should not be done. Ontario should not be allowed to do it any more than Quebec, and this government has a right to prevent it in either case. There is a definite responsibility on the government to prevent this being done.

Mr. CHAPLIN: It was done previously by companies which the hydro bought out.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): It is the same thing.

Mr. CHAPLIN: It is not.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The information given by the hon. member for Lincoln is the information I have, namely, that in every case where power is exported by the hydro electric of Ontario it was agreed upon by the companies before they were taken over by the hydro electric commission.

Mr. MALCOLM: I do not like to interrupt the hon. member, but the hydro electric of Ontario is exporting, under the guise of off-peak power, substantial quantities to the United States, which were not exported at the time the power companies were taken over.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Then I am opposed to it definitely, just as I am opposed to this. I suggest with all deference to the government that the remainder of this Beauharnois development should now be declared to be a work for the general advantage of Canada. Secondly I suggest that this government should create a federal hydro commission to supervise and complete this power development and any other that may be required as a result of the creation of the St. Lawrence waterway.

Mr. EULER: May I ask my hon. friend a question?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am sorry, I have not time in my forty minutes. Thirdly, I suggest that when the time comes the whole project should fit in as a proper part of the waterway system. In support of that position,

[Mr. P. Mercier.]

in case anyone raises the constitutional question in this matter, let me say this. If hon. members will turn to subsection 10c of section 92 of the British North America Act they will find the following as coming within Dominion jurisdiction:

Such works as, although wholly situate within the province, are before or after their execution declared by the parliament of Canada to be for the general advantage of Canada or for the advantage of two or more of the provinces.

I submit that there is power under that clause to declare this work to be the national advantage. I refer hon. members also to section 108, which reads:

The public works and property of each province, enumerated in the third schedule to this act, shall be the property of Canada.

Clause 1 of the third schedule reads as follows:

Canals, with lands and water-power connected therewith.

These are within the control of this government.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Then existing.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I submit that this canal should be declared to be in the national interests and that the power incidental or ancillary to the construction of the canal should be taken over by the government in the public interests of Canada. A federal hydro commission should be created and the government should undertake the further development of this project in the public interests.

The matter of power is enormously important because of the reasons I have just suggested. It should be taken over and made use of, not only for the benefit of the people by means of lower rates but in order that the profits obtained thereby shall not go into the private pockets of Sir Herbert Holt and his associates but be used for the construction of a deep waterway which will prove to be a national asset. If hon. members will read some of the documents which have been issued in connection with this waterway they will find that practically every engineer has suggested that the power developed should be used for the purpose of defraying the great cost of canalization. I should like to refer to the report of the Canadian national advisory committee. I quote from the majority report which appears on page 19 of a white paper published by the government in 1928, entitled St. Lawrence Waterway Project, as follows:

We believe that the first concern of this committee should be, and of the government will be, the national aspects of the proposed undertaking.