

the representative of the Queen. That was when they signed their historic manifesto. But that has nothing to do with the subject of reciprocity. The cry in the country was, "Don't have reciprocity, Laurier! Let well enough alone!" There is a cry in the country to-day, "Bennett, let bad enough alone!"

As I shall not be here when he speaks, I shall send this book across the floor to my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen). There are charts and graphs in it which will enable him to check up what I say. I always think a speech is like a mustard plaster—it must draw. If it does not draw some uncharitable remarks from opponents, it is no good.

I am against government ownership. My contention is that private companies are better managed, and in most cases give lower rates than do government undertakings. The book that I have just passed across the floor proves this—to my satisfaction anyway.

In 1923 there were in the United States 3,066 municipalized electric companies. That means that they were publicly owned. Only seven years later that number had been reduced by thirty-seven per cent. In other words, 1,129 of these enterprises had given up and were a total loss to the municipalities.

The science of electricity is a comparatively new one, and constant transformations are necessary to its further development. These transformations are costly, and the salaries of the experts who conduct the necessary researches and experiments represent a large sum of money. Nationally owned enterprises when deciding on the scale of rates to be charged do not and cannot provide for this contingency; consequently there is bound to be either an increase in rates or taxation. Public ownership is erroneous in its conception, defective in its management, and carries within itself the germ of its own destruction. It is regarded as absurd by all right-thinking people. It remains the attribute of publicity-seeking politicians or ambitious governments whose only wish is to grow rich at the expense of the masses.

There is an idea abroad that water costs nothing. That is another fallacy. True, it costs nothing as long as you do nothing with it, but simply allow it to run over the falls; but the minute you commence to develop power from it you must pay a royalty to the province. Take the case of the Beauharnois for instance. This year the Beauharnois Company will develop 500,000 horse-power, and the Quebec Government will get a dollar for every horse-power developed. That means that \$500,000 will go to the Government from a private company. If Taschereau were oper-

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ating the Beauharnois himself he would not get a cent out of it. When the project is fully developed and the Cedar rapids, where there is a drop of forty feet, are closed up and the water is sent around the other way, where there is a drop of eighty feet, the quantity of power developed will be just double. The ultimate development at Beauharnois will be 2,000,000 horse-power. That quantity is not wanted now—though the Ontario Hydro took some 250,000 horse-power which it did not need, and which it has had to sell at a great reduction. But when the 2,000,000 horse-power is developed at Beauharnois, the province of Quebec will receive from it a revenue of \$2,000,000 a year.

The cost of water is only a small proportion of the cost of producing electrical energy. Whether you use coal to generate your power or do it otherwise depends upon where you are situated. If you are in New York, for instance, and want to bring power from this development, the expense involved in the erection of transmission lines from the St. Lawrence to New York and in tapping them would enter largely into the cost. Then there must be two lines, one bending westward and the other eastward, to pick up any business that may be secured along the route. The United States' share of power would be one million horse-power. Well, there are steam units in New York that develop more than one million horse-power much more cheaply than power can be brought from the St. Lawrence. They are even developing power with oil. Still, the politicians who want to make trouble go around the country and say that water costs nothing, and ask why so much should be charged for electric light.

I am very glad to have the honour of speaking before the right honourable gentlemen (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), because he was connected with the Ontario Hydro for some time. He knows very well that I am speaking only in the public interest, and have no grudge against him. Quite the contrary is the case. I want to thank him for giving way so that I might have an opportunity of speaking before leaving to catch my train.

When the Queenston-Chippewa power development was commenced it was supposed to cost \$10,000,000, but the final cost was \$150,000,000. The figures are there and can be verified. That is public ownership.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The honourable member is just 105 per cent out.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I am sorry if I have been wrongly informed.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It cost \$70,000,000.