

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: I do not think that is a question which has to do with the matter under discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall I call the next witness to answer this question for Mr. Richard?

Mr. WHITESIDE: I wanted to ask Mr. Fairweather one question first, and that is as to the weather conditions—whether boats can go in there the year around or whether the port will be closed part of the year as in the case of Prince Rupert?

The WITNESS: Boats can go in there all the year around.

*By Mr. Darroch:*

Q. I would like to ask Mr. Fairweather a question, Mr. Chairman. Can he tell us whether there will be a highway development in connection with this new town of Kitimat?—A. Undoubtedly there will be highway development in time.

Q. And will that enter the picture from the standpoint of transport competition?—A. Possibly.

The CHAIRMAN: We will now hear Mr. A. W. Whitaker, vice-president of the Aluminum Company of Canada.

**Mr. A. W. Whitaker, Jr., Vice-President and General Manager of the Aluminum Company of Canada Limited, called:**

Hon. Mr. CHEVRIER: The member who just rose, sir, is concerned about the operation of an aluminum plant at La Tuque, in the province of Quebec, where he says the plant is closed down; and he wants to know really whether or not there is any possibility of the plant re-opening. While it is not a question directly relevant to the matter at issue perhaps if you could answer the question it would be helpful.

The WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister and gentlemen. I am pleased indeed to have this opportunity. If you want my name—A. W. Whitaker, vice-president and general manager of the Aluminum Company of Canada. During this last war when there was a tremendous demand for aluminum we built a plant at La Tuque. At that time there were several additional generators put in by the Shawinigan Water and Power Company with our assistance, one at La Tuque and the other at a power development further up the St. Maurice River. It was not an economical location for an aluminum plant, but we had to build it there because that was the only place where we could get power immediately, and there was not enough aluminum or steel immediately available to build a transmission line from La Tuque to bring power generated there to Shawinigan Falls or Three Rivers. Since the war the demand for power has so increased in the area that there is now no power available for the production of aluminum in La Tuque, nor, in fact, is there any power available for the production of aluminum at Shawinigan Falls, and as a result there is practically no power available to us from those sources after this year. We have been, during the last several years, bringing some power down to Shawinigan Falls from the Saguenay, but after this year all the power that will be used in Shawinigan for the production of aluminum will be brought by transmission line from the Saguenay. To do that, we recently undertook the construction of two additional power developments in the Lake St. John area, one at Chute au Diable and the other at Chute à la Savane. These developments are now under way. The first one we expect will start producing power sometime in July and will be completed probably by late fall, and the other will start producing power, we hope, by December and be completed in