

the past summer have stated that with improved navigation and transfer facilities they would ship all their grain, a total of some 80 million bushels, through the port of Montreal, all of which would be new business.

The right honourable gentleman has also referred to the power question, and to the lack of knowledge available as to the market in Canada for such power as would be available through the development of the St. Lawrence Waterways. The right honourable gentleman must be aware of the investigations into this question which have been made by the Dominion Water Powers Branch of the Department of the Interior, by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, and by other economists who have studied the question, and also of the conclusions reached by the Dominion Water Powers Branch that the potential power available from the St. Lawrence watershed would be absorbed in approximately 25 years; from which the conclusion must be drawn that the power from the St. Lawrence will be required within a comparatively short time.

Honourable gentlemen will well realize that as a member of the Advisory Board, having submitted a confidential report to the Government of the day, which report up to the present time has not been made public, it is impossible for me to discuss this great question in more detail than I have done on this occasion. But in conclusion I desire to assure the right honourable gentleman from Brockville (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) and honourable gentlemen of this Chamber and the country, that in submitting this report to the Government, the members of the Advisory Board fully appreciated the importance of the task entrusted to them, and gave it their best thought and consideration.

There has been some query in different parts of Canada as to the effect of the deepening of the St. Lawrence Waterways on the national port of Montreal. For the benefit of honourable gentlemen of all parts of Canada who are interested in the future prosperity and development of the Port of Montreal, I give it as my considered opinion as Chairman of the Board of Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, and as the opinion of the technical staff of the Harbour Commission, who are in daily touch with shipping and with the movement of various commodities in and out of that port, that the business of that port will not be diminished, but on the contrary will steadily increase from year to year, and the proposed deepening of the St. Lawrence Waterways will greatly accelerate the rate of increase in the volume of business handled by Canada's national port

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALD.

of Montreal. One of the main factors in achieving this beneficial result will be the undoubted lowering of the costs on the all-water grain movement from the head of the Lakes, the minimum estimate of which, arrived at by all authorities, is a saving of three cents a bushel. Many experts say the saving will be as high as six cents a bushel, but we are sure it will be at least three.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STANTON: I infer that the report that has been made to the Government, whatever it contains, is the result of reading the prior reports, and that no original evidence has been taken at all?

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALD: I do not think the honourable gentleman should infer that. In addition to the available reports that we had, without going into the detailed reports, which naturally I am not in a position to do in a moment, I would say that the report prepared by the engineering body would be very largely technical, and to get further information on the engineering phases of it would mean constituting a new board of engineers.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STANTON: I think the honourable gentleman hardly understands my question, which is this: Has this Advisory Board made original investigations, or have they simply digested the previous reports of the other bodies?

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALD: To a very great extent they have digested the reports of the other bodies who were given the power to get all the information available. The Advisory Board had no authority to spend money in travelling through the country and getting evidence, as was suggested by my right honourable friend.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: No, I did not suggest that.

Hon. Mr. McDOUGALD: In conclusion, I would like to say that as a Canadian citizen who has resided on the banks of the St. Lawrence all his life, and in the last few years has been intimately in touch with the great movement of trade and commerce through the port of Montreal, I fully appreciate the great heritage which we have in that mighty river. I appreciate the value of it as a national asset, and I for one would not be a party to a recommendation or an agreement that would give any of our birthrights to the American people.

Hon. JOHN D. REID: With reference to the Speech from the Throne, I want to congratulate the mover and the seconder, and like all those who have preceded me I agree with every word that has been said.