

ty the Chicago Drainage canal have is the right to withdraw 10,000 cubic feet per second, but they have not, up to the present moment withdrawn anything like that amount. The total amount, speaking from memory, which they have withdrawn up to the present moment is something in the neighbourhood of 4,100 cubic feet per second. If the report of the commission were crystallized into a treaty, I question very much whether they would be able to withdraw any more than 4,100 cubic feet per second, because I think you will find that the difference between the 4,100 and the 10,000 cubic feet can be withdrawn only for drainage and not for power purposes.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Under what authority is that power created?

Mr. HYMAN. I fancy under an Act of Congress administered by the War Department. I do not know that I have at present anything further to say upon the question. I have endeavoured to explain the view of the government, which is, that before taking any action of any kind in reference to Niagara Falls, it is the purpose of the government to carefully give every possible consideration to the whole question and to confer not only with the Ontario government, but with the different provincial governments at the conference which will be held between this and the next session of parliament.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). While the Minister of Public Works says that only 100,000 horse-power will meet the present requirements, he must know that the entire province of Ontario could be lighted from Niagara Falls if the power could be sold as cheaply as it ought to be sold in accordance with the figures given here to-day. The minister also knows that the province of Ontario is to-day one of the greatest centres of traffic on the continent between Chicago and New York, and Chicago and Montreal, and that all the freight moving there could be moved by electricity, and I hope will be moved by electricity at a very early date.

Mr. HYMAN. Hear, hear.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The signs of the times point to the early electrification of the great railways of the North American continent. The New York Central road is about to electrify its great system from New York to Albany, using electricity generated by steam, and they have also made arrangements for the electrification of their line from Albany to Buffalo, so that within two years or less the New York Central will be an electric road from New York to Buffalo. In Ontario we have great systems of railways operating, and if either the federal government or the provincial government obtains control of the electric power that can be generated at the Falls, we will

Mr. HYMAN.

once again have the great railway corporations under our control and a new instrument will be given into our hands for regulating the railways. We ought therefore be very careful in making any treaty or in shaping any policy in that respect. The signs of the times also point to the discovery of a cheap means for the conversion of electric energy into heat, and when that day comes Niagara Falls will supply the place of coal in every respect, and give us heat, and power, and light. The thought comes to me to-day that we ought to set about recovering the franchises we have already given for the development of this great water-power. If we had the three existing companies under our control so that we could sell power at cost, then none of the other franchises would be taken advantage of and their works would not be built. It would be a wise policy for the government of the province of Ontario and the government of the Dominion to negotiate as to how these franchises can best be recovered so that the generation of this power can be operated for the benefit of Canadians. I trust, Sir, that the treaty, (if there should be a treaty) be very carefully considered. I believe with the member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) that a great deal of this agitation in the United States for the preservation of the scenic beauties of Niagara Falls, has been instigated by the existing power companies, and the great power merger which is now being engineered in the United States and in Canada. The conclusion has been reached by those who investigated the matter that the petitions which have been gotten up in this direction have been at the instance of the power companies. We have had a good deal of experience of treaty making with the United States and that experience has not been to our satisfaction. I trust that the day has come when no treaty affecting Canada will be signed without the parliament of Canada being consulted, and giving its sanction to it. This view may be different from the view taken of our constitution in the past, but it is my belief that no treaty affecting our rights should be signed until the parliament of Canada has become a party to it. I believe that Canada, through her own government and parliament, should negotiate any treaty that is made with the United States in this matter as well as in all others, and I am not afraid to assert that doctrine here to-day. If it comes to a treaty, I trust the Canadian government will have full power in the matter and that the consent of the Canadian parliament will be obtained before such a treaty is adopted.

The Minister of Justice has done a wise thing in delaying the passage of this Bill and in consulting the province of Ontario in reference to it, for I believe the best results can be obtained through joint action between the two governments. The only fault I had to find with the Bill—and it is