

Atlantic Provinces Power Development

energy, the site of any such facilities and so on. It could well be the land site of a dam. It refers to land, water, rights to use water, buildings, works, machinery, installations, materials, transmission lines and so on.

Having regard to the specific use of the word "Atlantic" in clause 3, subclause 1, and the fact that the bill refers only to the Atlantic provinces, I suggest that if it included all Canada it would make it possible for the province of British Columbia to apply for assistance in the development of the Columbia project and perhaps get someone else to build the dam. Anything else could well come under the legislation. However, because it mentions the Atlantic provinces specifically and prevents an application from any other province, I am wondering whether that is the purpose behind the bill. I am wondering whether the government does not recognize the earlier commitment by the former government that they would assist in the development of the Columbia river project much along the lines envisaged in this legislation.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I can assure the hon. member that there is no such thought in my mind or the mind of any other member of the government. I was going to read the appropriate passage from the speech from the throne but the hon. member knows the part I have in mind.

Mr. Lesage: Yes, but you have done nothing about that.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): I think that is the answer.

Mr. Lesage: The government has done nothing about that.

Mr. Hahn: If that is the answer may I ask the minister now whether, before the house adjourns, we can expect that similar legislation will be brought down to assist the province of British Columbia in the development of the Columbia river project?

Mr. Barnett: I should like to ask a question in relation to the question just asked. Do I understand that the hon. member for New Westminster is suggesting that when we come to the development of the Columbia river power project the only help we can expect from the federal government is assistance in the construction of transmission lines?

Mr. Hahn: I realize full well that it is not part of this particular bill but I am well prepared to answer the hon. gentleman in these terms, that if and when the federal government is prepared to assist in all these other factors we can certainly find a private

enterprise that will go ahead and build the dam or, on the other hand, I am quite sure the provincial government can do it.

Mr. Gardiner: Mr. Chairman, this is the operative section of this particular measure and, of course, it covers practically all of what can be done under the bill when it becomes legislation. During the days that the matter has been before the house I have listened to most of the discussion and on certain occasions was tempted to say a word or two. I do not like to see the measure go through without having expressed a point of view which I think is important.

It has been pointed out by the hon. member who just took his seat that the development of power on the Columbia river is most important not only to the people of British Columbia but of all Canada. The development of power on the St. Lawrence river was also of great importance not only to the people of Quebec and Ontario but to the people of Canada. The development of power in the maritime provinces is most important to the people of those provinces and also important to the people of all Canada.

In the remarks that have been made from both sides of the house with regard to the consideration that has been given to these problems and their solution I think too little attention has been paid to the fact that they are all interlinked and one of them could not be fully decided without giving consideration to the others. It was said very forcefully this afternoon by one of the ministers who comes from the maritimes that the South Saskatchewan river project and everything associated with it is more akin to the needs of the maritimes than perhaps the needs of any other province in Canada, and I agree with that. But I think there is one thing that has not been given sufficient attention and that is the fact that none of these things could have been proceeded with at certain stages. For example, we discussed the St. Lawrence waterway project for 50 years before we got down to doing it.

Every government during those years was interested in this project and gave consideration to it. However, there were certain problems to be settled in so far as the development of our own resources were concerned. When the vast iron ore deposits were found on the borders of Labrador and Quebec, this discovery made it most necessary that the St. Lawrence river development should take place, necessary not only to the people of Canada but to the great steel plants of the United States that were running out of supplies of iron ore with which to develop those industries.

[Mr. Hahn.]