

agreements have as yet been received. Federal authorities have been informed also that Quebec will enter into new agreements with the government of Canada to give effect to the amendments to the federal acts. We are at present awaiting return of the agreements which were sent to the authorities of that province.

POWER

ATLANTIC PROVINCES—LEGISLATION RESPECTING THERMAL PROJECTS

The house resumed, from Monday, January 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle) for the second reading of Bill No. 244, to provide assistance in respect of electric power development in the Atlantic provinces.

Mr. H. M. Batten (Humber-St. George's): Mr. Speaker, last evening when the house adjourned I was expressing my agreement with Bill No. 244. I said then that I intended to vote for this legislation because I believed that it was good legislation. Since I believed it was good legislation I wanted to make sure that my province of Newfoundland would receive the same benefits under this legislation as would accrue to the other provinces in the Atlantic region.

I must say again, Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that if we are going to develop electric power in the Atlantic provinces, or in any other province in Canada, the only way to go about it is to use the resources of the provinces, whatever they happen to be. In so far as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are concerned, I will agree that perhaps the efficient method of developing electrical energy would be by building thermal plants because of the lack of sufficient water power.

In so far as Newfoundland is concerned, we have sufficient water power, I believe, to provide for the development of the electrical energy which Newfoundland would require for some time to come. I feel that this bill, which refers only to thermal plants, should be revised in one of two ways, either by deleting the word "thermal" or by adding the word "hydro". However, I am not going any further with that suggestion at the moment.

I should like, however, to make some comment on the remarks made last evening by the hon. member for Queens. I honestly agree with the remarks he made concerning the benefits which would accrue to Prince Edward Island if this bill were implemented. But if we look at a table on page 553 of the Canada Year Book, 1956, we notice that the available water power for the province of Prince Edward Island, on a 24-hour basis at

Atlantic Provinces Power Development

80 per cent efficiency is 500 horsepower as compared with 958,500 horsepower for Newfoundland.

I therefore contend that the hon. member for Queens was quite right in the statement he made concerning the province of Prince Edward Island, but we must recognize the fact that if Prince Edward Island is to get the power to do the things it wishes to do now, or to do the things it might want to do in the future, that power will have to come from thermal plants or some other source of electricity.

I listened with interest to the hon. member for Halifax, and I must admit that he made out a fine case for the installation of thermal plants in the province of Nova Scotia. I agree with him. But let us look again at this table, and we will notice that for Nova Scotia the possible water power available is 25,500 horsepower, as compared with 958,500 horsepower for Newfoundland. If electric power is to be developed in the province of Nova Scotia to the extent that it is required by the various industries I think it will certainly have to be developed in some large part by the use of thermal plants or some other type of plant; but I do not believe that in the province of Nova Scotia there is sufficient water power to develop the amount of electricity they need even at the present time. I can therefore readily see the advantages which would come to Nova Scotia by developing thermal plants.

There are three things Nova Scotia will get from this bill, and I agree with each one of them. For example, they will get assistance in the installation of thermal plants. That is the first thing. The second thing they will get is the benefit of transmission lines. The third thing is that they will get a subvention on their coal. With regard to those three things I have no objection in the world. In fact I am pleased that this bill will bring these things to Nova Scotia, that it will help to provide energy for new industries and will help put some energy, if I may use that word, into their coal mines. My complete objection is that this bill does not provide for Newfoundland what it could provide.

In Newfoundland we have sufficient water power available to provide the electric power that will be required for some time to come. If electric power is going to be increased in Newfoundland I think it should be increased by the hydro method rather than by the building of thermal plants. In his statement yesterday my friend the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Browne) made his comments with regard to the area around St. John's and that part of Newfoundland known as the Avalon peninsula.