

ning to waste at Niagara at the present time, you see the immense value that would come to—there would be \$30,000,000 right at the point of generation as the value of this 6,000,000 horse-power that Niagara is capable of producing. It is true that the figures furnished by our expert do not agree with the figures furnished by the expert that the Minister of Public Works employed, and I regret that there is a considerable disparity. The engineer of the Public Works Department computes so many cubic feet to be the flow of the river, whereas the expert employed by our commission took 'gallons' as the basis, so that the two reports are not easily comparable at a glance. But, taking the grand totals I find that the International Waterways Commission reports :

That the Niagara Power Company takes some 12,000 cubic feet ; the Electrical Development Company 10,600 cubic feet, and the Canadian Niagara Power Company 9,500 cubic feet or a total for these three, when the full development is on, of 32,100 cubic feet.

The engineer of the Public Works Department proceeds to state that on the American side of the river :

The American Falls Power Company takes 17,400 cubic feet ; the Niagara Hydraulic Power and Manufacturing Company 9,000, or a total of 26,400 ; the total on both sides of the river being 58,500 cubic feet per second.

That is the amount that is given as at present being drawn from the Niagara river when all the works on both sides of the river are fully occupied. The total estimate of the flow of Niagara Falls according to the engineer employed by the Minister of Public Works is 222,400 cubic feet per second.

Mr. HYMAN. The hon. gentleman refers to these figures as being those of the engineer of the Public Works Department. These figures represent the conclusion arrived at by the International Commission (not by the departmental engineer) after, I presume, full inquiry into all the circumstances.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I accept the correction of the hon. gentleman—

Mr. HYMAN. These figures are not given by the Canadian section alone but by the International Commission—the Canadian section in conjunction with the American section.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I quite understand that this is a joint report but what I want to point out is that they calculate that the total amount that is withdrawn at present from Niagara Falls is 58,500 cubic feet per second and that the total flow of the river is 222,400, thus showing that the 58,500 feet is more than one quarter of the amount that is conveyed by Niagara river ; whereas the report of Professor Fessenden of Wash-

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ington, estimates that when all the development on both the American and Canadian sides is taken into account we have not yet drawn off one-sixth of the total flow of the river, as against one-quarter of it according to the report of the International Commission. The estimate of Professor Fessenden is that there has been 800,000 horse-power in round numbers drawn from Niagara river out of a total of 6,000,000 horse-power which the river is capable of developing, whereas the Waterways Commission reports that the 58,500 cubic feet taken is more than one-quarter of the total flow of Niagara, and which would of course lead to the belief that Niagara river is drawn on to such an extent that it will to a great extent depreciate the scenic beauty of the Falls. However, leaving the estimate of the total flow of Niagara aside for the moment ; the question for us as a practical people to consider, is : whether it is worth \$2,000,000,000, for the people of the United States (the people of New York State particularly) or the people of Ontario, to preserve Niagara Falls as one of the great wonders of the world for all time, and allow this vast force of nature to run to waste in the centuries to come just as it has run to waste in past centuries.

I do not profess to be very sentimental. I like to see a wonderful water fall, I esteem it as one of the great drawing cards to Canada, but I have very grave doubts if Niagara Falls as a scenic effect is worth two billions of dollars to the people of New York State and the people of Ontario. I doubt if we should be called upon to sacrifice this vast amount of money simply for the sake of scenic effect which will draw visitors from all quarters of the earth. My contention is that we can withdraw from Niagara river a very much larger amount of water than is proposed in the report of this Waterways Commission, and that is the reason I wished to speak to-day ; I think it would be fatal on the part of this government to enter into negotiations with the United States at the present moment and to say to them that we have reached our limit with regard to the amount of water that we are going to withdraw from Niagara and that from this time forth we will not withdraw or permit to be withdrawn from the Niagara river any more than is given to these three or four companies that exist on the Canadian side. What would be the effect of that? The effect would be to immensely increase the value of the franchises of these three companies ; that would be the first effect. They have got these franchises practically for nothing from the province of Ontario, I think 25 cents per horse-power per annum is the amount they pay for the drawing of the water from the river.

Mr. GERMAN. The lowest price they pay the Ontario government is 50 cents per