

international waterway, and again and again the engineers have asserted that there seemed to be no reason why the cost of the canalization should not be borne by the water power developed. If the late government had been a little more energetic and forward looking they would have started the development of the canal, and almost automatically the control of the power would have come into the hands of the dominion. Unfortunately the federal government was slow in acting and the power development was started first. The province of Quebec claimed certain rights because of that power development, and later on the Dominion government considered that we had to fall in line and that the canal had to be carried on as an independent enterprise, with the cost borne by the Dominion government. But even though that action was taken in the past it seems to me that we still have the power of asserting our control over this enterprise. As the hon. member for Bow River urged, it is quite within the power of the present administration to declare this a work for the general advantage of Canada, and I think under those powers, which are undoubtedly under the British North America Act, we might control the whole situation, both as to canalization and water power, and thus save this enterprise for the people of Canada. In another connection last night I directed attention to the tremendous control which, through the years, had been secured by Sir Herbert Holt over various financial and industrial enterprises in this country. To-day it seems as though we are playing into the hands of Sir Herbert Holt and adding still more power to that possessed by a great corporation that has already almost strangled the industrial and financial life of this country.

Once more, Mr. Speaker, I would urge that if we have not been stating the facts correctly to-day the government should set us right, for some of us are honestly perturbed about the whole situation. We feel that in our speeches to-day we have represented the fears and the hopes of a large number of people in Canada.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when a discussion of this kind is contemplated in the house it has been customary for notice to be given to the leader of the government or some minister concerned with the matter in question. No notice was given and therefore I do not propose to traverse the matter at length, though I may do so later. This discussion indicates at once that it is not always desirable to rely upon briefs prepared outside and given hon. members of this house to read in this chamber. I make

that statement very carefully and I know exactly what I am saying.

Mr. GARDINER: Just what does the Prime Minister mean by that statement?

Mr. BENNETT: I mean exactly what I have said, and just that; the hon. gentleman can read it in Hansard, and he will know what I mean. I read some of the speeches delivered in previous years before they were made. Let us have no misunderstanding about the position of affairs. This afternoon in this house three hon. members charged that power was to be exported from Canada, that an arrangement had been made to export power from this country. Three hon. members made that statement, one after the other, in this chamber.

Mr. GARDINER: Who were the three members?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland), the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) and the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner).

Mr. GARDINER: I did not make that statement during the course of my remarks.

Mr. BENNETT: Then if my hon. friend's words did not mean that they meant nothing; they were simply an endeavour to fasten on the government some responsibility which does not belong there.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The hon. member for Bow River referred to the bill passed by the Quebec legislature.

Mr. BENNETT: And he made statements about this government. It is not as though the hon. member were an ignorant man; he is a gentleman of culture and education, and he knew perfectly well that there was a law on the statute books of the dominion stating very definitely that no power can be exported without the consent of the governor in council; he knew perfectly well that no such consent or licence had been given.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Quite right.

Mr. BENNETT: Then that settles it.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I referred to licences that might be granted.

Mr. BENNETT: The statement was made the other day that no licences had been issued.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I wanted to know if licences were going to be issued.

Mr. BENNETT: That illustrates the course that has been continuously and persistently pursued by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken this afternoon. There have been no