

cost will not be \$4,000,000 but in excess of that sum, but for the sake of our discussion we will take the figure he suggests, namely, \$4,000,000. You must then add the \$4,000,000 to the \$18,700,000 already required.

I come now to the Lachine section. The report of the joint board of engineers, which I have under my hand, and other documents as well, have indicated an estimated cost of the Lachine section of \$53,000,000—that is, simply to make it part of the great waterways scheme—or a grand total cost of \$75,000,000 in order to make this part of the river navigable under the waterways scheme. I submit that if the Dominion government would appropriate this concern and issue bonds required for the construction of the rest of the canal, at the same rate of interest, they would make sufficient profit on the present contracts alone, plus this 100,000 horse power, to pay for the entire construction, and on top of that have a net profit of \$750,000, which by the way might be applied to the deficits in connection with the Montreal harbour project or something of that kind. These figures are based on the completion of the power project up to the first stage of 500,000 horse power.

I have already intimated that under private ownership there is no security for the people of the province of Quebec. There is no guarantee any longer of even competitive rates, for they are left at the mercy of the Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company and its associates—an inhuman position, I contend, in face of the rates they are charging in comparison with those that obtain under the provincially owned hydro electric project of Ontario. Remember, I am not proposing that the government should go into the business of distributing power, but I am urging that it should take over this enterprise, which is the natural heritage of the people, and develop it as part of the great waterway system, and it should then undertake to sell power to whoever may distribute it in the province, exactly on the principle of the hydro electric of Ontario. Private interests are developing and selling power at \$15 per horse power and I am satisfied that it could be sold, as I am informed it is now about to be sold to United States interests, at \$12 per horse power or less. I have no doubt that is possible under public ownership; I am absolutely convinced of it from information I have secured in the matter.

I am definitely and unalterably opposed to the export of power. When a few years ago this question came up first, Mr. Taschereau accepted the idea of the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company coming into exist-

ence. I have already stated two reasons why, and I wish now to refer once again to one of those reasons; it was to supply the power requirements in the province of Quebec. In other words, it was urged that there was not at that time sufficient power and apparently Mr. Taschereau wanted this done. Now note that before this power becomes fully available—only a small part of it is now available—Mr. Taschereau comes forward and urges that they should be permitted to export power because they have too much. Surely that is perfectly absurd. I submit further that once Canada exports power it can never get it back again. You can never permit the establishment of municipalities, industries, plants, homes and so on on a natural resource upon which people will depend so utterly, and hope eventually to recover that resource. You cannot do it short of war, and I protest most vigorously against the proposal that the provincial government of Quebec, apparently with the acquiescence of this government, should permit the export of power.

I am not alone in my opinions in this regard, or at least I hope I am not. Certainly at one time I was not, for in this house the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen himself, in the year 1925, when this question of the export of power came up in connection with Carillon, used language which I should be very proud to use in this matter. He said:

The asset that Canada has in its water-power could not be appreciated by any man however gifted, even four years ago, to say nothing of sixteen or twenty years ago, as it can be appreciated to-day. . . . There may be American capitalists who will sign agreements that the power is withdrawable; but if they do, they know it is withdrawable on paper, but that never in actual fact can it be withdrawn.

He had some other trenchant things to say about it:

Now the fact is that an application as astounding in its audacity as any ever presented has been before the government for months, lying in the government files, and lying there without repudiation, without one negative word going to those who are behind the application.

I should like to know whether those words are not absolutely applicable to-day, whether this government has not had in its hands for weeks a permit for the export of power. In answer to my question some weeks past there was a clear evasion of the matter so far as I could see, and I hope the Prime Minister will reply to that point. I submit to him that he has no right to consent to the export of power from this dominion, not even on the yearly basis.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Isn't the hydro electric of Ontario exporting power?