

Niagara Falls Bridge

is included in the verbatim report of the council meeting appearing in the press on April 5. He said:

I don't know whether Alderman McAninch remembers what trouble Hon. W. L. Houck went to on behalf of the city of Niagara Falls—

Then he referred to some other matters, and went on to say:

The only member in Ottawa who is trying to read out the bridge bill is N. J. M. Lockhart, the member for Lincoln county. Do you know that two years ago when A. B. Damude, our member, asked the government for \$90,050 to build the river road, Mr. Lockhart was the only member who objected. He didn't want to see a single five cent piece spent on any road in Niagara Falls. Now he says he is interested in this city receiving taxes.

I challenge the hon. member for Welland to substantiate that statement or correct it in the Niagara Falls press.

Mr. DAMUDE: Does the hon. gentleman suggest that I made that statement?

Mr. LOCKHART: That is the statement which was made; that has come into this argument at this stage, for what reason I do not know.

Mr. DAMUDE: Who said so?

Mr. LOCKHART: Alderman Donald, at the meeting of the Niagara Falls council, said that I opposed the voting of \$90,000 in this house.

Mr. DAMUDE: Has that anything to do with the bridge bill?

Mr. LOCKHART: I ask the hon. member to be good enough to inquire into that statement and see if it is true. On March 24, the Niagara Falls council passed a resolution, which has been placed on Hansard already. I do not want to take time to read it again—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. LOCKHART: If hon. members wish, I can easily take time to read it, but there are more important points to which I want to refer.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Read it.

Mr. LOCKHART: This resolution was passed by the city council, and appeared verbatim in the Niagara Falls Review of March 24. The council wanted to send a telegram to the Prime Minister. This has been referred to already, and I do not consider it necessary to repeat it to-night. In any case they decided to send this telegram protesting against the passing of this bill until a clause was inserted to protect the citizens of Niagara Falls against the loss of any taxes.

[Mr. Lockhart.]

Things seem to happen in Niagara Falls, as they do in Ottawa. Some people allow others to make up their minds for them. I note that the resolution read into Hansard by the hon. member for Welland was adopted by a division of four to three. That is peculiar, because the original resolution of protest was passed by a similar division, only the other way around. I have letters from citizens of Niagara Falls which I could take an hour to read, suggesting why some of the people might have changed their minds.

To return to this press report of March 24, which I am informed is verbatim, Mayor Hanniwell said that there was no encouragement to support public ownership in Niagara Falls.

The effects of it have crippled this municipality. We have had the tax exempt hydro, and confiscation of valuable city property by the Niagara parks commission, upon which no taxes are paid to the city, and there is certainly no incentive to support a publicly owned bridge if a repetition of the past is going to be a fact.

That statement was made early in the discussion of this matter. Alderman McAninch, according to press reports, expressed the same conviction.

I come now to the remarks or, shall I say, the inferences of the hon. member for Welland, as I find them at page 2051 of Hansard. It is to these that I want particularly to direct attention. The hon. member mentioned something about an Ethiopian in the woodpile. This inference can be interpreted only as having reference to the late Hon. J. D. Chaplin. My comment in that connection is this: I hope my hon. friend and I will some time possess the reputation that the late Hon. J. D. Chaplin possessed when he left Ottawa. Many members of this house, on all sides, have continued to impress upon me the sincerity of purpose of the late Hon. J. D. Chaplin.

An hon. MEMBER: Did anyone say that it was Hon. J. D. Chaplin who was referred to?

Mr. LOCKHART: The hon. member for Welland said:

It came from the county of Lincoln, the same place from which it is coming now. Probably there is a reason for this. A remark was made the other evening that there might be an Ethiopian. There is an old saying. Where there is an Ethiopian there usually is a woodpile, and I think the woodpile will be found at St. Catharines. St. Catharines possesses some excellent citizens who are vitally interested in the lower steel arch bridge at Niagara Falls, a company which received from the Canadian National Railways a rental of \$100,000 a year. The president of this company, and the secretary treasurer also, two very fine gentlemen, live in St. Catharines; directors