

The course, as originally contemplated and modified, is as follows :

Through the River Trent, Rice lake, the River Otonabee and Lakes Clear, Stony, Lovesick, Deer, Buckhorn, Chemong, Pigeon, Sturgeon and Cameron to Lake Balsam, the summit water, about 165 miles from Trenton ; from Lake Balsam by a canal and the River Talbot to Lake Simcoe, thence across Lake Simcoe to the Severn river ; thence by the River Severn to Georgian bay, Lake Huron ; the total distance being about 200 miles, of which only about 15 or 20 miles will be actual canal.

This report expressly points out that in that distance of 200 miles, there will be only 20 miles of actual canal, the balance being a connection of a series of lakes and waterways.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. May I ask the hon. gentleman from whose report he is reading ?

Mr. HALL. The report of Mr. M. J. Butler, deputy minister of Railways and Canals. Now, the fact of the matter is this is simply a connection of waterways. I find that the surface area of the lakes on the line of the Trent canal is 140 square miles. The surface area of the lakes at the head of the dams recently transferred from the Ontario to the Dominion government is 100 square miles. The lakes tributary to these waters have an area of 100 square miles. So we can readily understand that, on the line of the Trent waterways, there are lakes immediately upon the line of the waterways, which, being stretched into a river would make a stream 140 miles long and one mile wide, and this in the short distance of 162 miles between Balsam lake and Trenton. Then, that does not take into consideration, the fact that there are 92 miles of river as well, including the Otonabee and the Trent. In addition to that there is the surface area of Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching, to be taken into consideration. These lakes have an area of 283 square miles. So, in the whole of the Midland district there are waters having a combined surface area of no less than 626 square miles, in a total basin of 3,000 square miles. That is to say, over one-fifth of the entire basin consists of water. Therefore those who do not look upon the Trent waterway as being an important factor to be taken into consideration in dealing with the question of the through Canadian route have not given the matter the consideration, which, I, believe the importance of the subject demands.

Now, the question arises, in view of the facts that I have already given, what has been done and what still remains to do ? I find that there is a distance of 127 miles between Healy's Falls and Kirkfield which has been made navigable. Healy's Falls is 11 miles below Hastings and 43 miles north of Trenton. Of these 43 miles between Healy's Falls and Trenton, 19½ miles

Mr. HALL.

between 9-mile Rapid and Percy's Landing are already navigable, so that only 23½ miles require to be improved. Kirkfield is 17 miles east of Lake Simcoe. The construction of the work is proceeding as rapidly as possible and it is expected that in July this year the connection will be made between Balsam lake and Lake Simcoe, which will add 31 miles to the 127 miles actually completed waterway making a total of 158 miles of inland waterway right in the heart of the Midland district.

Now, as to what remains to be done : The commission have pointed out that upwards of \$5,000,000 has been spent on the canal down to date. What will it cost to finish the work that still remains ? I wish to refer, first to the south end, where it is only necessary to canalize the River Trent between Trenton and 9-Mile Rapid, and between Percy Landing and Healy's Falls.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Would it not be well for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Hall) to send for the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Emmerson) that he may have the benefit of all this wisdom. I am surprised that the minister is not in his place.

Mr. HALL. As that point has been mentioned, I may ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sam. Hughes) if it would not be wise to send for the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden).

Mr. LENNOX. The leader of the opposition has been here constantly since the session opened until to-day he is away on business.

Mr. FOWLER. The leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is not here either.

Mr. HALL. There is an alternative route proposed between Rice lake and Lake Ontario, a distance of about 13 miles. I do not propose to consider the question which of these proposed routes should be taken, as the matter is under investigation and will be reported upon by the engineers. And then, again at the north end, all that requires to be done is to canalize 14 miles of the Severn river. There are alternate routes of construction there which, as the engineers are making a survey of them with a view to reporting, I do not intend to deal with. But the fact is that there is only about 23½ miles of river to canalize at the south end, or to build a canal 13 miles long and, at the north end to build a canal about 13 miles long from Lake Simcoe to Georgian bay or to canalize about 14 miles of the Severn river. So, it will be seen that the whole system is very near completion. It could be completed in two years if the necessary appropriations were made and the expenditures carried on.

Now, what country would be tributary to this canal when opened—speaking merely