

power by Jenison. We had positive assurances at that time from the Kakabeka Land and Electric Company that they would undertake the development, and it was very largely on those assurances that we took the stand we did, and as soon as Parliament was over I went to the Soo to make arrangements in that direction, and after spending some days the only offer we got was an offer which could not be accepted, and never will be accepted in connection with the Town of Fort William or Port Arthur. If we would part with all our municipal utilities and assign the rights that we had in the water power under that Act, then an agreement would be entered into to make developments—and there were some other things in connection with it. When that matter was brought before our people they would not consider it for a moment. I then went to work to raise the necessary capital. Our town engaged the engineers of Montreal, Pringle and Sonx, who made a very careful estimate of the power along the rights we have, and acting upon that report I have the capital in sight for the development of that water power of two thousand horse power in the Town of Fort William. At that time Mr. Jenison came along with an appeal against the legislation of last year. The appeal was addressed to His Excellency the Governor-in-Council; and before going any further with our matters I went to Ottawa and interviewed the leaders of the House of Commons in relation to this matter. I also had conferences with the leading members of the Provincial House, and the advices that we received were that it was better for us to come to some arrangement providing the capital could be put up and a suitable agreement made with the Towns of Fort William and Port Arthur, that that was the best way out of a long and interminable lawsuit. The Town of Fort William wanted a speedy development of this power, and took that course, and we are here to-day as the result of acting upon that advice, and we are here with an agreement which satisfies the Town of Fort William and Port Arthur; we are here with an agreement which saves one hundred thousand dollars which has been invested during the last seven or eight years in the development, bringing it along to where it is now, and this agreement places us in sight of a million and a half dollars capital to be expended on this water power, of which that district will get the benefit, and it also guarantees the rights of the towns as to price and quantity, and everything is satisfactory to the towns. I think this is a case that appeals very strongly to your good sense and to your reason. I want you to bear in mind that in asking for the revival of these rights and the consummation of this agreement, and the passing of this Act, we were so advised that that was the best way out of the difficulty which had arisen by a very strong appeal, an appeal grounded on this money having been expended during that time, and I think if you take into consideration that the two towns are perfectly satisfied, that we have no agreement whatever with the Clergue interest of a year ago, the committee will be willing to pass this bill. There was an agreement entered into, and partially carried along, but if the difficulties of carrying even the first preliminary steps of that agreement are laid before this committee you will see what weight can be attached and what dependence placed upon any agreement of that kind. There are here to-day the Mayors of Fort William and Port Arthur and some twenty representatives from the two towns, including the President of the Board of Trade and leading citizens and other men of the town, and the two towns are unanimously agreed that this is the best thing for the district, and they are asking you to-day to pass this bill, and pass it as quickly as possible, having regard to the several stages in connection with such business. I do not know that I need say anything more than that just now, excepting the two towns are perfectly satisfied that by passing this bill you are protecting capital of at least one hundred thousand dollars; you are placing us in a position to accomplish what we have in view. I think I may say for the information of this committee that the British capitalists who are prepared to put up this are no less than Sir Hiram Maxim. Our member, Mr. Cameron, has seen the agreement and is prepared to say to you a few words. I think there ought not to be any quibbling as to the rights of these two towns. The Kakabeka Company has sat down on land, bought land along those Falls for seventeen years, and has never done anything towards development, and now we have come to the point where these two towns agree and the capital is in sight, and