

On the 27th of May, 1924, there was appointed the National Advisory Committee. That committee was appointed under Privy Council Order 779, and is Exhibit 113. Consequently it will be Exhibit 113, by virtue of your resolution, in this inquiry.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Are you sure the Senate appointed that committee?

Mr. MANN: No, the government.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: Apointed by Order-in-Council.

Mr. MANN: I beg your pardon. It was a government committee appointed by Order in Council P.C. 779 on the 7th of May, 1924. I said the 27th—it was the 7th.

Now, I think this Order in Council ought to be read to the Committee, because it is the beginning of the circumstances which we are going to review in the next few days:—

7th May, 1924.

P.C. 779.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a Report, dated 7th May, 1924, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs, submitting that the question of improving the navigation on the St. Lawrence Waterway so as to provide access to the Great Lakes for maritime commerce, is one of considerable difficulty and complication, and its right decision may be of the highest possible importance to Canada. The project necessarily involves collaboration with the United States of America and the expenditure of very large sums of money. The minutest examination of the problem in all its aspects, financial, economic, technical and international, is not only justified but essential. The International Joint Commission has held hearings on the subject in both Canada and the United States, and has submitted a most elaborate and valuable report; the engineering problems involved have already been the subject of inquiry and report by an international board of engineers, and are to be further investigated by another such Board; other technical connected questions are in course of being studied by an interdepartmental committee.

The Minister is of the opinion that it would be in the public interest to constitute a National Advisory Committee to consider generally whether or not the project would, if completed, be beneficial to Canada, whether the benefits which might accrue and the pecuniary returns, direct or indirect, which may be anticipated from it are such as to counter-balance its disadvantages, if any, whether Your Excellency should indicate a readiness to enter into discussions with the United States of America looking towards the negotiation of a treaty for the carrying out of the necessary works, and what should be the character of the stipulations which any such treaty should contain.

The Minister accordingly recommends that a National Advisory Committee be constituted for the purposes aforesaid, the Honourable George Perry Graham, Minister of Railways and Canals, to be Chairman thereof, and the following to be its members:—

Thomas Ahearn, Ottawa, Ont.

Honourable Walter Edward Foster, St. John, N.B.

Beaudry Leman, B.Sc., C.E., Montreal, P.Q.

Edward D. Martin, Winnipeg, Man.