

The Address—Mr. Gardiner

that is the position taken by myself as minister; that is the position taken by a great many others in western Canada; that is the position taken by a great many others in eastern Canada, those who are supporters of this government and those who are not. If the project is carried out it will be the largest project of its kind north of the United States boundary. This is different from the St. Lawrence river project and never can have the same kind of earning power. There will be a few projects south of the United States border larger than this, but not very many.

That was the position down to not very long ago. About two years ago there was some discussion as to whether or not the federal government would assume the whole cost of the project. I do not think there was ever any misunderstanding, from the time the project became a possibility, between the premier of Saskatchewan and any member of the government at Ottawa. It was always anticipated that probably some part of the cost would be paid at Ottawa and some part would be paid by the provincial government and the farmers. The provincial government did not proceed without getting a report. I have in my hand the Cass-Beggs report which was completed in March of 1950, from which I should like to read one or two paragraphs. This contains the evidence placed before the government of Saskatchewan and before this government through that government.

Mr. Coldwell: That was not the irrigation report?

Mr. Gardiner: This was the general power report made by Mr. Cass-Beggs. The paragraph I should like to read appears on the second page of the report. This is a letter from David Cass-Beggs, the engineer, to Mr. J. W. Tomlinson, general manager of the Saskatchewan Power Corporation at Regina, presenting the report. He said:

I am not able to recommend that the Saskatchewan Power Corporation make any contribution in respect of hydro-electric sites below Coteau creek, which might be economically developed as a result of the regulated flow from the main dam. The criterion that must be applied if development were considered at an early date is the same as that now used to estimate the investment justified at Coteau creek, namely they must compete with cheap fuel stations on fuel and operating costs alone. None of the sites, requiring as they would, the construction of a dam as well as the power plant could be built for the figure assumed for the plant at Coteau creek.

I read only that one paragraph but there are other paragraphs bearing upon the same matter. I shall not take the time to read them all, but they could be read. I read that paragraph in order to suggest that the results from the building of the dam were questioned.

The suggestion was made that there was a possibility of developing power from coal at a cost which might be less, but I understand that that question is now entirely removed. After examining into all the facts in relation to it Mr. Tomlinson of the power board in Saskatchewan and the government of Saskatchewan are satisfied that that would probably not be the result, that the cost would not be higher. But I do suggest that there is some reason given in that for the suggestion being in the minds of some people that probably we ought to have further information on the whole matter and at least a further examination made into the reports made by eminent engineers, both those experienced in irrigation and those experienced in the development of power, before proceeding to spend over \$68 million to put in a dam and then depend upon the province and the farmers spending another \$33 million in order to carry out the power and irrigation developments.

Mr. Coldwell: The province has agreed to that, has it not?

Mr. Gardiner: If the dam is put in and paid for by the dominion government, the province has indicated that they will be prepared to proceed with the development of the power and irrigation projects, whatever the cost may be, and the estimated cost is \$33 million.

Mr. Coldwell: The minister quoted from a report. I have not seen that report. I wonder if he would table it.

Mr. Gardiner: It has been tabled as a part of the commission's report. I think it has been on the table for about a year or more, but I can make the full report available. That is the history of the early stages of the project. The government stated last session that they would appoint a committee, and as I stated to the house at the time I immediately agreed. The reason that I immediately agreed is because I have been the promoter, so to speak, of this project. Everyone admits that, both east and west. As a matter of fact I listened to the premier of Saskatchewan, standing on the floor of this house just about in front of where I am standing now, make that suggestion a year ago and say that he did not care whether the dam was called the Gardiner dam or the dam Gardiner, but in any case he thought it should be recognized that I had had something to do with the promotion of it.

Mr. Harris (Danforth): The dam is damned.

Mr. Gardiner: That is all right as far as it goes, but I want to repeat that I was the promoter of the project from the time I came to Ottawa, and I will have something to say a little later, in dealing with one of the other