

have a conference of the various provincial governments, and it is the intention of this government then to confer with the provincial governments, at the proper time, and to see whether it is not possible to arrive at some conclusion by which the purposes of both the local governments and the Dominion government may be accomplished in regard to this power question.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? Have resolutions submitted by the International Waterways Commission obtained his concurrence, or is he prepared to say now whether he concurs with them? That commission has passed certain resolutions, which will be found on page 15 of the original report of the International Waterways Commission, dealing particularly with Niagara. I assume the minister is right in saying that it does not concern the Niagara river alone, though I discussed the question of the Niagara river particularly because it concerned more closely my own province. I would ask the minister whether he is prepared to say that he concurs in the recommendations of the commission, three or four in number, and whether he is going to advocate that that policy be carried out?

Mr. HYMAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cockshutt) asks me to state the policy of the government upon the whole question raised by the International Waterways Commission. I am not prepared to do so. The hon. gentleman knows the powers of this commission, they have only the power to report, but no power to enter into negotiations. They were authorized to join with the United States section of the commission in drawing up a report on which the two governments might or might not act. I have not yet had time to consider their report fully as it is proposed to hold an interprovincial conference after this session is over, I shall go no further in announcing the intention of the government. In this conference an opportunity will be given of discussing the whole question, not only as regards the Niagara Falls but all the waterways of the Dominion, and the whole subject in connection with the question of jurisdiction, and the proper course of procedure to follow. That is the reason why the government are not prepared at the present moment to say whether they entirely concur with the report or not. I think the House will accept that under all the circumstances as a very good policy for the government to pursue.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I would like to draw the attention of the minister to the fact that this report is dated December 24, 1905, so that it is not very recent.

Mr. HYMAN. The hon. gentleman is quoting from the first report. There is a

Mr. HYMAN.

most important report since then, which has been laid on the table of the House, and which has a considerable amount of information, which is not in that report, and which is practically up to date. The hon. gentleman quotes the report of December 24, 1905, and not the report of a later date.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. It is only supplementary.

Mr. HYMAN. It is supplementary to the extent that it contains the whole gist of the conclusions arrived at. The first contains only the preliminary data. It is simply working up to the report which was brought in afterwards and which was a joint report agreed upon after they had all the preliminaries before them and had got down to the practical solution of the question. The hon. gentleman makes, if he will permit me to say so, and I do not say it in any offensive way, an exaggerated statement in reference to the awful things that are likely to happen. In the first place the hon. gentleman knows, or he should know, that no matter where the jurisdiction may lie this Dominion parliament have entire and absolute control over the export of electricity.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. I quite admit that.

Mr. HYMAN. Well then what can happen as long as this parliament keeps absolute control over the export of electricity?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. And makes no treaty?

Mr. HYMAN. It does not make any difference unless we make a treaty in regard to the export of electricity.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. It would make a difference if you were to make a treaty by which you agree that not another foot of water shall be withdrawn.

Mr. HYMAN. The hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that unless this government enters into some treaty affecting the export of electricity, it will not make any difference. There is no reason so far as control of export why this government should not enter into a treaty in accordance with the recommendation of the commission, because that would not affect their right to control the export of electricity.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The government might also make a treaty limiting the production of power.

Mr. HYMAN. It is quite true that the government might make a treaty limiting the amount of power to be produced. Let us consider for a moment what are the conditions there, and who are the two parties who are entering into these negotiations—if you may call them negotiations—represented as they are by the two sections of the Interna-