

in regard to these powers the Government had retained the right for a revision of rates at the end of twenty years, putting the Province in the position of reaping benefits from the increased value of powers with the passing years. Provisions had also been made for the development of all the power to its fullest capacity, and failing that, forfeiture of the lease. Other regulations provided that disputes as to prices for power must be submitted to the Department of Crown Lands, whose decision should be final; and that where power was applied for by municipalities it should be supplied on such special terms and rentals as the department might deem proper. In the Fort Frances negotiations, for instance, the town corporation was desirous of utilizing the power for electric lighting and other utilities, and had written asking that arrangements be made reserving that right to them, and asking that it should be supplied at cost, and the department had answered in the affirmative. (Ministerial applause.) The Town of Orillia, during Hon. Mr. Gibson's term of office, had applied for and obtained the right to utilize power from the Ragged Rapids for municipal purposes, and were doing so at nominal cost. Under the present course the Government said that for all time the water powers were vested in itself, to be leased at a reasonable rental, which went into the treasury, thence going out again to the people of the Province in the way of public services. (Prolonged Ministerial applause.) Could any Government go further than that in the way of conserving to the people all the rights and interests to which they were entitled? He thought not, and believed that all reasonable men would agree with him. (Ministerial applause.) Had they taken the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the situation and the regulations he had outlined, the Opposition would not, he was sure, have moved the amendment. (Renewed Ministerial applause.) He concluded with the opinion that the Government's course on this, as on all other matters, was heartily approved of by the people, and would be sustained at the next election.

#### Mr. Crawford Defends Himself.

Mr. Crawford (West Toronto) plunged at once into a discussion of the Dakota ranch controversy, with which his name had been associated. He wanted to say that so far as Mr. Dryden was concerned he did not know what money he had invested in the Dakota Cattle Ranch Company, but so far as he personally was concerned he (Mr. Crawford) had not, directly or indirectly, the value of one cent of interest in the company. (Opposition applause.) It was not, however, from his side of the House that the charge or accusations came. The mem-

ber for East Lambton (Mr. Pettypiece) had in his paper several months ago written a strong article demanding the resignation of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Dryden), and stating that his usefulness was at an end. If that had come from the Opposition side there might have been some reason for charging the latter with having done something that perhaps they might not be expected to do, and which they had no reasons for doing. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Pettypiece) had delivered his speech on the budget and never made reference to the Minister of Agriculture. (Opposition applause.) If the hon. gentleman was satisfied of his case when he made his criticism and was of the same opinion still, then he should reiterate that statement in this House, and if he was not, then he owed Mr. Dryden an apology. Mr. Crawford then quoted from The Toronto Telegram, a paper which he said was not unfriendly to the Government—(Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh")—that "if Mr. Pettypiece wronged Hon. John Dryden, he should be man enough to say so."

#### Sorry for Mr. Dryden.

Mr. Crawford went on to say that the attitude of the Government members toward Mr. Dryden was really unkind, and he had the greatest sympathy for him. Not one on his side from the Premier down had had a word to say. The Premier dare not say a word. If he did, what would that mean to Mr. Pettypiece, or to Mr. Pardee, or Hon. Mr. Stratton, who were present and allowed Mr. Pettypiece to condemn Mr. Dryden on the platform? Mr. Crawford concluded that the Ministerialists were divided and duelling among themselves. He went on to speak of the quality of beef in Ontario, which, in spite of Mr. Dryden interrupting him with the contrary view, he said, had deteriorated within the last five years, and for which, he thought, the Minister of Agriculture was largely to blame. He quoted from a recent speech by Mr. A. F. MacLaren, M.P., showing freight discriminations against Ontario farmers, and said the Government might well turn their attention to this question.

#### An Embarrassing Pause.

When Mr. Crawford sat down there was a pause of several seconds, no member essaying to continue the debate. "Question, question," said the Speaker, "are you ready for the question?" The awkward pause continued, while those from whom the concluding speeches had been expected preserved a rigid Parliamentary dignity. The tension continued, while onlookers momentarily still looked for a speaker to rise. The Speaker read the amendment and the "yeas" and "noes" were answered in chorus, and then, as it was seen a division was im- mediate and inevitable, there was general laughter. While the

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