

# PREMIER TO TELL OF POWER DEALS.

Says He Will Answer Liberal  
Leader's Questions.

A FORTY-MINUTE SPEECH.

All Queries to be Answered on  
Monday Next.

Seems That Much Explanation is  
Necessary—Question by Member  
Changed to Order for a Return to  
Give More Latitude in the An-  
swer — Bills Advanced Another  
Stage.

Apparently there is much explaining to be done by the Ontario Government in connection with the alleged approaches made by a representative of the English bondholders of the Electrical Development Company, for yesterday Premier Whitney said it would take a forty-minute speech to give the Legislature all the details. Yesterday afternoon the Premier had a few things to say about the recent questions of Hon. A. G. MacKay regarding the work of the Hydro-electric Power Commission and the Government's attitude concerning the latest developments. He requested the Liberal leader to change his question to a motion for a return, the request being complied with. This action is taken to mean that Mr. Whitney desires to make some rather lengthy explanations, since he would have more latitude in handing in a return than in simply answering a question. However, Mr. Whitney promised to give the House the information desired on Monday, and added that Hon. Mr. MacKay could make his questions as wide as desired. Several bills were advanced a stage at the sitting yesterday.

### The Limit Reached.

When questions by members were reached on the order paper Premier Whitney arose to make an explanation regarding the questions by Hon. Mr. MacKay which affected the Hydro-electric Power Commission. The first question was concerning contracts that had been made, if any, between the commission and the municipalities. Hon. Mr. Whitney stated that the Government proposed to get the information at the earliest possible moment, but the limit had now been reached with reference to the question of returns. He had looked into the authorities and found that questions were allowed in the British House and in Ottawa where the subject could meet with a concise reply, say a simple negative or affirmative. Mr. Whitney said he could quite understand the anxiety to get the information as soon as possible, and the Government proposed to co-operate. The information required was quite voluminous, but it was now almost all ready. He proposed that Hon. Mr. MacKay make it a motion for a return, and on Monday the information would be handed in.

### A Forty-minute Speech.

Hon. Mr. MacKay said that he had afterwards found that the first question, asking what municipal corporations had applied to the commission, was a little wider than he had intended. He had assured the Minister in charge that all the information stated in the question might not be brought down if necessary. He agreed with the Premier's suggestion.

Then Mr. Whitney drew attention to Mr. MacKay's second series of ques-

tions, asking if any representative of the bondholders of the Electrical Development Company had interviewed the Government regarding a proposition for sale.

"It is utterly impossible for me to answer that question in a satisfactory way without making a speech of forty minutes and without doing injustice to the situation," said Mr. Whitney.

"Regarding the third question, 'If the interview was not along said lines, what was the nature and result of the said interview?' now I have got to make a speech to answer that question."

Accordingly the Premier asked that this question be also made in the nature of a motion for a return.

Hon. Mr. MacKay said he did not know if a return would go far enough.

"I am prepared to let my honorable friend make the question as wide as he pleases, and on Monday we will give the answer."

This request was also complied with.

### Some New Bills.

The following new bills were introduced:—To amend the act respecting the appropriation for veteran land grants, Hon. Mr. Cochrane; to amend the liquor license act, Mr. Thompson (Wentworth). Explaining his measure, the Minister of Mines said it was simply meant to extend the time until September 1 for receiving applications.

Replying to Mr. Labrosse (Prescott), Hon. Mr. Cochrane said that the greatest depth to which the Government had gone in their mining explorations on the Gillies limit was 140 feet.

When Mr. Foy's bill respecting elections of members of the Legislative Assembly was in committee he explained that it was the intention not to have students vote at the places where they were studying when they were entitled to vote at their homes or in other places.

Hon. Mr. MacKay contended that students in Toronto or Kingston from October till the end of May might lose their votes at an election.

"There won't be any then," said the Premier, laughing, with evident reference to this year's elections.

The committee reported progress on the bill.

### Progress of Bills.

Other Government measures passing the committee stage were:—Respecting the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, and respecting an agreement between the commissioners for the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park and the Electrical Development Company of Ontario, Limited, both of them fathered by Hon. Mr. Foy.

Private bills given a second reading were:—To amend the public libraries act, Mr. Thompson (Wentworth); to amend the municipal act (Mr. Gamey), and to amend the pounds act (Mr. Gamey). The bill of Mr. McElroy (Carleton) to amend the act to regulate the speed and operation of motor vehicles on highways was read a second

time and referred to a special committee to be named later.

Private bills passing the committee stage were:—Respecting the town of Perth, Dr. Preston (Lanark); respecting the division of the surplus income of the rectory of St. James (Mr. Hoyle); to amend the act incorporating Alma College, St. Thomas (Mr. Macdiarmid), and respecting the town of Collingwood and the Collingwood Shipbuilding Company, Limited (Mr. Duff). The bill respecting the village of Markdale (Mr. Jamieson) was read a second time.

### Mr. Smith's Question.

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) will ask on Tuesday: How many permits to cut timber on Crown lands were granted by the Government in 1907? In the aggregate, what were the maximum quantities allowed to be cut under these permits, of pine, jack pine, hemlock, spruce, tamarac, cedar and any other kind of timber?

Mr. McNaught has given notice of motion that he will on Monday introduce a bill respecting the manufacture and sale of bread.