

IN NO HURRY, BUT WANTS TO FINISH.

Premier Whitney Makes State- ment in Legislature.

MORE POWER DISCUSSION.

No Scheme Yet About Delivery of Electricity.

Hon. Adam Beck Makes Lengthy Speech in House, Attempting to Justify Work of Commission — Liberal Leader's Criticism—Li- quor License Amendments Intro- duced.

While expressing the opinion that there was no reason why the business of the present session of the Legislature should not be concluded by Tuesday, Premier Whitney yesterday said that he did not wish the idea to get abroad that the Government desired to unduly hurry business. At the same time he denied that the Government were forcing the progress of business with a view to holding the general election on May 28, as had been rumored. He denied that the Cabinet had considered the matter, but added that should a decision be arrived at before the end of the session he would make an announcement in the House.

The Hon. Adam Beck took advantage of the second reading of the Dog Lake power bill to make a general defence of the Government's power policy. Mr. Beck contended that it was the desire of the Government to carry out their premises, but as a matter of fact he did not enlighten the House in any way as to the Government's intention. Mr. Beck referred to the excellent terms which the Hydro-electric Commission had been able to make with the Ontario Power Company, but he failed to make any statement as to how the Government proposed to convey the power from the point of generation to the consumer. At the evening session a discussion of an academic nature took place on the Hon. W. J. Hanna's prison labor motion, which was referred to Committee of the Whole.

Before the House adjourned Hon. Mr. Hanna introduced his amendments to the liquor license act. Perhaps the most outstanding of these was that nullifying the practical effect of the quashing of local option by-laws.

Will Tell the Date.

Before the orders of the day were proceeded with Premier Whitney said he did not want the idea to get abroad that the Government were in a hurry to get through with the session and to have the elections on May 28. (Laughter.) "I may say," he proceeded, "that nothing is farther from our minds. I hope—and, although I cannot speak with a great deal of positiveness, but when hope is followed by action very often the hope is realized—that before the House rises, if the Cabinet comes to a conclusion and decides that the election shall be held this year, to stand here and tell hon. gentlemen. I know that this will be creating a precedent, but it will not be the first precedent that has been created from this side of the House." Proceeding, Mr. Whitney said: "So far it has not been considered. We have nearly two years yet." (Opposition laughter.) The Premier added that when he heard that municipalities were preparing to appear before various committees next week he had thought it time to take

some action to wake them up. It was not intended that the Legislature should sit on to July. He could see no reason, however, why the House should not complete its business by Tuesday.

A Word for the Senator.

Mr. Whitney proceeded to refer to the press reports of the Senate Committee which killed the Ontario & Michigan Power Company's bill. He said:—"I see that the committee played ducks and drakes with my reputation with reference to my being an authority. A certain Senator known as J. K. Kerr objected to arguments used in the committee in favor of their paying attention to the resolution passed in this House, and said: 'I have yet to learn that Mr. Whitney is an authority on that or any other subject.' Of course I feel fully crushed, but I will try to survive. This gentleman has been known as the running footman by the side of James Connée, and he gloried in it. We who have been in this House fifteen or more years have a distinct recollection of a fake resignation which a man, now a Senator, carried in his pocket to enable Mr. Connée to keep uncertain in the public mind as to whether he was a member of this Legislature or not. I am not ashamed that my knowledge of constitutional law is much less than that of unconstitutional practices of this distinguished Senator."

Mr. Smith (Sault Ste. Marie) said that there was a growing fear that in consequence of the voters' lists for the unorganized districts not being prepared the election for the constituency which included those districts would not be held on the same day as that for the rest of the Province.

Mr. Whitney—Nothing unfair will be done.

Third Readings.

The following bills were read a third time:—Respecting Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park; respecting inquiries concerning public matters; to amend the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board act; respecting the North Midland Railway Company; respecting the Western Central Railway Company; respecting the Mount McKay & Kakabeka Falls Railway Company; respecting the North Lanark Railway Company; respecting the Dunnville, Wellandport & Beamsville Electric Railway Company; respecting the Guelph Radial Railway Company; respecting the Hamilton & Guelph Junction Railway Company; respecting the city of Peterborough; respecting the Young Women's Christian Association at St. Thomas; respecting the Railroad and City Young Men's Christian Association at St. Thomas; respecting the city of Fort William; to amend the act respecting the Law Society of Upper Canada; respecting the International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations; respecting the town of Trenton.

The Truancy Law.

Mr. Craig (Wellington) in moving his bill to amend the truancy law urged the importance of some action in this direction. He was supported by Mr. T. H. Preston (Brant), who said that a satisfactory solution would never be arrived at until the whole matter was placed under the control of the educational authorities. Then the law would be enforced by men who were interested in its objects. Mr. Studholme also supported the bill.

Hon. Dr. Pyne said it was true that the truancy law had up to the present failed, but the proposal to place those powers in the hands of local school boards would only bring the Chairman into unpleasant notoriety. He asked that the bill should be withdrawn and his request was acceded to.

Power Minister Speaks.

In moving the second reading of his bill to provide for development of water power at Dog Lake, Hon. Mr. Beck said this action would enable the Government to control and regulate the storage of the water powers at Dog Lake. Such a control, he maintained, would enable the Government to increase the value of this water power. Under the new scheme, with higher dams, the total increase in water power would be 10,000 horsepower, since about 4,000 horsepower was being developed there now. The rentals received from surrounding sites would, he believed, fully compensate the Government for this outlay. Mr. Beck said certain parties were endeavoring to corral and take from the Province valuable power assets, but the Government were convinced that the present action would be of great benefit to the north country, including Fort William and Port Arthur. The criticisms advanced against the Government's power policy were of an er-

atic character, and he stated that the leader of the Opposition was not conversant with the true state of affairs. The act of the old Government regarding power lacked all the essentials to accomplish anything, he said, while the Connée bill was in the road as well. He felt justified in saying that in regard to no enterprise in the Province, either public or private, had there been more earnest work or expert opinion obtained than in connection with the Hydro-electric Commission. Mr. Beck charged the leader of the Opposition with having stated that the estimates of the commission were untrustworthy. Mr. MacKay had said that the commission claimed that the right of way from Niagara Falls would cost \$20 an acre, and had said that no such land was available. Twenty dollars an acre was only Hamilton's share, and the total cost of the right of way would be \$1,975 a mile, or \$247 an acre. Such criticism as that of the leader of the Opposition showed that the extent of the undertaking had not been properly appreciated, and proved that he was not informed as a representative of the people should be.

No Gold Brick.

Mr. Beck proceeded to comment on the fact that much useful work had been accomplished by the commission in supplying the municipalities with information. There had been no lack of zeal, energy or earnestness on the part of the Government or the commission. Their policy, he contended, was not a gold brick one, but one which could be carried out, and the Opposition might assist with criticism of an honest and constructive character. The commission, he claimed, had made it possible for the municipalities to obtain cheap power without coercion or interference with vested rights. The leader of the Opposition had said that the Government should have taken advantage of the forfeiture clause in the Electrical Development Company agreement to have got possession of that undertaking. That was a most extraordinary statement for a public man to make. "The policy of this Government," said Mr. Beck, "is not to bring about the failure of large corporations with the object of obtaining control of them even in the interests of the people of the Province. Cheap power is to be obtained by honorable methods, and not by such unjustifiable means as had been suggested."

Would be Fruitless.

Discussing the statement that the Government had made no attempt to bring Major St. Aubyn and the city of Toronto together, Mr. Beck said that that gentleman did not ask for any such thing, and "it would be unwarranted in the first place and fruitless in the second place." "What would the city of Toronto do with such a plant?" asked Mr. Beck, "even if they had the power to acquire it?"

Bargain-counter Contract.

Proceeding, Mr. Beck told of the municipalities endorsing the course pursued, and last January fifteen municipalities voted an expenditure exceeding the total expenditure of the whole Province. There was no question now of the contracts. They had 8,000 horsepower whenever the municipalities wanted it. This power had been obtained at \$9 per horsepower for over 25,000 horsepower and \$9.40 for less than that.

"We have a bargain-counter contract and we have a bargain-counter price," he said.

Proceeding, he stated that in an interview with the Mayor and Board of Control of Toronto these officials had approved practically of the contract that had been submitted to them by the commission. Again he referred to the bargains the Government had obtained, \$9 power instead of \$12, and 14 cent copper instead of 28 cent.

Proceeding, Mr. Beck said that it had been estimated that power could be delivered in Toronto at \$18.10. That was on the basis of 30,000 horsepower, but when they were supplying 60,000 horsepower on the same capital expenditure they would realize how cheap power was going to be. They were also going to transmit power at a high voltage, not in order to save copper, but in order that places as remote as Kingston and Owen Sound might be brought within the electrical zone. It was the Government's policy to build up Ontario's industries, and he assured the House that everything possible would be done to carry out the cheap power policy. The estimates they would submit would not be final until they had got tenders in their possession and had convinced the Government that they could carry out the policy. Those tendering would also have to be guar-