

POWER FOR FARMERS IS SLOW IN COMING

Liberals Criticize Govern- ment for Failure to Push Hydro

QUESTION NOT ONE OF PARTY POLITICS

Originated at a Public Meet- ing in Toronto — What Liberals Have Done

In the Legislature yesterday the Liberal Opposition took up the question of Hydro-electric power, criticized the Government for its failure to hasten the extension to farming communities, and incidentally knocked the underpinning from the oft-repeated arguments that the Hydro-electric Power Commission was the child of the Conservative party. Mr. Rowell pointed out that even Mr. Beck's first official relation with the Commission was due to Liberal legislation.

The debate arose on a motion by Mr. Thos. Marshall (Monck) that the Government should extend the Hydro-electric benefits to the farms and favoring the proposal to construct electric railways in the rural districts of the Province to afford easy and rapid transportation between the agricultural sections and the markets. There were thirteen speakers in all on the motion, with amendments moved by Hon. Adam Beck and Col. T. R. Mayberry. There was no vote, the Government amendment being declared to have been carried on division.

Need For Extension.

In a telling speech urging upon the Government the need for the extension of Hydro-electric power and light services throughout rural Ontario, and the provision of cheap and convenient electric railway transportation facilities, especially in the farming sections, Mr. Thomas Marshall (Monck) declared that it takes the farmers of the Province too long to get to market with their produce. He knew of some farmers not fifty miles from Toronto who had to set out for the Hamilton market in the small hours of the morning in order to obtain a good position. In Detroit it was different. The farmer simply telephoned the wholesale dealer, made a bargain, loaded his produce on the electric cars, rode into the city with his wife in the passenger compartment, went to the matinee perhaps, and got home in time to milk the cows in the evening. (Laughter.) Thus, Mr. Marshall continued, he was relieved of the drudgery of farm life. Could anything more pleasant be imagined? "When you take all these things into consideration," the member for Monck concluded, "does it not warrant us in planning to utilize the Hydro-electric power of Niagara for all the farm work in which it may be used, and also to improve the transportation facilities of the Province?"

Mr. Beck Calls It an Old Story.

Hon. Adam Beck replied. The Government received the speech of the hon. member for Monck with a considerable amount of satisfaction. Mr. Beck said it was practically the proposition submitted to the House eleven