

BLOCKERS' BRIGADE OVERRULES CHAIRMAN

Mr. Lennox's Fairness Dis-
tasteful to Conservatives

COMMITTEE IN UPROAR

Chairman's Rules Upset and Latter
Turns to Liberal Member With
Remark, "I Am Beaten Again"—
T. & N.O. Accounts.

The session of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday morning was above the average for acrimony. The blockading tactics of members of the Government to impede investigation into the Provincial Treasurer's financial statement resulted in a deadlock for almost two hours, during which time Mr. Rowell and Mr. Bowman made every effort to have the Provincial Auditor answer their questions.

"We are not going to have the accounts of this Province manipulated without saying something about it," declared the Liberal leader.

"I protest against Mr. Rowell saying that the accounts of the Province are manipulated," retorted Hon. G. Howard Ferguson with some show of heat. "When he suggests that these accounts are manipulated by a member of the Government he is making a cowardly aspersion that he would not make on the floor of the House on his responsibility as a member.

Not an Item in Receipts.

Mr. Rowell made his position clear before the committee. He wanted the excerpts from the Auditor's books showing the receipts and expenditures for the year, to show that the item of \$544,000 credited as interest from the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway should not be included in the receipts, and consequently the deficit was larger than appeared.

Mr. Ferguson contended that the Liberal leader was asking for information that the public accounts contained, and what he wanted now was a new set of accounts prepared by the Auditor.

Mr. Rowell insisted that all he wanted to know was if the Auditor prepared the statement from his own books.

Mr. Clancy said the accounts contained every item that appeared in the books of the Audit Office, but Mr. Rowell wanted the question answered as he had asked it.

Appealed Against the Chair.

Chairman Lennox thought this was a reasonable request, and that Mr. Rowell was entitled to an answer to his question. Mr. Ferguson appealed against this ruling, and on a show of hands there was the astonishing spectacle of the Conservative members voting against the chair, while the Liberals, on the other hand, supported Mr. Lennox. Following this, Mr. Rowell persisted in a series of questions, each of which was turned down by the Chairman, who confessed himself to be the servant of the majority.

Mr. C. M. Bowman (West Bruce) and Mr. Sam Carter (Guelph) both supported Mr. Rowell in their protests against the treatment that was being accorded, and for a while both Mr. Bowman and the Chairman were belligerent.

Burking Evidence.

Mr. Proudfoot objected to Mr. Ferguson continually burking evidence, which brought Mr. Ferguson to his feet with the remark, "I don't propose

to sit here and have the honorable gentlemen say I am burking evidence."

"Well, you will hear me say it. I intend to let you hear what I have to say because I intend to say it," said Mr. Proudfoot.

Again Mr. Lennox said he thought Mr. Rowell's questions should be answered, but in view of his ignominious defeat a moment ago he feared he might be overruled.

"I dispute your ruling," continued Mr. Ferguson.

"Take a vote," said Mr. Bowman.

Beaten Again.

The Conservative members were with Mr. Ferguson, and the Chairman lamented, "Charlie, I am afraid I am beaten again."

Other incidents occurred during the sitting, which time after time was in an uproar. Mr. Rowell finally withdrew his remark about manipulation of the accounts until he had an opportunity of seeing the books of the Audit Department, which will be next Tuesday.

ONTARIO IS AFIRE FOR HYDRO-RADIALS

Deputation of 1,000 Men Ask
Government for Aid

SIR ADAM BECK'S APPEAL

Premier Hearst Makes No Promise and
Points to Hard Financing—Evi-
dence of Benefit of Hydro Service
to the Province.

Direct Provincial aid in the shape of a bonus of \$3,500 per mile was the demand made of Premier Hearst and his Cabinet yesterday afternoon by a deputation one thousand strong, representing the Hydro-electric Radial Railway Union of Ontario. Mayors, ex-Mayors, Wardens, Reeves and Councillors thronged the corridors of the Parliament Buildings to support the memorial presented by Mr. T. J. Hannigan of Guelph, Secretary of the union.

A Conventional Reply.

The Premier made a conventional reply. No Government could shut its eyes to the benefit of the Hydro-electric scheme as it had been developed in Ontario. The work had been fostered and assisted by Sir James Whitney. The late Premier had taken the position that no further subsidies should be granted by the Province to private corporations. "I stand on the same platform as Sir James Whitney," declared Mr. Hearst, "that no further financial aid to railways shall be given, in the older parts of the Province at all events." He pointed out that when the Hydro-radial enterprise was first launched no request had been made of the Government for financial aid, but that a Provincial guarantee should be given to the bonds of the municipalities. The question was one of great importance. It not only involved the granting of the subsidy, but the financing of the subsidy as well, and then there were compensating advantages, which might have to be considered, to those parts of the Province more remote from the radial lines. He and his colleagues were deeply interested in the scheme and in the great work the Hydro-electric Power Commission was accomplishing. "We will read your memorial, consider your arguments and do our best to discharge the great responsibility that rests upon us in advancing the interests of the Province."

Led By a Pipe Band.

The deputation, which was led by a pipe band from the Chatham Boy Scouts, was introduced by