

BECK'S CHALLENGE DEFIES GOVERNMENT

Appoint Our Successors if We Have Not Confidence of Government, Says Hydro Chairman—Is Net- tled by the Provincial Treasurer

"I take the whole responsibility. It is a violation of the act. We have done it because if we are to carry on the Hydro, commercialize it, and make a success of it we must have some latitude, and must have the confidence of the municipalities and the Government. If the members who constitute the Commission have not the confidence of the Government, then the remedy is theirs to appoint our successors."

This utterance came from Sir Adam Beck, who was nettled at a question put by Hon. T. W. McGarry before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature yesterday. The Chairman of the Commission took full responsibility for the electrification of the London & Port Stanley Railway by the Hydro Commission.

Expenditure Authorized.

Hon. T. W. McGarry—Was there any minute of the board passed to authorize that expenditure? Did the other members of the board know of it?

Sir Adam Beck replied probably not, but he was not sure. Mr. McGarry, said Sir Adam, with some heat, "apparently wants me to assume the whole liability."

Hon. Mr. McGarry—I don't want to do anything.

Sir Adam Beck—It's all right. I don't think the Government has knowledge of nine-tenths of what we do.

Hon. Mr. McGarry said he was merely asking for information.

Mr. F. A. Gaby, Chief Engineer of the Hydro, here interrupted that he thought the matter came before the other members of the Commission.

Sir Adam Nettled.

Sir Adam waved this aside with the remark that he took full responsibility. He added the remedy was the Government's. They should have amended the act from time to time.



CAPT. W. J. LAMB.

Senior Captain in the 201st Battalion (Toronto Light Infantry), formerly Mathematical Master at Harbord Collegiate Institute, and a graduate of Queen's University. Capt. Lamb was formerly a Lieutenant in the 32nd Bruce Regiment.

"I don't blame this Government," added Sir Adam. "I was a member of the Government at the time and am to that extent responsible."

Answering Mr. Rowell, Sir Adam said: "I try to give six days a week, four days at the Commission's office and two at home. I give anywhere from ten to twenty-four hours a day."

Mr. Rowell—What about the other members of the Commission when they are not at board meetings? What do they do?

Sir Adam hesitated for a moment, and then replied, amid laughter: "I think they might come here themselves and tell."

Mr. Clancy's Objections.

With reference to other matters, Sir Adam Beck stated Mr. Clancy's objections were voiced since 1909 that the Commission was using moneys in the purchase of material for municipalities and otherwise contrary to the act. The Government had full knowledge of the facts, and approved of the businesslike methods of the Commission.

It came out that the salary of Mr. Gaby, Chief Engineer, was \$10,000; Mr. W. W. Pope, Secretary of the Commission, \$4,200, and Mr. W. S. Andrews, Auditor, \$3,000.