

STOP POWER THEFTS BY NEW LEGISLATION

Attorney-General Lucas Brings in Clauses

JUDGES DECIDE POINTS

Penalty of \$1,000 Per Day if Companies Defy Authorities—Plea for Representative of Municipalities on Commission.

Eleventh-hour legislation to deal with the alleged thefts of water-power at Niagara Falls was introduced by Hon. I. B. Lucas, a member of the Hydro-electric Commission, in the Legislature last evening. Mr. Lucas asking permission of the House to put the bill through all its stages in one day.

Mr. Lucas said that, after full consideration and the best legal advice they could secure, the Government decided that the proper way to deal with the problem was to ask a Commission composed of three Judges of the Supreme Court of Ontario what price would be fair and reasonable for excess power development by private companies at Niagara Falls, and the Government would take authority to compel the private company or companies involved to deliver the excess power over to the Hydro-electric Power Commission at the price fixed by the Commission composed of the three Judges.

Reference to Judges.

If the companies think the judgment of the Government inspector is not a reasonable finding as to the amount of water they are using, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall appoint the Commission of Judges to decide three questions: (1) What the rights of the company are; (2) what the company is actually doing; (3) what capacity their plant has in excess of what their agreement gives them. A penalty of \$1,000 a day is provided if the companies refuse to respect the decision of the authorities.

The bill was passed, after minor amendments suggested by Mr. Dewart had been adopted.

To Represent Municipalities.

When the other Hydro-electric bill was before the House Mr. Dewart (Southwest Toronto) made a vigorous speech in favor of the appointment of a representative of the Hydro-electric municipalities on the Hydro-electric Commission. The member for Southwest Toronto paid high tribute to the work of Sir Adam Beck. The Government was represented by Hon. I. B. Lucas, and it was only fair the municipalities should be represented.

"If you appointed a strong Hydro man like Mayor Church, Mr. Lyon or Mr. Hannigan, I am confident the municipalities would appreciate that action, and would have even greater faith in the Hydro project than they now have," he said.

Mr. Dewart introduced a motion favoring the appointment of a man to represent the municipalities which have invested their money in the Hydro, but Sir William Hearst said this was not the time to make such an appointment, and the Dewart amendment was voted down by 37 to 17, after Mr. Sam Carter had warmly supported Mr. Dewart.

PROVINCE GETS RIGHT TO BUY POWER PLANTS

Amendments Foreshadowing Important Action?

HYDRO BILLS CHANGED

Methods of Payment Prescribed — Borrowing Powers of Municipalities in Regard to Liabilities for Hydro.

Important amendments to the power commission act, which many Parliamentary observers regard as foreshadowing the acquisition of the plants at Niagara, were brought before the Legislature yesterday as additions to the two hydro bills. It is provided that "Section 8 of the power commission act is amended by adding thereto clauses permitting the Hydro-electric Commission to:—

Acquire by purchase or otherwise on any terms and hold shares in any incorporated company carrying on the business of developing, supplying or transmitting electrical power or energy; and in connection with any such acquisition enter into any covenant or covenants, agreement or agreements and pay for any such shares either in cash or bonds, debentures or other securities of the Commission, and guarantee, or covenant or agree for or in respect of the payment or performance of any bonds, debentures, securities, contracts or obligations of any company shares in which are so acquired, or of any company shares in which are held by any company in which shares are so acquired.

Issue bonds, debentures or other securities of the Commission for any of the purposes set out in clauses a to g in such form and containing such terms and at such rate of interest and payable in such manner and at such time or times as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may determine.

Method of Payment.

The power commission act is amended by adding in part that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council is authorized to agree to guarantee the payment of the principal and interest of any bonds, debentures and other securities issued by the commission, and the form and manner of any such guarantee or guarantees shall be such as the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may approve.

Borrowing Powers Extended.

Section 18 of the power commission act is amended by adding thereto the following subsection:—

Notwithstanding anything in the municipal act or any general or special act contained, debentures issued, or purporting to be issued by a municipal corporation which has entered into a contract with the Commission for a supply of electrical power or energy from the Commission for the purpose of carrying out such contract, or for constructing or equipping works for the development, transmission and distribution of electrical power or energy so supplied, shall not be included in ascertaining the limits of the borrowing powers of the corporation as prescribed by the municipal act, or such other general or special act.