

# NINE MILLIONS IS VOTED FOR HYDRO DEVELOPMENT

## Ontario Power Co. Line Being Rushed to Completion to Provide Temporary Power—Electrical Development Surplus Needed

The Ontario Legislature yesterday voted over \$9,000,000 to the Hydro-electric Power Commission for development work and extensions to the various systems, and the Provincial Treasurer stated that if the Hydro Commission required the whole nine million this year the Government would borrow that amount. The money is to be spent as follows:

Niagara power development ...	\$4,175,000
Niagara system extensions ....	2,856,268
Central Ontario system extensions .....	588,185
Nipissing system extensions....	60,000
Severn system extensions.....	405,212
Eugenia system extensions....	233,541
Wadell's system extensions...	1,000
Port Arthur system extensions .....	150,000
St. Lawrence system extensions .....	251,000
Muskoka system extensions....	6,800
Rideau system extensions .....	117,945
Service building and miscellaneous .....	100,000
Expenditures on account of Province .....	110,000
	\$9,054,951

Hon. I. B. Lucas said that the Commission is now spending \$1,800,000 on a wood stave pipe-line, which is to be scrapped in three years. It is expected the Chippawa Creek development plant will be ready to deliver power by that time. So great is the need for power in the meantime, however, that the Commission decided to go ahead full speed with a temporary pipe-line in connection with the Ontario Power Company's plant. "We are asking for over \$4,000,000 for the Chippawa development work," said Mr. Lucas. "and orders have already been placed for work and material to the value of \$1,250,000. These debts were contracted before the present year, and we expect to spend the other \$3,000,000 during the next twelvemonth."

### Chippawa Creek Development.

Mr. Proudfoot—When do you expect the Chippawa work to be finished?

Mr. Lucas — The best estimate is 1921. That is only a hope. If the war continues it is doubtful if the work can be completed by that time.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Proudfoot, the Attorney-General stated that in addition to the temporary pipe-line now under construction, the only other possible source of power supply between now and the time of completing the Chippawa plant is the Electrical Development Company. The Electrical Development Company is developing roughly 150,000 h.p., said Mr. Lucas, and "our interpretation of their contract limits them to 125,000 h.p. We are awaiting every day the judgment of the court as to the interpretation of their contract. We hope to get that excess 25,000 h.p. at a price to be fixed by the court."

### Distribution of Power.

Mr. Proudfoot—Is it the intention of the Hydro to buy out the Electrical Development Company?

Mr. Lucas—Of course it always takes two people to make a bargain. I suppose if the Electrical Development Company were prepared to sell cheaply enough we would be in the market to buy a bargain.

Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton)—Could you not expropriate

the property as a war measure?

Mr. Lucas—We never confiscate; of course we might expropriate.

Mr. Wellington Hay (North Perth)—There is a feeling in the interior, whether rightly or wrongly, that the city of Toronto is not being restricted in the use of power as the smaller places are. We have incurred very heavy overhead charges and our investment is practically a dead one for the time being. We hope the Commission will give us speedy relief.

### Central Ontario Extensions.

Mr. Nelson Parliament of Prince Edward asked if the vote of \$588,000 for the Central Ontario system extensions would cover the new lines to municipalities which have passed Hydro by-laws.

The Attorney-General presumed he was referring to the Picton-Wellington lines, which he said involved an expenditure of \$125,000. The Government and the Commission were both reluctant to enter upon capital expenditure at the present time if it could possibly be postponed. However, the Hydro Commission had made a report to the Government regarding the matter raised by the member for Prince Edward, and that report was now under consideration.

Mr. Proudfoot—Is it the intention of the Government to borrow this \$9,000,000 this year?

Mr. McGarry—Yes, if the Hydro require it, but they may not use the whole amount this year. If the whole amount is needed this year we will have to go into the market to borrow it.

## DOG TAXATION BILL OPPOSED

### Premier's Measure is Criticized—Welcome for Mr. Chas. Bowman

Mr. Charles M. Bowman, Liberal member of the Legislature for West Bruce and Chief Liberal whip, was present in the House yesterday for the first time this session. Mr. Bowman has been ill for several weeks, and on his return to the House yesterday he was warmly welcomed, not only by Opposition members, but by Government members as well.

The bill introduced by Sir William Hearst, Minister of Agriculture, to impose a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep, was opposed by Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton). "I would like to give the dog a show as well as the sheep," said Mr. Studholme. He objected to the bill going to the Agricultural Committee, as suggested by the Prime Minister, for, he said, the dogs would not be given a fair show.

Sir William thought with the question of food being so acute the country could well afford to raise fewer dogs.

Mr. Nelson Parliament (Prince Edward) suggested that dogs should be locked up at a certain hour every night, thus preventing them from going into the country and destroying sheep.

Several bills were passed in committee and reported for third reading, while a bill which has in view the consolidating of telephone systems was given its second reading.