

PROVIDE POWER ON GRAND RIVER

Hydro Commission to Investigate Further Before Taking Action

PREVENTION OF FLOODS

J. H. Ham of South Brant Urges Preventive Measures Against Freshets.

While the Hydro-electric Power Commission believes that the waters of the Grand River may be so diverted as to provide power to meet the ever-increasing demands on the system, they believe that a further investigation should be made before making a recommendation on the matter to the Government, according to a statement in the Legislature yesterday by the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid. The question was discussed when Mr. J. H. Ham of South Brant moved for an order of the House for a return of copies of all correspondence relating to floods on the Grand River since a report was presented in 1913.

Mr. Ham pointed out that the reason for the floods in recent years was because of deforestation and the coming into force of the drainage act. The normal flow of the Grand River in the summer time is 3,000 cubic feet per second; in the height of the flood season almost as much water comes down the river in two days as in the rest of the season. The Grand River valley is the most fertile and most thickly populated agricultural district in Canada. Hundreds of thousands of dollars' damage has been done to the property of those living along its banks. Brantford has spent between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in an effort to prevent damage being done, but this, Mr. Ham said, cannot be done successfully unless preventive measures are taken all along the stream.

Suggested Power Development.

In 1913, when Mr. H. G. Acres of the Hydro-electric Power Commission made a report, he said seven or eight dams could be built to hold back the water. Catch basins would hold five million cubic feet of water. It has been suggested that the stream should be diverted from a point north of Galt to Dundas, thus creating between 20,000 and 30,000 horse-power. This water could also be used for irrigation purposes. The fall of the river between its rise and its discharge is 800 feet. He urged that the Government place an amount in the estimates for making a further investigation.

Mr. Macdiarmid said there was no objection to a return being brought down, as the matter was important and one of long standing. In view of the fact that the river has possibilities of power being developed it is a matter for investigation by the Hydro-electric Commission.

Since the report was brought down in 1913 the Commission has been continuing its investigation each season along similar lines. He doubted if it would be wise to rush ahead with reservoirs and dams while the investigations had not been completed. He believed the suggested diversion of the stream from a point north of Galt to Dundas was feasible to a certain extent.

Amend Registry Act.

Hon. Mr. Lucas introduced a bill to amend the Registry Act. He explained that it will raise the standard of fees for registration with the object of increasing in some cases

the fees of Registrars. The increase will perhaps amount to 30 per cent. and will mean considerable of an increase in revenue for the city of Toronto, although not so much for outside municipalities. In Toronto the proportion of fees paid to the city is about 90 per cent., and the amendment will do much to increase city revenue.

Another bill was introduced by Mr. Lucas to amend the Administration of Justice Expense Act, which establishes a new schedule of fees payable to Sheriffs. The income of Sheriffs, he said, has been shrinking. The bill also affects the fees of constables. The amendment practically adopts the Dominion standard of fees.

Land Titles Act Amendment.

Bills were also introduced by the Attorney-General for the settling of claims arising out of the use of land for industrial and mining purposes, and for an amendment to the Land Titles Act, the latter being technical.

Second reading was given to a bill for the city of Peterboro', which provides that Aldermen shall be elected by a general vote and that the five securing the highest vote shall serve for two years, that the five with the next highest vote shall serve for one year, and thereafter five members shall be elected each year at the annual elections.

In moving the second reading of his bill to amend the Bread Sales Act, Mr. Charles McCrea of Sudbury said that the object was to protect hotels, dining cars, lunch cars and other places where bread is to be consumed on the premises, and is not to be offered for sale by the loaf, from being prosecuted under the act. The Attorney-General pointed out that the difficulty is that if the law is opened wide it is difficult to enforce it, as those it is now meant to regulate might, if they chose, evade it. He said that in special cases a permit could be issued, or if representations were made to the department the prosecution, if proceeded with by the inspector, could then be stopped. Mr. McCrea consented to withdraw his bill.

To Change Municipal Act.

Mr. R. H. McElroy of Carleton moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Municipal Act, which provides that a county, city or separated town shall, from time to time, have insurable interests in the County Court House and jail in the proportions of the aggregate amounts which they shall have contributed to the costs, charges and expenses of erecting the building and in the proportions of the amounts which they have contributed to its upkeep. The bill takes the place of a private bill which had been brought in at the request of Carleton county. It now applies to the whole Province.

The veteran Sergeant-at-arms of the House, F. J. Glackmeyer, who has held this position for the past 50 years, was not present in the House when it met yesterday. It was one of the few occasions that he has not been able to attend, and he was confined to his apartments with illness. Mr. Bruce Macdonald attended to the duties yesterday.