

# M.P.P.'S. TO CONSTITUTE COMMISSION TO PROBE CHIPPAWA DISPUTE

**It Will be Appointed by Drury Government and It Will Make Its Report to That Government**

## TWO AMENDMENTS ARE WITHDRAWN

**Premier Resents Suggestion of Municipalities' Head That Government Take No Action in the Matter**

A commission composed of members of the Legislature, appointed by the Government and to report to the Government, will investigate the trouble at the Chippawa development. That commission, following the suggestions made by Premier Drury in the debate, will have no power of action. It reports conditions as it finds them to the Government, which will take any action if it deems action necessary. Given this assurance by the Premier, the Labor members consented yesterday afternoon in the Legislature to withdraw their resolution calling for a commission of nine members to investigate and H. H. Dewart to withdraw his amendment to the amendment to appoint a commission of men outside of the House.

### Opposes Outside Commission.

Premier Drury made it quite plain that he would regard a commission with wide powers investigating this trouble as an act showing want of confidence in the Hydro Commission, which is responsible to the Legislature, and thus to the people. He would not sanction any movement which in its purpose contained anything of that nature. The decision of the Government to appoint a commission followed the technical question as to whether a committee of the House would not have to report to the House, and therefore not report until next year. It was to avoid that delay that the Government took the responsibility for the appointment, and the resolutions were withdrawn.

### Main Force Working.

During the debate Premier Drury read a statement from the Hydro Commission on the actual conditions at Chippawa as they existed yesterday. This statement showed that 400 men, mostly common laborers, had quit work, and that two of the big power shovels were stopped because of lack of help. It was found necessary to put off some expert workmen, because there was insufficient common labor to give them work. However, it seemed that the working force in the main was still engaged on the work.

Premier Drury also stated his position regarding the criticism of the municipalities that the Government should take no action. "The municipalities are not running the Hydro on their own hook," said the Premier. "The money of this Province is advanced to do the actual work. We might as well understand that."

### Appeals From Ruling.

When Mr. Dewart discovered early in the afternoon that discussion of the Hydro motion was to be deferred until "Government order 51" was reached, he appealed to the Speaker for a ruling as to whether or not the Hydro motion

had precedence over all other Government orders. Mr. Speaker said it had not, whereupon the Liberal Leader immediately appealed from his ruling, and called for the ayes and nays. Premier Drury removed the bone of contention by agreeing to call "Order 51" immediately. He said the Government had nothing to do with placing it on the order paper. "It was," he said, "left in the capable hands of the clerk."

Mr. Dewart proceeded: "In moving the adjournment of the debate yesterday I felt that the matter had so suddenly arisen, and was of such importance, that it should have a little more consideration at the hands of the members of the House. I regret exceedingly that under the conditions which existed last night it was not possible to have such a meeting of the members of any party in the House as to enable us to say if that was what the view was of the members of any party."

### Introduces Amendment.

Mr. Dewart introduced his amendment to the original motion, saying, "I have endeavored in the wording of this motion to follow as closely as possible the thought that was in the mind of those who have so strongly worked to put this matter in the form in which it is now:

"Recognizing the difficulties that have arisen between the Hydro-electric Power Commission and its employees on the Queenston-Chippawa development works, and in view of the importance of Hydro-electric development in the interests of public ownership, and of urgently-needed power for public, industrial, municipal and private use,

"I do not think that there is a member on this side of the House who desires to ignore the demands of the men, who desires to do anything that will be detrimental to the interests of the Hydro-electric Commission in the decision that it seems to have taken. I had thought that the Dominion Industrial Disputes Act was an act under which this matter might have been settled. I do not press that point in view of what has been said by the Honorable the Attorney-General. But if we are face to face with an extreme condition so far as a great project is concerned, so far as its workmen are concerned, then what I say is this: While I recognize the desire of those who are interested in this matter to have it dealt with during the House and after the House, I have had enough experience with reference to conciliation boards to know that one desire of the workmen is for an early and speedy termination of the dispute which exists.

### For Immediate Solution.

"I am not fond of Commissions. I have opposed the appointment of Commissions. I would prefer members of this House should be appointed to inquire into the details, and I trust, so far as Hydro-electric business is concerned, that shall be inquired into by a Commission of this House.

"But the particular matter that is referred to in this resolution is something that relates to existing and present conditions, to be immediately and presently solved in the interests of all parties. And therefore I proffer the suggestion that a Commission should be appointed rather than a committee of this House taking from this House valuable members whom we need at the present time during what has been referred to this afternoon rather facetiously as the closing hours. I prefer we should have this matter referred to a Commission, and I therefore so move."

Mr. Drury then suggested the laying over of the debate until later in the afternoon, pending the arrival