

MAKES STRONG REPLY TO PAPER'S ATTACK

**PARRY SOUND MEMBER BLAMES
HYDRO ENGINEER FOR
WASHOUT**

Speaking to a question of privilege in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, R. R. Hall, Liberal member for Parry Sound, bitterly denounced an article in a local evening paper which laid at his door the blame for the late power plant disaster in the northern town. Whereas the evening newspaper had commented, "Thank heaven the Hydro had nothing to do with it," Mr. Hall retorted on the floor of the House, "Would to heaven that the Hydro had never had anything to do with it and the thing would never have happened."

Mr. Hall said that the washout occurred primarily because the Hydro engineer did not know enough to pull out the stop-cocks until the water had risen too high to permit of remedy. He went on to give absolute denial to the statement in the article declaring that Mr. Hall had benefited by the sale of gravel to the works when under construction. Denouncing the article as a "criminal libel," Mr. Hall intimated that he had already taken steps to get redress for injuries to himself due to the falsehoods therein contained.

Upon concluding his address of protest Mr. Hall moved that the matter be taken up at the Committee on Privileges and Elections, which was carried without comment from the House.

Public Inquiries Bill To Come Before House

The Ontario Government can go ahead with its bill to amend the Public Inquiries Act—a measure which will override the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Co.'s injunction against the Timber Commission. In the Legislature yesterday Speaker Parliament's ruling on the point of order raised by Charles McCrea, Sudbury, who argued that the second bill was inadmissible, declared that the bill was different in principle from the first amendment introduced into the House, and consequently could properly be considered.

The bill will come up for second reading next week.

WITNESS TELLS PLANS TO MAKE GIFT TO BIGGS

**Dundas Man Says His Idea
Was to Give Minister
Cash or Car**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS PROBE

**Partners' Dispute Over Com-
mission Leads to Poli-
tical Sensation**

An extraordinary story, alleging irregularities in connection with Governmental purchase of road-making equipment bought by the Provincial Public Works Department, was told yesterday to the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature by Roy Reynolds of Dundas.

Mr. Reynolds was summoned in connection with the sale to the Government of \$117,000 worth of trucks by L. C. Parkin, a Dundas garage owner, whom he recently sued for recovery of commissions, and who testified before the committee last Wednesday.

A Question of Commissions.

He offered sensational evidence regarding an alleged understanding to share the agents' commissions, with which he coupled, in an indirect manner, the Minister of Public Works, to whom he referred in testimony as "Frank." He maintained that he helped to arrange a \$3,000 cash-or-car bargain in which, he understood, the Minister was to share; that the Minister on one occasion had asked what it would take to settle his quarrel with Parkin, and that, in Hon. Mr. Biggs' own residence at Dundas, he (Reynolds) had said to him:

"Frank, whatever is coming to you out of this, I am willing to give mine"—meaning, he explained, his share in the total profit.

No previous meeting of the Public Accounts Committee this session—or for several sessions—elicited such widespread interest as that of yesterday. Premier Drury was present throughout the morning, along with eight members of his Cabinet. W. H. Price, Conservative, conducted the examination of the witness, while the committee beheld a Liberal member, R. L. Brackin of West Kent, in the unexpected role of Government counsel. Acrimonious legal battles regarding relevancy were frequent. The Chairman, J. Walter Curry, ruled upon strictly legal lines, and it was only the candid statement of Hon. Mr. Biggs that he wanted "everything to come out" that opened the way, finally, for a motion by W. E. N. Sinclair to suspend the rules of evidence.

Drury After All the Facts.

Premier Drury went even farther than the Minister of Public Works. Following a very definite ruling out of certain evidence, he suggested that some member move "that everything be heard." The Premier's attitude had marked effect, and the committee voted to discard legal technicalities and to inaugurate a "free-for-all" as in the greatest public interest.

At the conclusion of a three-hour sitting Reynolds stated, in reply to definite, point-blank questions by Hon. Mr. Drury, that at no time or in any manner had Hon. Mr. Biggs approached him regarding a bonus or bribe. He did not know that the