

Mr. Taylor said that the first portion of the newspaper report, relating to an offer of a bribe, was correct, but the latter part, in which some reflection was cast on members of past Governments, was incorrect. He had been offered a \$1,000 bribe, he said, if he would use his influence on behalf of a certain man to secure for him the position of Vice-Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Besides finishing off the Taylor matter, the committee yesterday afternoon wound up the H. B. Asnplant investigation, concluded the investigation of the Andrew Hicks statements, and eliminated from the matters to be investigated the MacBride-Swayze references and the matter at issue between R. R. Hall, Liberal member for Parry Sound, and The Evening Telegram. The MacBride-Swayze matter was dismissed as one affecting only opinions, and on which it was felt no headway could be made no matter how many witnesses were called. Mr. Hall's matter, they said, was one not affecting the Legislature. J. M. Ferguson, committee counsel, expressed his opinion to the committee along those lines.

The Mysterious Visitor.

Mr. Taylor, in evidence, said that the offering of money to which he referred was personal with himself. On Saturday, November 1, 1919, he believed the date was, a man dropped off the early morning train in his town and walked out to his home about a mile out.

"He was supposed," he said, "to represent one George Menzie of Owen Sound, who was aspiring for the position of Vice-Chairmanship of the Workmen's Compensation Board. He stated that he thought Mr. Menzie should get this job, and made the statement that Mr. Menzie was willing to pay me \$1,000 for my influence in endeavoring to obtain him this position."

On investigating since, said Mr. Taylor, he had failed to ascertain the identity of the man who had made him the offer. He had called up Mr. Menzie in Owen Sound and Mr. Menzie had absolutely denied that he had ever authorized anybody to make such an offer or representations on his behalf.

Meant for a Test.

On Thursday, March 24, Mr. Taylor said, he received a letter at his home which, if the Chairman would read it, would explain the whole matter. The letter, which was put in as evidence, read as follows:

"Detroit, Mich., U.S.A.

"Mr. D. J. Taylor, M.P.P., Warton, Ontario. Dear Sir,—I was handed some days ago a copy of The Toronto Star in which I saw something has been said in the Government about a remark that you made about being offered a sum of money to use your influence for the appointment of a certain man to a Government position. Now, I have thought that you might be placed in a somewhat awkward position over the matter, as I do not suppose you know my name, but I am the man who called on you at your home near Warton, and, among other things, I did suggest that you might very easily make \$1,000 in this way, but I am pleased to be able to say that you absolutely refused to accept any money consideration for your influence in any way.

"I may say, further, that I had never met you until the day of our conversation and I knew nothing whatever about you, but during the election I heard conflicting stories about you, and so I took the trouble to call on you for the sole purpose of testing you out as to your honesty in political matters.

"I was not asked by any person to see you or to make any offer to you, but did so entirely off my own bat.

"I thought it only fair that I should write you on this matter, but hope my action will not get you into any trouble.

"I am now living in Detroit, having left Owen Sound last fall.

"(Signed) W. Wilcox."

SAYS PAYMENTS WERE IN ORDER

Beck Controverts Raney's Opinion on Salaries to Hydro Commissioners

AND HAS LEGAL BACKING

Sir Adam Beck, Chairman of the Hydro-electric Commission, strongly contests the opinion advanced by the Attorney-General when speaking in the Legislature on the proposed amendments to the Ontario Power Act. The Attorney-General explained that these amendments were introduced with the object of validating the payment of salaries to members of the Hydro-electric Commission by the Ontario Power Company, which payments, in Mr. Raney's opinion, were outside the legal rights of the company.

Speaking to The Globe yesterday, Sir Adam Beck said:

"I have read the statement of the Attorney-General made in the House last night, to the effect that the \$6,000 paid to me as President and the payments to the other commissioners, officers and officials of the Ontario Power Company are, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, unauthorized and illegal.

A Different Legal Opinion.

"The legal advisers of the Ontario Power Company differ from the views of the Attorney-General, and advise that the annual payment to me and the payments to the other commissioners, officers and officials of the Ontario Power Company are perfectly regular, proper and legal.

"In any event, the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Ontario now hold and control all the stock of the Ontario Power Company, and under these circumstances I am curious to know who can have any status in challenging the validity of these various payments, unless, indeed, it is the Attorney-General himself.

"I am more concerned with the merits than I am with the technical legal questions. The well-defined policy of the Hydro and the municipalities is 'Service at cost,' and in pursuance of this policy some years ago the interested municipalities passed a resolution requesting amendments to the Hydro Act, providing for payment as operating expenses to the commissioners of any sum up to \$25,000 a year. Legislation followed this resolution, but limited the amount to be paid to the commissioners to \$15,000.

Situation Changed in 1917.

"This was the situation when in 1917 the Hydro-electric Power Commission acquired the controlling interest in the capital stock of the Ontario Power Company by the purchase of the shares of that company in Buffalo. At that time a new Board of Directors of the company was elected, and I, as Chairman of the Hydro-electric Power Commission of Ontario, was elected President. Since then the business of the Ontario Power Company has been carried on as a separate undertaking of that company, and is now being so carried on.

"All the contracts and engagements with customers, including the Hydro-electric Power Commission, are being carried out as company transactions, in the same manner as they were carried out prior to the purchase of the shares. This involves the performance of all duties and all the work of those who prior to that time had been officials and officers of the company.

"After the commission acquired

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