

He believed that the Government in recent months had held some caucuses at which, it was said, they dealt with things that might some day be legislation.

Then he detailed items of enacted legislation wherein the Farmers' Government had stolen the thunder of the Liberals, such, for instance, as rural credits legislation and agricultural schools. Reference to the Liberal platform, he said, would show the consideration that had been given in Liberal councils to the needs of the farmers. The first Minister of Agriculture was appointed by the then Liberal Administration, and Hon. Mr. Drury, the father of the present Premier, took over that office. Of course, said Mr. Hay, he personally had failed to carry on at the level set by Mr. Hay, sen., and he noticed that a great many other boys of the present generation had experienced the same difficulty.

Hydro Showdown Necessary.

Coming at last to matters affecting Hydro and Hydro-radials, the Liberal Leader said that undoubtedly the Province had undertaken large commitments on these accounts. And in connection with the administration of Hydro affairs between the Government and the commission, he felt that most of the Province realized that things had come to where a showdown was necessary.

After sketching the history of the original power and Chippawa projects, he said the early estimates for the Chippawa development, as in the Sturgeon Falls development, had been very much exceeded. "In so far as the Chippawa power is concerned, the conditions are such that we, as Liberals, feel that the position we took from our Leader in the House at the first session of the new Government was the very course that the Government apparently now has in view of taking."

Never Opposed Projects.

The Liberals, he said, had never been opposed to Hydro; in fact, they were the pioneers. He read the Liberal platform on the subject, and said that the Liberal party had stood by the one thing—that there should be electrical development, so far as radials are concerned, "when and at the proper time, and only then, and at no other time."

"The Chippawa," he said, "has run into many millions of dollars. The Government is faced today with a condition that I think they should have faced in 1919, when they came into power. They should have said to the Hydro Commission: 'You are

a creation of the Government; you are our servants'—just as much then as they are today."

Instead of taking that position, said Mr. Hay, they took a Minister and put him on the board, but, so far as the public knew, today there was only one man on the board, and he was Sir Adam Beck. "Are we, as taxpayers in the Province of Ontario," he asked, "to hold entirely blameless the Government which have permitted their very own board to go on and spend enormous amounts, and then come to the Legislature at last and say, 'We are through; the work is practically completed; we know it has cost more than it ought to have cost?'"

Government Finally Responsible.

After alluding to the stand taken by the Liberal Leader at the last session, when an accounting was demanded, and referring to Hon. Mr. Carmichael's statement to the House, which Mr. Hay deemed insufficient, he said: "I do not wish to hold the Government of the day responsible for the large expenditure on Hydro-electric development. I do think that they must take some responsibility for allowing their commission, which could have been put out of office at once, to go on during the past twenty-four months expending large amounts of money, without having satisfied themselves, as they appear not to have been satisfied, that that money was being wisely and judiciously expended.

"As to the Hydro-radials issue," said Mr. Hay, "that is an issue that, it seems to me, could be most easily solved and very simply determined."

He went on to say how highly the people of Ontario regarded and respected the city of Toronto, and that it was absolutely necessary that the people co-operate with the city. "I like Toronto," he said, "but there are a lot of other places and people in the Province of Ontario, and I know that no one who comes here has any other desire than to assist the city of Toronto in legislation that she thinks will be beneficial to her interests.

"There may be doubt," he said, "as to the success of Hydro-radials—my mind runs largely in mercenary channels. If for my own satisfaction I ask for information on the hydro railroads in the United States, I find very few of the electric roads are able to earn any considerable dividend, excepting the roads that are directly operated by some other road and used as feeders to that road, where the overhead is reduced or absorbed very materially by the parent road. That is a fair statement."

Would Keep Suburbs Residential.

He spoke of the changed conditions since Stratford, in his own riding, voted for Hydro-radials—the change being Dominion Government ownership of the steam roads. He was not going to say, he declared, whether Hydro-radials would or would not pay. "Perhaps," he said, "if I owned a home outside Toronto and lived in Toronto, I think I would probably like rapid service out to my home—but my observation would be that, in building electric roads adjacent to and running into large centres, the smaller centres connected become absolutely residential. But if there is not law enough to permit the municipalities to own and operate their electric roads, then I think this Government ought, in all fairness, to say to these municipalities: 'We have gone a long way, and now we will give you certain expensive information and we will make the machinery so that you may build your own roads on your own responsibility and operate them.'

"I mentioned the word 'operate,'" Mr. Hay said, "because in view of the heavy excess in estimates on the Chippawa and Nipigon a local commission might at least be credited with the ability to operate as cheaply as the Hydro Commission had handled its work." And if there were profits, "as there are alleged to be, in the operation of the London & Port Stanley, and that is operated by a local commission," he would think the municipalities would be all the more pleased at local operation by a central committee in Toronto.

A Prominent Plank Broken.

He thought the Drury Government might long ago have acted energetically in regard to Hydro-radial proposals, but instead they had stepped out and appointed a commission, and thus broken one of the first planks in their platform. On the commission, he said, were one or two particular friends of the Government, one of whom had fallen down. It had cost three-quarters of a million, he calculated, to permit the commission members to travel over the Province seeking diversion or information, whichever way one looked at it.

"I think, however," he said, "that, so far as any obligations of the Hydro-electric Commission are concerned, to hold the credit of this Province at as high a standard as it is at present, the Government ought to be very generous and liberal in dealing with the commitments that have been already undertaken by the commission for Hydro-radial purposes. I believe that where such commitments have been made the people would ask the Government to adhere to the contracts that have been made."

In regard to the Nipigon power scheme, Mr. Hay said he wholly blamed the previous Administration and the Hydro-power Commission. "Can it lie in the mouth of the Conservative Leader to say that his party has always been favorable to development of Hydro in this Province?" he asked.