

Gone Crazy Over Hydro.

"Why, there are people in the city of Toronto who have gone simply crazy over Hydro," Mr. Clarke said, after mentioning the attitude of the past and the present Mayors of Toronto. Probably, Mr. Clarke agreed, Torontonians had a reason to feel grateful to Hydro, but there were thousands and hundreds of thousands of people on the back concessions who had derived no benefit. Their tolerance of large Hydro expenditure, he thought, was a compliment to their broad-mindedness.

Toronto, he said, would radiate Hydro-radials to every point, "bringing in people every day to bring to it business, and wipe out those comfortable little houses scattered all over the country; wipe out those little hamlets. They want to centralize everything in the city of Toronto."

Consider Back Concessions.

"I don't care who likes it or who dislikes it," the member for Northumberland proceeded. "I quite concur in the position the Government has taken, of not, in the meantime, at any rate, incurring any greater liability, so far as the Province of Ontario is concerned. It is too big a proposition." He hoped that before any Government sanctioned Hydro-radials it would take a look at the back concessions and see the situation of the people there.

After paying a tribute to the accomplishments of Sir Adam Beck, whose worth, he said, was hardly realized, he proceeded to state that in Toronto there had grown up a species of Adam Beck worship. After all, Sir Adam was only a man, he declared, and liable to err. He believed that the work at Chippawa should proceed.

"I am not so sure that now is the proper time to do it," Mr. Clarke said of the proposal to create a Ministry of Power.

Makes "Thieves and Liars."

Mr. Clarke said he concurred with the member for Riverdale (Mr. McNamara) on the liquor question. The step toward total prohibition, he believed, had been taken too precipitously, and had brought about conditions far from ideal.

"This whole business," he declared, "should have been under the control of the Government, under some kind of a license system."

The Ontario Temperance Act, he said, had made liars and thieves out of hosts of Ontario citizens, and "today people in every little town, every little hamlet, are doing things they never thought of doing five, ten or fifteen years ago. In place of making bread, they are making home-brew."

More Human Method.

"I do not know what the end is going to be," he said, "but the time will come, and it will come. I think, reasonably soon—I do not think that you can bring it about in the middle of Parliament—when a more sane and a more rational, and I believe I might say a more human, method of controlling the liquor of this Province will be in force than we have today."

Mr. Clarke attacked the Attorney-General's dispensary system very strongly, declaring that the high prices exacted for liquor constituted robbery of the poor man who required liquor. If dispensaries, he said, were for distributing beverage liquor, why, the prices should be stiff, but if they were for medicinal distribution, as at present pretended, then the Government had no right to make them a revenue-producing venture. The revenue-producing system, Mr. Clarke said, was tried out under the license system.

Concluding, he expressed the opinion that the Government farmers' loan venture was not a square deal to the people of the Province generally. "This banking, as I see it," he said, "is not in the interests of the general public of the Province of Ontario."

Mr. Clarke convulsed the House with some humorous references to Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Conservative member for West York, and his recent controversy with the Attorney-General over his excessive issuance of prescriptions. After noting that the doctor was permitted to have several gallons of liquor at one time, Mr. Clarke said: "If I could have four or five gallons of liquor a month, and the right to issue 100 prescriptions, I could double my majority in the next election."

TIMBER MATTERS OBSESS TORY MINDS

Much Information Asked for by Members of the Legislature

Timber matters continue to loom largely in the imaginations of Conservative members of the Legislature, judging by continued references to it in inquiries being made of the Ministry. Hon. G. H. Ferguson, Conservative Leader, is now asking for a return of all correspondence between Government members and E. W. Backus respecting the Lake of the Woods pulp concession, White Dog Rapids water power or other water powers, English River pulp concession, Keewatin Lumber Company and the Keewatin Power Company.

H. Hill, Ottawa, asks for details of payments made to Shirley Denison, K.C., and the arrangement under which he is retained by the Government; also as to payments that might have been paid to R. T. Harding and moneys expended by him for the Government.

W. D. Black, Addington, wants to know what water powers have been applied for by E. W. Backus since December 15, and if it is the intention of the Government to grant his further applications.