

HON. DOUGALL CARMICHAEL RESIGNS FROM HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION, CHARGING INSUFFICIENT FRANKNESS

Because Chippawa development costs have exceeded last year's estimate by \$14,000,000, Hon. Dougall Carmichael, Minister without portfolio in the Drury Government, has handed to Premier Drury his resignation from the Hydro-electric Power Commission.

After statistical review of Chippawa expenditures in the Legislature yesterday Col. Carmichael announced the latest expectation of cost for five units to be \$69,000,000.

"I gave those figures last spring in good faith," he said, referring to the estimate of \$55,000,000 he had brought forward in 1921. "When it came to my attention early last autumn that these figures were liable, or were sure, to be exceeded, I brought it to the attention of the Government, and I told the Prime Minister that my Commission had either been inefficient or had been dishonest in dealing with the Government in regard to this development."

Withdraws Word "Dishonest."

Later on in the discussion Hon. Mr. Carmichael made an important correction in his statement, withdrawing the word "dishonest." To Hon. G. H. Ferguson he said that he perhaps should have said "misleading."

And later again he said: "I should not have used the word dishonest. I should have used quite a different word. What I meant to infer is this: that the commission, in passing these estimates year by year, and giving estimates, had not been sufficiently frank, so that the Government had been led on from year to year to have an impression that the work would cost so much, when in reality it was not intended, perhaps, to even

finish the work within the estimate that had been given. I would not wish at all to say anyone had been dishonest in the ordinary sense of the term."

Hon. Thomas Crawford—Does my honorable friend mean to imply that they were cooked estimates, and not according to the facts?

Hon. Mr. Carmichael—Either that or else the estimates were insufficient prepared.

Drury Defers Action.

Premier Drury, in a brief statement to the House on the matter, indicated the determination of the Government to find out what was wrong in connection with Chippawa estimates and expenditures. He deemed Hon. Mr. Carmichael's