

The Minister moved the amendment, saying it was seconded by "Hon. Mr. Raney," but was met with Mr. Dewart's prompt protest at the amendment being seconded "by a gentleman who does not think enough of the House to stay in his seat. The Attorney-General is not here." The difficulty was got over, however, by the Prime Minister seconding it.

A. C. Lewis, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto, followed with a lengthy resume of Chippawa history, pointing out that, when the great work was eventually commenced, it was done upon urgent request of Federal and Provincial Governments in view of war emergencies and with practically no new estimates made or at hand beyond the pre-war figures.

Has Faith in H.-E. P. C.

Mr. Lewis dwelt upon some of the difficulties which had been encountered, including the unexpected change in rock formation, of steam and electrical shovel difficulties, some of which had been experienced as a result of following the advice of Engineer Cooper, whom the Government and the commission hired. Mr. Lewis expressed himself well satisfied with the work of the commission.

R. L. Brackin, Liberal, West Kent, characterized the address of Mr. Lewis as one which proved his unfitness to sit upon an investigating committee. Mr. Brackin said that he, too, was a Hydro supporter and an admirer of Sir Adam Beck, only he did not go around boasting about it, "and I don't get into Parliament because I can mouth the name of Sir Adam Beck," he declared.

Friend of Sir Adam Beck.

"I am not an enemy of public ownership," he proceeded. "I am a friend of Hydro and of Sir Adam Beck. I don't believe, if you investigate until Kingdom Come, that any tribunal would be able to find that Sir Adam has improperly profited to the extent of a five-cent piece."

W. H. Casselman (U.F.O., Dundas) —Let the investigation show that.

"No man can look into the eyes of Sir Adam Beck," proceeded Mr. Brackin, "and say Beck could do one thing that is not correct in any shape or form."

Mr. Brackin, proceeding with customary vigor, declared that his Hydro interest would not permit him to vote for investigation by a House Committee, upon which the Government would have a majority which might desire to make a finding which would justify the attitude taken by the Government.

The issue, as defined by Mr. Brackin, was whether Ontario was to have a disinterested commission or a political commission.

Contradictory Reports.

What confidence could the people have, demanded Mr. Brackin, when a House Committee, as it would likely do, brought in a majority report and a minority report on Chippawa, one contradicting the other? Mr. Brackin confessed that, as a politician, he did not feel he could do fair justice to the subject as a committee member, and he doubted if any other member of the House could; upon which point, however, W. H. Casselman ventured to disagree from across the House.

Edgar Watson, U.F.O. member for North Victoria, resented, he said, the various statements made that the Government and the Premier were anti-Hydro. He had always been a public-ownership man, and no one had ever approached him to try to win him over to any other position.

"I want to say here and now," he declared vehemently, "that the statements (about the Government being anti-Hydro) made up and down this country by those honorable members opposing the amendment to this resolution are absolutely and unqualifiedly untrue, and, furthermore, that they know they are untrue."

Want Judicial Verdict.

After discussing the increase in the estimates for the Chippawa development, Mr. Watson said that, as a representative of the people, he refused to accept the increases without an impartial investigation. They did not want a political answer to the question; they wanted a judicial answer.

W. H. Casselman, U.F.O. member for Dundas, said that the amendment moved by the Minister of Agriculture gave a neat turn to the situation, and placed persons of an independent mind on his side of the House in perhaps an awkward posi-

tion, "but it does not change my attitude toward the question in the least. I think I could have supported the resolution of the honorable member for Grenville with a better grace had it not named the members of the committee. Even that, while it places me in a delicate position, does not place me in the position of refraining from speaking my mind."

He said he thought the proposal that came originally from the Leader of the Liberal group, and accepted by the Premier, was well considered, and was not a matter of impulse, and, apparently, every member of the Legislature had fallen in line with the idea.

"Follow My Leader."

Because the Prime Minister changed his mind it was expected that his followers, like sheep, were to follow him through the gap. It was an insult to that Assembly to say that there were not enough men there capable of giving a fair judgment on this question.

"I believe this," said Mr. Casselman as a final shot, "that there is more of real politics in the idea of a Royal Commission than there is in the idea of a committee of this House."

The combined efforts of R. L. Brackin (West Kent) and A. C. Lewis (Northeast Toronto), one speaking against, and the other for, the motion, apparently had the effect of winning R. R. Hall of Parry Sound over to the anti-House Committee point of view. Speaking of Mr. Brackin's speech, Mr. Hall amused the House by telling the members that, "while he was speaking I was thinking." After hearing what he had heard that afternoon he concluded it was impossible for him to go any further and vote for the committee.

"Passing the Buck," Says MacBride.

M. M. MacBride, Labor member for South Brantford, held forth during a stormy hour, and accused the Government of seeking "to pass the buck" to another Royal Commission. As Mr. MacBride conceived the situation, the Government was absolutely responsible for expenditures on Hydro, through its commission, to which it had within recent months named two of its own appointees.

The South Brant member read extensively from Premier Drury's past utterances on Hydro, and found in previous speeches a practical endorsement of the Hydro project and the Hydro Commission. On the other hand, he said, he encountered at all times a certain insidious anti-Hydro propaganda emanating from the Government. He was charitable enough, he said, to admit the possibility of this being an unconscious propaganda.

J. C. Tolmie, Liberal, Windsor, traced for the House the varying attitudes of the Premier upon the issue, pointing out his original acceptance of the House Committee proposal. In view of the Premier's earlier position, he said, it was distinctly unfair of him now to put his followers in the position of either voting against a committee proposal or voting want of confidence in the Government.

Brand Them Anti-Hydro.

Mr. Tolmie took issue with the statement of the Minister of Agriculture, which would brand as anti-Hydro all members voting for a House Committee investigation. The member for Windsor declared himself to be a Hydro supporter, and desirous of committee investigation. In his opinion the House would be honored by having selected from its members a committee to conduct the investigation. Not for one moment would he concur in the suggestion of those supporting Royal Commission investigation that honorable members were not politically fit or intellectually capable of listening to the facts and passing opinion.

F. Wellington Hay, Liberal Leader, thought the seriousness of the situation had been somewhat magnified by all previous speakers. He did not wish to be accused of being friendly or unfriendly to Hydro by his remark on the subject under debate, which, as he understood it, was merely as to whether there had been reasonable honest and fair expenditure of public money and whether the estimates had been honestly and fairly submitted.