

WOULD CO-OPERATE ON POWER SCHEME

But, Premier Drury Tells
Northerners, Federal Ac-
tion Must Come First

FRENCH RIVER PROJECT

Provincial Government co-operation and assistance in any move to have the Federal Government develop French River for navigation purposes was promised by Premier Drury yesterday to a deputation of representatives of 30 municipalities in the North Bay-Sudbury district, whose essential request was that the Government undertake to provide them with additional power supplies.

Serious Power Situation.

Through the Mayor of North Bay, A. J. Young of North Bay; Malcolm Lang, M.P.P. for Cochrane; C. T. Young, of the Canadian National Railways; Z. Mageau, M.P.P., Sturgeon Falls; Ald. Barker of North Bay, and others, the deputation made an able presentation of their case, and, in turn, received the assurance of the Premier of sympathetic consideration of what he admitted to be the rather serious situation in regard to power supplies in North Bay and elsewhere.

In some respects spokesmen for the deputation were disposed to be critical of Hydro Power Commission administration, and asked for a Government owned and controlled power development on the French River to take care of the power needs of the district. In this they suggested that the Government should lend some assistance toward a project which would build up New Ontario, develop the industries up there, and redound to the ultimate benefit of older Ontario.

Premier Drury made it clear that the Government would not sanction and assist any project which would provide power at less than cost. Such a move, he said, which would be accepted as a precedent, would ultimately lead to the financial ruin of the Province. He declared that, although Sudbury was critical of a Hydro estimate of power supplies at \$30 a horsepower, there were municipalities in southern Ontario paying as high as \$75 and \$80.

Depends on Federal Action.

"You ask," he said, "that we consider the development of power, not under the general Hydro scheme, but under the scheme which is now in operation in connection with the Central Ontario Power situation. I would like to give you a definite answer. So far as I see now, I see nothing serious in the way. That, however, can be carried out only in conjunction with the development for navigation of the French River, which is a Federal matter."

North Bay representatives presented for the consideration of the Government an alarming condition of affairs in that municipality, stating that, because of the insufficiency of power supply, street and domestic lighting and industrial power provisions were inadequate, and, most serious of all, the town was almost without water supply because of it. A fire, it was said, would level North Bay to the ground under present conditions.

Mr. Young, Canadian National Railways representative, lauded the strategic merits of North Bay as a transportation centre and as a Great Lakes port. He certainly thought, he said, that the Ontario Government and the Northerners could count on the recommendation of the Canadian National Railway Board to the Federal Government should their opinion on French River development be sought.

LEGAL PROFESSION IS WELL REWARDED

Provincial Government Coun-
sel Fees Brought Out
in Legislature

Answers to questions in the Legislature yesterday elicited a host of statistics as to the several amounts paid to Government counsel and commissioners in various activities. Among other items, the information was tabled that Hon. N. W. Rowell, K.C., has received from the Government \$3,500 and claims \$9,200 additional in respect of legal services, and his partner, Mr. McMillan, has received \$7,500 and claims an additional amount of \$4,750.

A. W. Roebuck, K.C., retained in the Wholesale Grocers case, in timber investigations and in connection with combine legislation, received \$2,250 in 1920 and \$3,095 in 1921. Shirley Denison, K.C., chief counsel for the Government in the timber probe, received \$12,500 for his services.

Recent appointments of W. D. Gregory, K.C., were named as: Public Service Commissioner, for which he received \$2,740 in 1921 and \$1,400 in 1922, and as Hydro Commissioner, for which he received \$11,800 in 1922.

Gordon Waldron, K.C., has received \$11,017 for his services to the Government since 1919, and Attorney-General Raney, when asked if this Mr. Waldron were the same Mr. Waldron who was retained as counsel for the U.F.O. Co-operative, The Farmers' Sun and other activities, said the Government had no official knowledge of Mr. Waldron's other professional engagements.

Mr. Dewart's question brought forward the information that the Government paid \$205,000 for the building opposite St. Andrew's Church, Wellington and Simcoe streets, and has spent \$44,295 in fitting it up.