

Feb. 14th

into the realm of the past Administration, "although, God knows, there is lots to reveal."

In stressing the importance of the Government finding a solution of Ontario's coal problem, Premier Ferguson announced that negotiations were already under way with the Canadian National Railways, authorities for a continuation next year of their special \$7 freight rate under which 16,000 tons of Alberta fuel had been deposited in Ontario last year.

The Critics of Hydro.

In rather severe tones, he twitted Mr. Doherty upon his profession of allegiance to hydro development. He recalled the "spectacle" in the last House of the member from Centre Grey (Mr. Carmichael) declaring that the situation indicated there had been either gross carelessness or dishonesty in Hydro expenditures.

Mr. Carmichael—Didn't it?

Mr. Ferguson—No, it does not. The result of it was that a commission was hurriedly appointed, known as the Gregory Commission, which is still operating.

Mr. Carmichael—That is funny.

Mr. Ferguson—It may be funnier to my honorable friend when the report comes in.

The Premier denounced the attitude of the late Government as consistently critical and antagonistic to Hydro. Despite that attitude, he stated, amid applause, Chippawa, with only six out of ten turbines turning, was paying its way.

St. Lawrence Development.

"There has been a mistaken idea given to the public," he said, "that the development of St. Lawrence power necessarily involves a huge outlay on the part of the Dominion Government or of this Government. That does not follow at all. The development of the St. Lawrence at Morrisburg is comparatively reasonable in cost."

After reviewing the scheme as has already been publicly outlined he showed that the cost would be \$37,000,000 or \$38,000,000 on the Ontario side, which, with a development of 350,000 horsepower, would provide "the cheapest power development that exists anywhere in Ontario, and, I think, almost in Canada." Mr. Ferguson unequivocally pledged the best efforts of his Government toward sound development of St. Lawrence power resources, and expressed the conviction that the Federal authorities would come into the scheme.

In connection with rural hydro, he said real efforts would be made by his Administration to get additional supplies of power to the rural homes of the Province.

Machinery for Referendum.

"Within a few days," he said in reference to the O.T.A., "a bill will be brought down in the Legislature to provide machinery—because at the present time there is no legal machinery—to enable the Government to take an expression of opinion from the public on a subject of this kind. The Government will introduce it, and I feel sure that the House will accept and endorse the legislative machinery necessary for submission to the public of questions with respect to the handling of our liquor legislation. When the Government feels that there is sufficient public opinion to warrant it in submitting the question it will be prepared to do it."

Mr. Clarke (Northumberland)—How are you going to gauge that?

Mr. Ferguson—We will have to take the responsibility of gauging it. That is a responsibility we must take.

The Premier assured the Liberal Leader that the local advisory councils referred to did not, as Mr. Sinclair had feared, herald the appointment of a highly paid representative, but rather the creation of an advisory council of three members of the Legislature to assist the Minister in re-establishing activity in the improvement of local highways.

A financial controller for Ontario would be appointed in good time, Mr. Ferguson declared, but following his announcement of the creation of the post the market for financial controllers had gone up surprisingly. The Government would wait, among other reasons, for this condition to right itself.

He also announced the appointment during this session of a special committee of the House to make a survey of agricultural conditions in Ontario in particular relations to markets and economic conditions.

To Help Erring Juveniles.

The Government's scheme of a farm cottage detention home for delinquent boys and girls, he said, was not to be undertaken as a Government enterprise, although there would be Government representatives on its board. It was proposed that its direction would be assisted by philanthropic people who had intimated that they would not only help in its direction, but in its finances.

"The thought is," he said, amid the applause of the whole House, "that these boys should be taken to the open spaces, given schooling and engaged in useful employment, and that their surroundings should be most helpful."

In announcing his plans to correct conditions which led up to the suicide of the two English farm boys, he said: "I think the weakness is lack of inspection-of organizations that bring them out, and lack of supervision after they are placed on the farm. We have the organization to do it; the Dominion Government has not. We propose to license these homes before we will permit them to undertake the work of bringing the boys out."

He stressed the absolute importance of satisfying the Old Country public that the matter was being taken hold of seriously, and that there were Governmental assurances of proper supervision of young immigrants.

Hon. W. E. Raney moved adjournment of the debate.