

Friday, Feb. 26th

Revise Niagara Treaty.

Dealing with the subject of water-power, Mr. Keefer declared that in Old Ontario power resources were almost at an end. He thought that Canada would be well advised to seek a revision of the treaty respecting Niagara power. By that treaty 20,000 cubic feet per second to be taken on the American side of the Falls and 36,000 cubic feet a second on the Canadian side. The greater flow was on the Canadian side. President Roosevelt had declared that only 20,000 c.f.s. should be developed on the American side, or the Falls there would have gone dry. But, he continued, 10,000 cubic feet of the Canadian water went over to the United States industries in the shape of power.

Commend Work of Mr. McCrea.

That the Government could bank upon the support of the Progressive party in projects pertaining to the development of water-power from the St. Lawrence was the assurance given by R. H. Kemp (Lincoln), who continued the debate. Mr. Kemp then proceeded to depreciate to some extent the illusion he had created by attacking the Government policy from various angles. Referring to the development in the North Country, Mr. Kemp suggested that it was due more to Providence than to the Conservative Government. It was only natural, and its success could be no more attributed to the efforts of the Ferguson Government than to any other Government or party of the past. Mr. Kemp dropped his "jabbing" attitude long enough, however, to commend the individual work of Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, whom he thought well qualified to handle any situation arising under his departmental observation.

Deplores Lack of Fruit Gardens.

Further to the question of agriculture, Mr. Kemp complained of the lack of grading of fruits, particularly peaches. In Toronto, said he, there were more fraud practiced in this connection than in any other part of the Province. While admitting that grading came under the jurisdiction of the Federal authorities, Mr. Kemp saw no reason why the Ontario Government should not have some say in the matter, especially when, at the present time, it was introducing legislation

to compel grading of cream. If agriculturists are to get a square deal, said Mr. Kemp, improvement in this line must be sought.

In connection with highways, Mr. Kemp stressed the need of a Provincial rate for the construction of same. Even then, he declared, farmers in the outlying districts would be getting the worst of the deal. Declaring that the farming districts bore 41½ per cent. of roads taxation, in addition to paying their share of gas tax, he expressed the belief that profits received were not proportionate in any sense of the word. Several sharp thrusts were taken at the Advisory Board of Engineers and the alleged "take-it-or-leave-it" tactics he had heard this board employed in travelling up and down the Province.

Questioned on Hydro.

Mr. Cooke questioned Mr. Kemp as to whether or not the Drury Government had paid anything for Hydro.

"I understood," replied Mr. Kemp, "that under its legislation we received our bonuses for two or three years."

Mr. Cooke—There never was a dollar paid to bonus the rural districts until this Government came into power.

Hon. F. C. Biggs (Progressive, North Wentworth) declared it was the legislation of the Drury Government that brought about the bonusing and if the Hydro Commission did bring up their bills it wasn't the fault of the Government.

Mr. Cooke retorted that if the Government had been as zealous in continuing the work as in passing the legislation it would have approached the Commission in the matter.

M. M. MacBride (Conservative, Brant South) followed the member from Lincoln in the debate, and turned at once to Hydro matters. He spoke at length of the life and work of Sir Adam Beck, paying high tribute to his enterprise and accomplishments. He reviewed the life of Abraham Lincoln, stressing in detail his decisions and declarations, and picturing him as the great emancipator. "I submit," he continued, "that Sir Adam Beck was also a great emancipator." He thought that the Drury Government had not dealt fairly with Hydro. It had, said he, instituted the Gregory Commission, which he termed "iniquitous," and which, he said, "spent lavishly of the Province's money, not to help Sir Adam Beck, but to hinder and harass him."

One of the many important bills given first reading was that introduced by Karl Komuth (Ind. Labor, South Waterloo). This bill would bring utilities of the Province under the Federal Industrial Disputes Act as provided for in the amendment to the act in 1925. Other measures were introduced for the purpose of incorporating the Welland-Port Colborne Railway; to incorporate the Village of Ford Rosseau; to incorporate the City of Rosseau, and to amend the Vital Statistics Act. There also were laid before the House acts respecting the Town of Eastview, the Town of Arnprior, the City of Fort William, the amalgamation of Toronto Western Hospital with Grace Hospital, the City of Weston (two bills), the County of York, and the T. T. C., the John Currie estate, and the Town of LaSalle.

City of Toronto Bill

Is Given First Reading

The general bill of the City of Toronto which Russell Nesbitt, Conservative member for Northwest Toronto, introduced for first reading in the Legislature, yesterday, will validate the grant to the Banting fund; the grant of \$500,000 to the Exhibition building fund; tax sales; and will provide legal authority for the North Toronto sewage system. A bill to authorize the city to operate a ferry service to the Island was introduced by Alex. Lewis.