

Friday, March 5th

# NO SHORTAGE OF HYDRO POWER TO HAMPER ONTARIO INDUSTRY, COMMISSIONER INFORMS HOUSE

**Government Has Taken  
Necessary Steps to Care  
for Expansion, and Will  
Place Record of Negoti-  
ations Before Legisla-  
ture, Declares Hon. J. R.  
Cooke**

## LAUNCHES ATTACK ON LIBERAL LEADER

**Success of Public Owner-  
ship Has Created Grow-  
ing Demand and Situ-  
ation Becomes Serious—  
Future in Eastern On-  
tario to Overshadow Suc-  
cess in West**

Hon. J. R. Cooke, Hydro Commissioner, speaking in the Provincial Legislature last night, announced that, despite the serious outlook for a supply of power for the Province, "the Government and the Commission had taken the necessary steps to insure that a power supply will be furnished for the legitimate expansion of industry, and that no power shortage will be allowed to develop in this Province."

### Will Present Report.

Referring to power projects and to interprovincial and international development, he declared that the Government and the Commission had been making every effort to look after Ontario's needs, and that before the session was closed a record of negotiations in the matter would be placed before the House.

Dealing with Hydro matters as he continued the debate Mr. Cooke traced the growth of power development in the Province and reviewed present operations. East of Toronto, he said, public ownership applied only to 80,000 horsepower, as compared to 800,000 horsepower west of Toronto. "But," he said, "the opportunities for cheap power and development are greater in Eastern Ontario than they ever have been or will be in Western Ontario."

He spoke of the Gregory Commission, describing the competent men who had conducted the investigation. "And the result," he said, "was a complete vindication of the principles of public ownership in the development and distribution of power in this Province."

### On Solid Foundation.

Two hundred and fifty millions of dollars were invested in the power utilities, he said, and every dollar was completely protected. Total reserves of \$40,000,000 had been built up for protection.

"The very success of public ownership," he continued, "is creating problems every day. Light and power have been supplied so cheaply that it is creating a demand impossible to supply unless new sources of supply are discovered. The annual average increase in the sale of power is over 75,000 horsepower a year. If the increased demand is maintained for the next two and a half years the last unit of power available on the present system would be exhausted in 1928 unless other sources of power are in operation."

He went on to say that a supply of power was assured Central Ontario for the next five years. "But after that time," he continued, "no assurance of extensive supply could be given to industries."

He spoke of the plans for the St. Lawrence development approved by Ontario and sent to Ottawa, and the prospects of interprovincial development. The St. Lawrence scheme, he said, was the most attractive from the commercial point of view.

In connection with these Hydro matters he paid high tribute to Sir Adam Beck, speaking of the great public ownership enterprises as a memorial to his life and works. He agreed with M. M. MacBride (Conservative, South Brant) in his suggestion that a story of the life and works of Sir Adam be placed in the school books of the Province.

### Turns Guns on Sinclair.

Then he turned his guns on the Liberals, particularly on Liberal Leader W. E. N. Sinclair. He referred to a letter on Hydro affairs read by Mr. Sinclair in the opening days of the session. The Liberal Leader, he said, had declared the correspondence was addressed to the Ferguson Government, whereas it was addressed to Ottawa. "This," he said, "was the most brazen attempt to deceive this Legislature I have ever known."

Immediately Mr. Raney objected, pointing out that Mr. Sinclair was not present at the session, and urged that Mr. Cooke withdraw his words.

The Speaker ruled that the remarks be withdrawn. "I will say," continued Mr. Cooke, "that, instead of expressing his regret at inadvertently deceiving this House, the display of temper which he gave on being corrected was evidence of being caught in the act."

He referred to the investigation of the Settell charges, and continued to declare that even when the inquiry was complete the Opposition members had kept alive an agitation, "though there wasn't a particle of evidence to support it."

### Says No Patronage.

He went on to say that statements had been made charging party patronage in Hydro matters and that it had been said that he had carried on his work of administration in a partisan manner. He challenged the members to find a Hydro employee who would support these charges, and declared that if such support could be found that he "would" resign now and forever from Hydro development.

"May I ask the member," queried Mr. Raney, "did he make a partisan speech in this House last year, and is he making a partisan speech tonight?"

Mr. Cooke retorted that Mr. Raney was putting a question in a very shift manner. Sir Adam Beck, said he, had emphatically challenged partisanship.

### Agitation Unfounded.

Referring to the agitation of the past against the Chippawa, the Nipigon, and even the Central developments, Mr. Cooke showed to what extent the agitation had been unfounded. The Chippawa development, he went on to say, had been able in 1924, with the operation of six units, to provide sufficient revenue for the carrying charges upon the total cost of the whole development. In the case of the Nipigon, 75,000 horsepower had been planned. Stiff opposition was encountered at first, due to the fact that a private development plant was supplying all consumers with the exception of two in that locality. But Sir Adam Beck, he declared, had made the boast three years ago that within a year's time the consumers supporting the private concern would come to the Hydro begging for more power. And this, according to Mr. Cooke, has been the case. In nine years' time the Central Development had built up its development from 20,000 horsepower to 50,000 horsepower, and, incidentally, was building up immense revenues for the people of the Province.

Eastern Ontario, stated Mr. Cooke, held the key to the industrial future of the Province, in so far as development of power along the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence was concerned. Toronto, he pointed out, now pays \$25 per horsepower. As far east as Kingston the charge is \$30. "What," he said, "is the value to the Province of the St. Lawrence, which can develop 1,000,000 horsepower at a price from \$4 to \$5 less than existing rates?"

### Comments on O.T.A.

Commenting on the O.T.A., Mr. Cooke said the act was on the statutes, and, inasmuch as no mention of a change in it had been included in the Speech from the Throne, he could see no reason for all the attempts in the House and outside it to inflame public opinion on the question.

According to the speaker, Mr. Raney, while not deceiving the public, had the faculty of phrasing his language so that no accurate interpretation was afforded the public. Contrary to all his anti-wet argument, Mr. Raney, to please the liquor interests in 1920 and 1921, had decreased the business assessment on distilleries a considerable percentage. Through this sympathetic encouragement, Mr. Cooke continued, one distillery which had manufactured 250,000 gallons annually prior to the war had boosted its capacity during Mr. Raney's regime as Attorney-General to 6,000,000 gallons, and had boasted that it soon would become the biggest distillery not only in the Empire, but in the world.

"I called the former Attorney-General's attention to this repeatedly," said Mr. Cooke, "but he did nothing."

In continuing the debate, J. W. Freeborn, Progressive Whip, East Middlesex, confined his remarks en-

tirely to agriculture. It was no wonder, he stated, that the best young men of the farms were leaving for the city. There was too much talk, he contended, that any one could make a success of farming, and that the industry required no brains.