

Thursday, March 3rd.

# ARE SEEKING RELIEF FROM USUAL IMPOST ON SUBURBAN ROADS

## Deputation Representing 26 Municipalities Waits Upon Government

### PROTEST 20 P. C. LEVY

To a deputation, representative of 26 Ontario municipalities, which waited on the Government yesterday to press for relief from the customary payment of the 20 per cent. share of the cost of suburban roads, Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, while holding that the impost was equitable, promised that an effort would be made by the Government to find some solution to complaints and to afford relief if it was at all possible to do so.

#### Cost of Civic Services.

The ground on which many of the municipalities based their argument was that cost in the operation of civic services had increased so during the last ten years that they found it difficult to raise revenue sufficient to meet the added expenditures.

Hamilton, as represented by Controller William Morrison, held that the 20 per cent. payment was an injustice when it was considered that the operation of civic services had steadily increased. Mr. Morrison referred to the Government's determination to reduce the municipal income tax, as another instance of loss of revenue, and remarked that it was easy for the Government to ease the burdens of the people at the expense of the municipalities. Hamilton, he said, had so far paid \$1,436,700 for outside roads. When the 20 per cent. levy was placed on the municipalities, none had anticipated the great increase in automobile traffic. He inferred that if the roads were not paying an adequate return to the Province, there should have been no cut on motor license markers. While admitting that his city, because of its good roads, would benefit greatly from tourist traffic, Mr. Morrison claimed that it was paying more per capita than any other municipality.

# CENTRAL POWER BODY HAS PROFIT AND LOSS

## Premier Ferguson Gives Details Regarding Various Enterprises Concerned

Replying to questions of F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria), Premier Ferguson, in the Legislature yesterday, named the gas plants at Cobourg, Napanee, Oshawa and Peterboro'; the Cobourg waterworks plant, the street railway in Peterboro' and the Campbellford pulp mill as those assets acquired under the purchase of the Central Ontario System, which, although not used for the distribution or development of Hydro power, are still owned by the Province. With the exception of the Napanee gas plant, all, he said, were being operated by or on behalf of the Government.

In 1926 the Cobourg gas plant showed a loss of \$3,504.55; the Oshawa gas plant a profit of \$10,698.42; the Peterboro' gas plant a profit of \$8,714.35; the Campbellford pulp mill a loss of \$46,341.84; the Cobourg waterworks a profit of \$3,627.90; the Peterboro' street railway an operating deficit of \$33,833.20 (with interest amounting to \$16,490.67).

According to the Prime Minister, these items included charges of \$58,217.52 for power supplied to the pulp mill, and \$14,546.11 to the Peterboro' street railway, for which power no other market was available. These items, less power, showed a surplus, he said, for the pulp mill of \$11,875.68, and an operating deficit of \$19,287.09 for the railway. Profit or loss had been credited or charged to the operation of the Central Ontario System properties as a whole.