

Wednesday, March 14th

# HYDRO COMMISSIONER SAYS SANDY CHARGES WITHOUT FOUNDATION

*Inspired by Professor Sissons, Whose Policy on Rural Power, Declares Cooke, Would Mean Destruction of Whole Enterprise*

## CHATS FALLS POWER AT \$2 LESS PER H.P.

Hon. J. R. Cooke, Hydro Commissioner, told the Legislature during the Budget debate yesterday that there were three principles vital to the expansion of the great Hydro-Electric enterprise in Ontario, and that the Government under Premier Ferguson would adhere to them just as loyally in the future as it had done in the past.

### Stand by Rentals.

"The first," said Mr. Cooke, "is to observe the conditions with regard to rentals that were set forth in the original leases issued some 25 years ago to private power companies to develop at Niagara. These private companies—the Electrical Development Company and the Ontario Power Company—have since come into possession of the Power Commission by purchase, and the rentals imposed at that time should be rigidly observed. The policy of the Government is to observe them loyally in the future.

"The second is the legislation which came into force at the beginning of the operation of the Power Commission by which municipal taxation was confined to land values. That legislation this Government intends to observe loyally.

"The third is the policy that was so clearly enunciated at that time—that the water powers of this Province shall belong to all the people of this Province and be developed on behalf of the Province and the municipalities in the interest of all the people. That has been and is the policy of the Government today."

### Chats Power at \$23.50.

Mr. Cooke, additionally, supplied the House with an intimate story of the terms of the last Gattineau contract, of 100,000 horsepower to be delivered to the Province at Smith's Falls over a period of ten years; stated that delivery of the Chats Falls power was expected at Leaside Nov. 1 this year at a price of \$23.50 per horsepower, or \$2 less per horsepower than power now used in Toronto; criticized the "feeble" efforts toward Hydro advancement made by the Drury Administration, and with considerable vigor clashed with F. G. Sandy (Progressive, South Victoria) over utterances regarding rural power extension attributed to Mr. Sandy, and which, Mr. Cooke claimed, had been inspired by Prof. C. B. Sissons—one whose policy on rural power, if ever effected, would mean "the ultimate destruction of the whole enterprise."

Mr. Cooke started off with a generality or two regarding power affairs in the Province, then turned his guns on Opposition members, who, he said, had shown a "critical and unreasonable attitude" in dealing with Hydro matters. He singled out Mr. Sandy in particular.

### Answers Mr. Sandy.

Holding up a copy of The Lindsay Post carrying a report of Mr. Sandy's recent address in the House on the subject of Hydro, Mr. Cooke stated that he had received the paper from a Lindsayite, who commented that Mr. Sandy's statements had created misgivings and doubt in the minds of the people of South Victoria as to the fairness of the methods employed by the Ontario Hydro Power Commission. In justice to the Commission, said Mr. Cooke, he must deal with several of Mr. Sandy's declarations and show that they were absolutely without foundation.

He referred to some of the Progressive member's remarks, as reported in the paper that Toronto was receiving

power favors, that Toronto got power for \$26 while Lindsay had to pay \$35 to \$42, his query "Why should Lindsay be handicapped?"

Mr. Sandy rose to make a correction. Mr. Cooke declaring "Your quarrel is with the editor of The Post." went on with his support of the Commission.

He thought that Mr. Sandy's remarks were not the view of his party, but were personal utterances that had been "inspired by one who was not even a member of the House, and who was dissatisfied because he could not get preferential treatment from the Commission in a power area where his property was located." Continuing the Commissioner termed the Progressive member's statements "as grossly inaccurate," "misleading," and as the type of declaration that one would expect from people who still maintained that the earth was flat.

Mr. Cooke spoke of the contracts the Hydro had made in recent years, to

show that contrary to Mr. Sandy's statements, the Commission could construct lines much more cheaply than private concerns. He specified the transmission line from Chat Falls to Leaside, one-half of which is completed now, and the remainder expected by Nov. 1. A number of private concerns had tendered for the construction of this line, but the lowest of them had been 40 per cent. in advance of the Hydro's own tender, and the highest, 125 per cent. He further stated, that with half the line done, the costs were well within the Hydro estimates.

### Would Destroy Hydro.

Mr. Cooke quoted a letter of Professor Sissons to The Globe, and a subsequent interview he had given The Globe in denial of the professor's claims. "If things he advocates were carried out," said Mr. Cooke, "it would mean ultimate destruction of the whole Hydro enterprise."

It was just as feasible, said Mr. Cooke, to push the Canadian National Railways into every town and village in the country, to run a Provincial highway up to every farmer's door, or to establish a university in every place in the country, as it was to provide every farmer—as had been advocated—with power. Density of power users, he stressed, was the solution to cheaper power. The Hydro, naturally, had to charge more where there was a single farmer to a transformer, than in a hamlet where there were four or five to a transformer, or in an urban centre with thirty or forty users to it.

Mr. Cooke reviewed work in the different systems in the Province, and recent contracts for the supply of these systems. In this connection he emphasized the last Gattineau contract as a "wonderful contract." The original plan had been to lay this 60 cycle down at Smith's Falls at \$14.70, but under later arrangements, it is to be delivered at Ottawa at \$14.55, and from there will be transported to Smith's Falls over a line which the Hydro Commission will build, and for which it will impose a \$30,000 rental the first year upon the company.

### 2,000,000 Horsepower.

The Niagara, the Rideau and the Ottawa, said Mr. Cooke, were the Province's three great sources of power supply. Future supply from these sources would aggregate 2,000,000 horsepower, but with the demands for power from industry and elsewhere increasing 100,000 horsepower yearly it would only take twenty years to absorb it.

No Leader of any party, submitted Mr. Cooke in conclusion, had given any "clearer-cut" definition of policy with regard to power and power development than had Premier Ferguson. In 1924 the Government had submitted to Ottawa plans for development of the St. Lawrence at Morrisburg. In 1925 the Legislature actually had voted \$500,000 for the project. Last spring the Government had attempted to go ahead with development on the St. Mary's River, at the Soo, but had been held up because there was some difference of opinion expressed from Ottawa as to who owned the power rights.

"I am not criticizing any Government or any one," said Mr. Cooke. "Some action is bound to come sooner or later."

## ORANGEMEN LIVING IN FOOL'S PARADISE, SAYS E. B. MILLER

East Elgin Member Is Caustic in Reference to Regulation 17

### HOT SHOT FOR PREMIER

E. Blake Miller (Liberal, East Elgin) took Premier Ferguson to task in the Legislature yesterday for his attitude in regard to Regulation 17.

The Liberal member, voicing his utterances in sonorous fashion, told the House that Regulation 17 had been made a political humbug for the last fifteen years and charged the Prime Minister with playing politics to fool Orangemen and French-Canadians alike.

His remarks were so caustic that Mr. Ferguson, as he concluded, remarked with smiling sarcasm, "I would like to congratulate my honorable friend on the very high ground he has taken on this subject."

"I am only copying the Prime Minister," retorted Mr. Miller.

### View of Orange Order.

The Orange Order, the Liberal member declared, firing his first volley, had regarded Regulation 17 as a "safeguard." "But," he continued, "it was a measure that crucified one out of every ten children born in this Province. The Prime Minister knew, and confesses now, that Regulation 17 was imposing hardship on every French-Canadian child educated in this Province in that it did not provide for the same efficient instruction as was afforded others.

In 1912, he noted, Dr. Merchant had made a report which was practically the same as the recent one.

"And so," Mr. Miller continued, "for fifteen years Orangemen have been living in a fool's paradise. And children have been continuing under a school system that the Prime Minister says he knows is a total failure."

When Orangemen now asked the Premier, "What about Regulation 17?" they got the reply, "It is still extant," said Mr. Miller, and when French-Canadians asked a similar question they were soothed with an answer of "new methods."

### "He'll Wrong Them Again."

"But," the Liberal continued, "the leopard cannot change his spots nor the Ethiopian his color. If he wronged the French-Canadian for the last 12 or 15 years he'll wrong them again. If he has built a fool's paradise for the Orangemen in the past he'll build another for the future."

Mr. Ferguson, he continued, had to give "an exhibition of fire-eating" to satisfy the Orangemen, so he fired a French-Canadian inspector, and then he re-engaged the same inspector as joint Principal at Sturgeon Falls.

The Premier's attitude regarding Regulation 17, he went on, was "nothing but political propaganda" and "mission work for Northern Ontario." The Orangemen in Toronto no longer controlled Ontario, he said. There were "Tory ramparts" in the North, and the Premier, so Mr. Miller thought, was "playing politics" to appease French-Canadians in the Northland.