

"These acts introduced today are intended to place the exemptions of the Registrars of Deeds, the Local Registrars, the clerks and Sheriffs all on the same basis, namely, \$3,000. At the present time the Sheriff has a salary supplemented up to \$1,800, whether the fees of the office amount to that or not, while all the other officers in the service were not placed in that position. These bills provide that the salary of all these other officers shall be supplemented up to \$1,800. It has for a long time been an anomaly that the Province was often paying a first-class clerk or clerk-stenographer more than these responsible officials, who must use their own discretion. The levelling up of the exemptions and the raising of the minimum salary should remove this inequality.

"Crown Attorneys could have their fees commuted and accept a salary based on the average of five years' net income, but this applied only to cities of 30,000 and over. The proposed amendments to the act make it applicable to other places.

**Uniformity of Fees.**

There was very little uniformity in the fees charged under the Summary Convictions Act and in the County Judges' Criminal Court. This act proposes to make these various fees uniform in the courts named."

Asked by T. K. Slack, Progressive member for Dufferin, if any provision had been made for Police Magistrates the Attorney-General stated that he had had their case under consideration for some time, and that, while they were in a different position than the other officials—some being paid by the Province, some by the municipality and some by the county—he hoped to work something out at an early date.

# PRIVATE COMPANIES MUST "KEEP QUIET," FERGUSON WARNS

**Expropriation Will Follow  
"Insidious Propaganda," He  
Tells Legislature**

## WANTS CANADIAN SEAWAY

Announcement of a Hydro policy and Hydro service for Northern Ontario; warning of "Hands Off!" to all private power interests, American-controlled or otherwise, who may be seeking to undermine and destroy the great Hydro enterprise; and a declaration—if merely a reiteration, as he terms it—of his policy on the matter of St. Lawrence waterways, came from Premier Ferguson in the Legislature yesterday with a suddenness that fairly electrified the slim House.

**Hydro for the North.**

Mr. Ferguson minced no words on any one of the three points. Through the linking up of a number of private powers, all recently acquired by the Government, Hydro, he announced, would soon be able to give the North the same advantage and benefits as enjoyed by Southern Ontario.

The insidious propaganda supposed to be conducted by United States interests in the hope of uprooting the Hydro structure would stop, if the Government had to order the Commission to expropriate and put their plants out of business.

And as for the St. Lawrence project, Canada should not, he argued, put itself in the position of being the

stockholder" in "the greatest enterprise the country ever had."

Mr. Ferguson's statements followed the request of Thomas K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin), that he declare his stand on the Hydro and St. Lawrence waterways question.

**Quotes Editorial in The Globe.**

Mr. Slack referred to a recent editorial in The Globe captioned, "Where Is Ferguson Going?" This editorial referred to remarks in the House by Mr. Slack, his questioning of the Premier on the waterway situation and the Premier's declaration that the St. Lawrence project should be all Canadian. Mr. Slack declared that the editorial cast reflection on his own position and misinterpreted his opinion. Yet, said he, he wanted to thank The Globe for that editorial, for it had brought an important topic before the public, and he hoped that the attention of the Government would be focused on the topic.

"The editorial," said Mr. Slack, "inquires, 'Where Is Ferguson Going?' If you ask me I'd say he was going to destruction."

"You said that last election," Mr. Ferguson, interjected.

"But you didn't hear me," said Mr. Slack.

Having read the editorial, he told the House that in the deep waterways project Ontario expected leadership from Mr. Ferguson, believed that the Government should take the initiative. "This," said he, "is a matter of gigantic importance. It is time the Province should have a well-defined policy, and we should be made aware what that policy is." He believed the whole matter should be discussed thoroughly.

**Support Public Ownership.**

Mr. Slack wanted to tell the House that he was an enthusiastic supporter of public ownership and Hydro and he wanted to defend Hydro. He characterized the activity of other power concerns, and particularly that in the Bruce Peninsula, as "dipping in," and he felt that the private operations in Bruce were simply "bait to get the Province in wrong." Also, he felt that the private company in Bruce was creating what is termed a "nuisance value," or, as he said, "making certain offers so that they will compel Hydro to buy them out."

He went on to say that the Progressive group stood solidly behind Hydro, and was continuing in this vein when the Speaker ruled that he was out of order, in that he had exceeded the ten-minute period allowed, and in that he was not speaking to a question of privilege.

Mr. Slack apologized readily and hoped that at a later date he would have the opportunity of completing his remarks. However, he concluded, he would like the Prime Minister to "clear up" his position and answer the query of where he was going.

**Mr. Ferguson's Reply.**

"My attitude in the St. Lawrence development and on Hydro has been reiterated so frequently and so distinctly I thought everybody had heard it. I thought The Globe had heard it, anyway, but it seems they haven't.

"The St. Lawrence development," he continued, "is primarily a Dominion matter. I think we are all in favor of a development, but it comes down to a question of ways and means."

Reviewing the situation and referring to the development of canals in Canada, then he went on: "I'm not inclined to the view that we should become minority shareholders in the greatest enterprise this country ever had."

"Why do you say minority shareholders?" Mr. Slack inquired.

"I assume my friend has studied all the plans," said Mr. Ferguson.

"Yes," Mr. Slack replied.

"Then the honorable member knows the situation when you get down to Cornwall," Mr. Ferguson continued. There, he said, the construction was to be carried some twenty miles on the United States side of the boundary.

"And," he declared, "I'm opposed to that. If you want to dig a canal, let us dig it on our own side of the boundary. That's why I take issue with some people.

"I am just as anxious as any one to better our transportation system. But if we are waiting for leadership, it is for leadership from the point whence it should come. Let the Federal Government give us leadership if you will. Let them announce their policy and see if the people approve it. I venture to say that if I defined a policy for the

Dominion Government, whether they liked it or not, they would ask me to wait."

**Ownership of Power.**

"I am astounded that my honorable friend has the temerity to stand up here and say that this Government has in the slightest degree slackened its efforts for advancement, improvement and development of this great public ownership enterprise. If he has followed the question he will know that one of the great difficulties has been the attitude taken by the Ottawa Government. That Government has taken a different attitude than any other Government did there in respect to power when it says that the power that belongs to this Province does not belong to it, but belongs to the Dominion Government.

"It is known that five or six years ago the Government, through its Commission, filed plans for development of the St. Lawrence, and this Government passed an Order-in-Council and submitted it to the Ottawa Government, asking them to concede and recognize our rights, and to take the proper position to protect navigation. And we have been rapping on the doors ever since to get the Dominion Government to concede that right."

In his most withering tone, the Prime Minister ridiculed the suggestion that Hydro was "slowing down" in the Province, stating in denial that during the past few months the Government, through the Commission, had purchased a half dozen private plants, and only last week had taken up an option on the controlling interest in the Wahnipitae development at Sudbury.

**Policy for the North.**

"Hydro, with the approval of the Government," said Mr. Ferguson, "is launching out into a great Hydro policy for Northern Ontario. A new era in Hydro policy and a new expansion in Hydro development in the North is being made in the general policy of Hydro distribution in the future. Up to the present time there have been a great number of difficulties. Hydro is based on the principle of municipal ownership, and because of the limited number of municipalities and the long distances of carrying it has not been economical to introduce it into some districts. But we have reached the stage where, by taking in certain power interests and linking them up, we are going to deal in power in Northern Ontario and the people there will have the same advantages and benefits as are enjoyed by the people in Southern Ontario.

It was a good thing, observed the Prime Minister, that members of the House from time to time brought such points up. The Government, he stated, was so busy with administering the people's affairs that it forgot to advertise.

"There are constant remarks being heard," he continued on a fresh tack, "that insidious attacks are being made upon Hydro; that the great power interests of the United States are seeking to fasten their tentacles on power in this Province with the object of destroying Hydro. Up to date, Hydro has never resorted to the extreme move of expropriation. We have always been able to negotiate for the purchase of plants—all friendly negotiations.

**Threatens Expropriation.**

But I want to say to this House, to the press, aye to the Province, that if they persist in what looks to the Government like an effort on their part to undermine this great Hydro enterprise, they will find that we will instruct the Hydro Commission to go in and expropriate them, and put them out of business, paying them what is fair. This Government believes that the people of this Province are standing behind Hydro, and the Government intends to stand behind it with all the support, financial and otherwise, they can give it to carry it on as successfully as it has been carried in the past."

"Let it be understood," the Premier concluded, "this Government believes the people of the Province are behind the Hydro organization, and this Government is standing behind it to give it all the support and the leadership and financial assistance it may require to carry on as successfully as it has in the past."

Mr. Slack suggested that the Premier set aside an hour or two in the House to have a more extended discussion of Hydro.

Mr. Ferguson observed that the consideration of the Hydro estimates provided such a time.

Hon. Harry C. Nixon (Progressive, Brant) pointed out that any member wanting a Hydro discussion could occasion it by a resolution on the order paper.