

March 7th

# COOKE AND NEWMAN CLASH IN DISCUSSION OF HYDRO MEASURE

## Government Refuses to Fix Maximum Rural Charge

### LOANS BILL HELD OVER

Another vigorous discussion on Hydro matters, debate in which Opposition members clashed with Hydro Commissioner John R. Cooke, engaged the attention of Ontario Legislature for two hours last night.

The Government's two power bills were brought before the House in Committee. The one bonusing the rural Hydro users was passed, but not until after lengthy argument from the Opposition that the Government should say in the bill that the maximum service charge will be \$2.50. But the Government refused to insert this figure and the section was carried empowering the Government to fix the charge. The Government argument was that there was no need to specify the \$2.50 because that rate is already in force.

The second bill, providing for the loans to the farmers, was laid over for further consideration after involved discussion of the clause to which the Opposition objected on second reading. The clause, the Opposition argued, would give the Hydro priority over other liens against the farmer.

During the discussion of the first bill, Hon. Mr. Cooke declared that it was entirely new legislation, and pleaded for a year's trial.

A tiff developed when William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) offered some statements in the debate. Mr. Cooke, objecting to Mr. Newman's remarks, said: "It is pretty hard to follow the peculiar mentality of the honorable member."

Mr. Newman deeply resented the words and told the Hydro Minister so. At all times, he said—and he would leave it to the House—he had been "entirely fair," with the Government in his discussion of problems affecting the Province.

As stated previously, the clause in the "loans" bill of the new Hydro legislation which aroused the Opposition most was that relating to the Hydro's lien taking priority over chattel mortgages.