

March 21st

SUPPLEMENTARIES ARE RAPIDLY VOTED IN ONTARIO HOUSE

Sinclair Urges More Consideration for Farmers by Hydro Linemen — "Roughshod" Practices Will Be Abolished, Says Premier

BROCKVILLE HOME TO BE BUILT SOON

In little more than an hour yesterday the Ontario Legislature voted its supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year—\$21,424,390.32 worth, to be exact.

A night sitting of the House had been arranged by Premier Ferguson, but the votes rolled along with so little discussion, and no opposition worth mentioning, that he was able to "clear the decks" and adjourn by 6 o'clock.

Hydro estimates, and Labor Department estimates—\$10,410,900 and \$4,789,229.05, respectively—cut the biggest figure in the afternoon's appropriations. Niagara development called for a vote, under Hydro, of more than \$7,000,000. Allowances in accordance with the Old Age Pensions Act took up all the Labor Department appropriation with the exception of a few hundred dollars.

"Something Must Be Done."

In the scattered Opposition interrogation of the votes, reiteration by Liberal Leader Sinclair of his last session's appeal for more consideration by Hydro construction gangs for the farmers whose lands they run their lines across; and the assurance from Premier Ferguson that "something must be done" to provide the Ontario Hospital at Brockville with a nurses' home, and the Ontario Hospital at Cobourg with up-to-date water equipment and fire protection, were features.

Mr. Sinclair told the House that in the building of the power line through Oshawa he had had many complaints that Hydro workmen rode "roughshod" over the feelings, farms and fences of rural residents, and that collection of damages was, for the farmers, "a most unsatisfactory business." Premier Ferguson said he had given the Hydro rigid instructions to ensure that such practices of which the Liberal Leader complained would be abolished. He said that he believed that there had been "some improvement" in the situation during the past year.

The supplementary estimates, voted yesterday, provide for a revote of \$60,000 for the Brockville Institution Nurses' Home, and another \$60,000 of a revote for protective equipment at the Cobourg Hospital.

Mr. Nixon called attention to the revotes. "These amounts have been voted every year, now, for several years," he said. "Does the Government intend to build down there this year?"

Mr. Ferguson nodded his head. "Something must be done down there soon," he declared.

Aid for Historian.

In explanation of a vote of \$1,000 to E. R. Cameron, to assist him in preparation of a book on Canadian Constitution, Mr. Ferguson informed the House that Mr. Cameron had submitted to judges and others a book on the subject. While it was a carefully prepared volume, it could not pay for itself as a popular publication, and consequently Quebec and Ontario and other Provinces were making grants to help it along.

RESERVE INCREASE OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC ABOVE \$10,000,000

Year's Figure Brings Total
to More Than \$87,-
000,000

CENTRAL ONTARIO GAINS

Announcement was made by Hon. J. R. Cooke, Hydro Commissioner, in the Legislature yesterday, during the second reading of his bill to amend the Power Commission Act, that estimates of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission disclose that reserves increased more than \$10,000,000 during 1929, and that they now have reached the sum of \$43,199,925 for municipal reserves and \$43,857,000 for Commission reserves, or a total for both municipal and Commission of more than \$87,000,000.

"The Accounting Department also shows," Mr. Cooke informed the House, "that, outside of the sinking fund and cash balances, we have an investment in Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway bonds, guaranteed by the Province, of \$240,000; that we have an investment in Canadian National Railway bonds, guaranteed by the Dominion, of \$30,000, and that we have an investment in Dominion of Canada bonds of \$4,451,850, and in Province of Ontario bonds of \$21,521,000, or a total investment of \$26,812,850 in reserves by the Commission, entirely outside of municipal reserves and outside of the sinking funds deposited with the Government, which would be, roughly speaking, \$15,000,000 in bonds of the Dominion and the Province."

Further illuminating figures on the Hydro situation were revealed by Mr. Cooke, when he moved second reading to his bill respecting the Central Ontario Power System. These figures came from F. A. Gaby, Chief Engineer of the Hydro Commission, in the form of the following letter, and accompanying statement:

"Referring to the reserves of the Central Ontario System, up to Oct. 31, 1929, the amount standing in the books of the Commission is \$2,018,676.23 on account of renewals, and \$608,855.93 on account of contingency and amortization."

A statement was enclosed showing the saving to domestic, commercial and power consumers, due to Hydro-Electric Power Commission rates over Electric Power Company rates at the time of purchase, as of 1926, with estimated savings for 1927 and 1928, which show a total of \$4,965,007 to the end of 1928. To this amount could be added another \$800,000 on account of the savings during the year 1929, bringing the total amount up to over \$5,500,000 since the Commission took over the properties in 1916," adds the report.

PREMIER AMENDS NEW ELECTION BILL

Only Quarter of Votes
Needed for Return of
Deposit

Premier Ferguson's bill, which is being put through at the present session of the Legislature to require a \$200 deposit from all candidates in future Ontario Provincial elections, was amended by the Prime Minister during committee stage yesterday, so as to make the deposit returnable when the depositor polls "a number of votes at least equal to one-quarter the number of votes polled in favor of a candidate elected."

In its original form the bill required a depositor to poll one-half the number of votes of the winner before getting his money back. Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, thought this requirement a bit "steep," and pointed out to Mr. Ferguson that in the British Parliament the corresponding figure was "one-fifth." In reply, Mr. Ferguson said that the British requirement was the lowest of all. In other places the figure was one-quarter, and he was prepared, he added, to accept that for Ontario.

DR. BRUCE CERTAIN OF RADIUM VALUE

Differs With Dr. Godfrey on
Its Efficacy for
Cancer

Surprise was expressed yesterday by Dr. H. A. Bruce, Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Toronto, at the announcement of Hon. Dr. Forbes Godfrey, Minister of Health, that opinions varied as to the efficacy of radium, and that the Ontario Government did not intend to invest any money now in a supply.

Radium was so scarce in Toronto that it often had to be rented from New York by doctors here, Dr. Bruce stated, observing that radium was long ago proved a cure for cancer.

The hope was expressed by Dr. Bruce that Dr. Godfrey's statement did not represent the considered opinion of the Government, for, he said, "I had always hoped that something would be done."

Dr. Bruce said he had always felt that both the Federal and the Provincial Governments should provide a grant for radium, and should have adequate supplies at strategic points.

There was no more than half a gram of radium in all Ontario, Dr. Bruce declared, stating that two grams was the smallest possible quantity needed here. He denied the statement that the amount of radium now in Ontario could bring radium treatment within reach of the poor.

"When a small country like Sweden can have on hand ten or twelve grams of radium, surely a rich Province like Ontario can afford a small amount for the treatment of its poor citizens," he remarked.

The collection of a \$500,000 fund for radium, which would purchase nine grams—enough to enable Canadian surgeons to effect many more cures than they do at present—was suggested by Dr. Bruce.