

Quebec Interests Call Tune While Ontario Pays Piper, Dr. McQuibban Declares

Commission Leaps Into Yawning Mouths of Capitalists, Legislature Is Told—"Who Stood on Guard for Ontario at Beauharnois?" — Province Goes Shopping for Power, But Not on Bargain Day

CALLS FOR LIGHT ON ALL RECORDS

Grave assertions that the great principles of public ownership, which Sir James Whitney and Sir Adam Beck laid down in connection with the Hydro enterprise, have been "torn asunder" and that it is now but a "distributing medium" for privately owned and controlled development were hurled in the Ontario Legislature, yesterday, by Dr. George A. McQuibban, member for Northeast Wellington and Chief Whip of the Liberal Party, and, although the debating was pushed to 12.30 this (Friday) morning, the statements remained unanswered from the Government side of the House.

Flaunting, in the face of Premier Henry and his Government, the details of Hydro contracts with Beauharnois, with Gatineau, with Ottawa Valley and with MacLaren, Mr. McQuibban, in blunt, belligerent mood, alleged that the Hydro Commission is fast becoming a closed corporation. That MacLaren, the Beauharnois and other companies merely issue their prospectuses, and the Hydro and Queen's Park do the rest—that the Province is sick to death of the full-dress parade and pleasing speeches about Hydro's activities—and that it is high time the veil of secrecy was removed, the lid of the Commission chest pried back and "the skeleton in all its details" revealed.

Arouses Tory Wrath.

On several occasions the atmosphere of the House became electric when Dr. McQuibban jammed his shots home. Twice he tangled with Hon. John Robert Cooke, acting Hydro Chairman, and once he had the Prime Minister, whitefaced and visibly angry upon his feet, challenging the accuracy of his assertions. But the Alma physician went on his way serenely, drawing the unfettered applause of all opposition members, arousing the ire of the Government benches, and in between times hammering hard and fast to the policy of general condemnation on which he had embarked.

"Ontario needs power for its future needs," he stressed.

"Shopping For Power."

"There are a great many sources in the St. Lawrence and the Ottawa, as well as in Northern Ontario, and we know that industry follows the spark of electricity. The Government, through its Commission, goes into Quebec. On the strength of its contracts, big companies spring into being. Ontario struggled long and valiantly to conquer private enterprise in this very branch of industry. The Legislature enacted, Parliament convened, but now without a struggle

Explanation Is Promised

Premier George S. Henry stated last night that "a complete and effective reply" to the charges made by Dr. George A. McQuibban, Liberal Whip, in the House yesterday in regard to Hydro's contracts with privately owned power enterprises of both Quebec and Ontario would be given next week by Hon. John Robert Cooke, Acting Chairman of the Commission, when he delivers his usual address on the Hydro estimates. "Mr. Cooke would have replied tonight," said Mr. Henry, "but for his desire to answer all criticism of the Hydro and its policy at one time. I can assure you that Mr. Cooke's answer will set at rest any doubts that Dr. McQuibban has raised in the minds of the members or of the public at large, and that answer will be just as dignified as it will be definite."

the Commission leaps into the yawning mouth of capitalists. Ontario goes shopping for power to give impetus for industry, but it does not go on bargain day, and how in the world is it going to give this impetus to Ontario's industries? Its contracts make super-capitalists out of millionaires and the public funds of the Province pay the price."

Who stood on guard for Ontario at Beauharnois? demanded Dr. McQuibban. If this gigantic scheme goes through, he contended, it will postpone the seaway for one or maybe more generations. "As surely as night follows day," he asserted, "Hydro has hoisted the white flag of surrender."

Coupled with Dr. McQuibban in production of the pronounced "power" complexion which yesterday's debate continuation, in its early stages, assumed, was G. H. Challies (Conservative, Dundas), who, although preceding the Liberal Whip, appeared to have anticipated much of the trend of the Liberal's argument, and laid down a stiff line of defense of Government policy in respect of the St. Lawrence power and seaway development, the Hydro purchase of power from Quebec and the sale of off-peak power by the Province to American interests.

No Alternative, He Claims.

Faced with the fact that in twenty to twenty-five years Ontario would find her own power resources depleted, no serious minded person would, he claimed, "question the wisdom of the policy of this Government in co-operating with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to purchase power generated in the Province of Quebec. As a matter of fact, there was no alternative open to those in authority in these matters, because the power policy of the late Federal Liberal Government prevented the release of power from our own share of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa."

At the start of yesterday's cross-bench argument, Premier Henry intimated that, in order to wind up all of the debate, with the exception of the say of the three group leaders (to be heard next Tuesday), the House would sit until 4 o'clock in the morning if necessary.

Northerner Speaks.

With midnight reached, no fewer than ten speakers had contributed to the debate, and Earl Hutchison (Labor, Kenora) was on his feet, belaboring the Government's policy in respect of Northern development. The "outspoken" talker-out nine were: John A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry), who picked up where he left off last Tuesday; Messrs. Challies and

McQuibban; Dr. H. A. Clarke (Conservative, Brockville); William G. Medd (Progressive, South Huron); E. Fred Singer (Conservative, Toronto St. Andrew); Dr. J. L. Simpson (Liberal, Centre Simcoe); Louis Cote (Conservative, Ottawa East); Thomas A. Blakelock (Liberal, Halton); Edward J. Murphy (Conservative, Toronto St. Patricks); and Dr. J. Cameron Wilson (Conservative, London South). After Mr. Hutchison, Charles A. Seguin (Conservative, Russell) concluded the day's debating at 12.30 o'clock.

Praise Power Policy.

"When the time comes," said Mr. Challies, "to write the history of the Ferguson and Henry regimes in Ontario, two outstanding achievements will be credited to their Governments—their protection of Ontario's interests in the deep waterways project, and their solution of Ontario's power problems. It has been made abundantly clear that the Conservative Party in Ontario is solidly behind and ready to support the Great Lakes to ocean project. Secondly, the Federal Government has been made to understand that the project can only proceed upon the following fundamental principles.

1. That the power rights of this Province must not be interfered with.
 2. That Ontario's power shall not be exported.
 3. That the cost of navigation improvements shall not be a charge upon power production.
 4. That development shall be in accordance with the double-stage scheme which shall release power in quantities and at costs consistent with Ontario's capacity to absorb and to pay.
 5. That the municipalities, the farms and the historic areas bordering on the St. Lawrence, which will be flooded must be fully protected and generously provided for.
- "In National Interest."**

He said that these five principles summarize the basis upon which the Government and the Hydro Commission are prepared enthusiastically to co-operate with the Federal authority in furthering the deep waterway project. He added that in Winnipeg in 1927 Mr. Ferguson had inserted in the plank of the Conservative Party "that the St. Lawrence canal system as an all-Canadian project should be developed in the national interest . . . and the sovereign rights of the respective Provinces in the development of power should be protected."

This was a timely and important plank, he declared, because it showed the people that the Conservative Party stood for a policy of Canada