

sult that no trouble had ensued.

"The Attorney-General might use his influence here to try out these methods, with a view to clearing away the work of some of our courts caused by the lack of the use of common sense. This would lead to a reduction in the cost of our courts," he concluded.

Bombshell.

A declaration that information which he has already given to the Attorney-General would have proved a "bombshell" to certain Conservative members if he had produced it in the House, was made by Norman O. Hipel (Liberal, Waterloo South), during a heated exchange with E. J. Murphy (Conservative, Toronto St. Patrick's).

Mr. Murphy, in his address, castigated the Liberal member for having brought up in the House charges against the Acme Securities and Vitamine Milling Company without first having laid his information with the Attorney-General.

"I did not make any charge against the Attorney-General," said Mr. Hipel. "I drew attention to conditions in the Province. I had in my possession information which I had only that day received, and I volunteered to place this information with the Attorney-General. I want to tell the honorable members that had I produced in the House that night information which I have since laid before the Attorney-General, it might have proved a bombshell to certain members opposite."

Mr. Murphy declared that Liberal members often threatened to throw bombshells, which turned out to be only eggshells.

NEW ARBITRATION IN HYDRO CLAIMS

Bill Provides Simpler and Less Expensive Method

Simpler and less expensive means of arbitrating claims arising out of damages done to crops, gardens, shrubs, and property in general by construction gangs of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission is provided for in an amendment to the Power Commission Act, which Hon. J. R. Cooke brought down to the Legislature yesterday.

"Our old system of arbitration has been cumbersome," Mr. Cooke explained. "This bill represents an honest effort to deal with the situation."

The amendment reads, in part, as follows: "Where a claim is made against the Commission for damage to crops, gardens, shrubs, trees or other growing things, caused by or incidental to the construction, maintenance or repair of transmission lines, notice of such claim shall be given in writing, signed by the claimant, at as early a date as possible, and so that the nature, character, extent and evidence of the damage may still be apparent, and in any case, not later than thirty days after the cause for complaint arose."

"If a claim is made after the time limited by Subsection 1, and the claimant has failed to give the notice therein required, either the Commission or the owner may, notwithstanding such failure, request the valuator to attend and investigate the damage complained of. The valuator, if satisfied that there was reasonable excuse for the failure to give or the insufficiency of the notice, and that the Commission was not hereby prejudiced, may award such compensation as may appear to him to be just, and in that event the finding of the valuator shall be final and binding upon the owner, but the Commission may nevertheless appeal, as in other cases provided for in Section 21."

ONTARIO HYDRO YEAR VERY SATISFACTORY DESPITE DEPRESSION

**Net Surplus of \$1,163,660
Distributed to Various
Systems**

BIG RESERVES INCREASE

The annual report of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, which was tabled in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. John R. Cooke, Acting Chairman of the Commission, reveals that during the year closed the Commission's capital investment was increased by \$37,000,000. There was a net surplus of \$1,163,660 in the operation of the various municipal electric utilities systems. The Ontario Government contributed about \$5,300,000 toward new rural extension lines and equipment, and the reserves of the Commission increased from \$44,882,000 to \$54,811,000.

Operating Conditions.

A general review of the Commission's activities shows that the year's operation has been highly satisfactory, despite the prevailing industrial depression, which has seriously affected almost every line of trade and industry, and, while the growth of load in some of the systems has not been as great as it has been in former years, nevertheless the revenue from municipal utilities and other power customers is considerably in excess of that of the previous year.

Attention is called to the fact that during the year the Commission acquired the properties of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company,

supplying power in Hamilton, St. Catharines and Brantford, and other municipalities in that district. This system supplies an average of over 61,000 horsepower.

The Commission also acquired the privately owned properties in Bruce County district supplying the municipalities of Walkerton, Southampton, Port Elgin and Wiarton, and a number of other municipalities. These municipalities have carried Hydro by laws and have made arrangement to purchase from the Commission their distribution systems.

The Commission has just recently completed the arrangements for sale of the municipal distribution system to these municipalities, and they are now being supplied under cost contracts as co-partners in the Georgian Bay system.

On the Niagara system the Commission has, during the year, completed the installation of the tenth unit in the Queenston development. The Commission also started work on the construction of the Chats Falls development, the second 220,000-volt transmission line from Ottawa River to Leaside was completed, and work started on the construction of the third circuit, which it is expected will be completed by October, 1931. The growth in power demand of the Nipigon system necessitated the completion during the year of the Alexander development on the Nipigon River, and the steady growth of load in the Georgian Bay system has necessitated the installation of a tie-line connection between this and the Niagara system.

Capital Investment.

The Commission's capital investment was increased during the year by \$37,000,000. Approximately \$22,000,000 of this sum was taken up in the purchase of the Dominion Power

and Transmission Company properties, and in the purchase of the balance of the outstanding stock of the Wahnapiet Power Company; the balance approximating \$15,000,000 was expended on new construction and additions to the existing power plants, transmission lines and stations.

As at the end of the Commission's fiscal year Oct. 31, 1930, the total capital expenditures in all properties administered by it was \$259,280,000.

The revenue of the Commission from municipal electric utilities and other power customers (not including the Dominion Power and Transmission) amounted to \$28,347,499.67, an increase of \$1,363,914.98 over the revenue collected in the previous year. A net surplus of \$1,163,660.92 has been distributed to the municipalities.

During the past few years very substantial progress has been made in Ontario in the field of rural electrification. Practically all rural electrical service is now given through rural power districts which are operated directly by the Commission. There is now something over \$12,665,000 invested in the rural power district systems established by the Commission. Towards this rural work the Ontario Government, pursuant to its policy of promoting the basic industry of agriculture, has, in the form of grants-in-aid, contributed 50 per cent. of the costs of transmission lines and equipment, or about \$6,300,000. About 6,726 miles of transmission lines have been constructed to date, of which 1,891 miles were constructed during the past year, a mileage which exceeds that constructed in any former year. There are now more than 46,000 customers supplied in the rural power districts.

CHANGES URGED IN POLICE BOARD

Toronto M.P.P. Suggests Appeal From Its Rulings

Asserting the right of private Conservative members to act "as a constructive opposition," E. F. Singer, K.C. (Toronto-St. Andrews), in his Budget Speech in the Legislature last night, advocated changes in the constitution of the Police Commission, the establishment of a Department of Insurance to cut the cost of premiums to the public in the case of collision risks, and urged the Government to assert Provincial rights in any future immigration policy.

Mr. Singer led up to his advocacy of a change in the Police Commissions with the declaration that the greatest safeguard against communism was British democratic institutions. He said he would prevent political interference with the police force, by having matters of purely police administration conducted at private meetings, without right of appeal and by a Police Commission constituted as at present by a Mayor, a Judge, and a Magistrate.

The powers of Police Commissions went far beyond matters of police administration, however. They affected public rights. And, so far as the exercise of these powers was concerned, Mr. Singer urged the constitution of what he called "composite" commissions consisting of Mayor, a Judge, a Magistrate, and two representatives of the public, either Aldermen or Controllers. The sittings of this Commission, he suggested, should be open, and there should be an appeal from its rulings to the Ontario Railway Board.

A Department of Provincial Insurance he felt was especially called for in view of the financial responsibility law. Such a department could write risks at a greatly reduced cost to the public and a substantial revenue to the Government. Mr. Singer also suggested that the Provincial Savings Banks should be empowered to accept life insurance risks from depositors paying premiums out of deposits.