

up his sleeves" to the job of showing the Hydro in its true light, and that he would keep his sleeves rolled up until "we correct the situation, or wreck the whole Government of Ontario in doing it."

It appeared, he stated, that the power policy of the Hydro was to be "more and more power from Quebec," while the old St. Lawrence kept on flowing down to the sea untouched. Hydro, he submitted, had to turn around and get out of Quebec. If it didn't it was "done," and the Conservative Government done with it. "Right now," said he, "the Conservative Party is rocking to its foundations."

A long laugh went up at this point from Edward C. Graves (Conservative, St. Catharines).

"Laugh," said Dr. McQuibban, by way of answer. "When you get out on the hustings again you will find that what I'm saying is true."

John A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) urged the Government to proceed with all speed with the Hydro's proposed development on the Carillon. Back in 1923 this development had been talked of, but nothing, he said, had come of it yet.

**Defends Government.**

G. H. Challies (Conservative, Dundas) quoted figures from the Financial Post to show, as he intended, that Dr. McQuibban's statements with respect to the amount of off-peak power exported to the United States were incorrect. He also claimed, in answer to Liberal contentions, that Sir Adam Beck had had no power negotiations with Quebec; that in 1912 Sir Adam had contracted for from 8,000 to 12,000 horsepower from Cedar Rapids for the benefit of the people of Eastern Ontario.

Mr. Nixon asked Mr. Cooke, with regard to the export of off-peak power if he could give the names of the American consumers of the same, and at what prices they purchased it. In reply, Mr. Cooke stated that it was not in the interests of the Hydro of the Province to disclose the rates, but assured Mr. Nixon that, if he would come to the Hydro Commission offices or see him after the House rose he would furnish him with the figures requested.

Mr. Sinclair told the House that he had expected to see Dr. McQuibban's speech last week "completely annihilated" by the Acting Hydro Chairman — his statements "completely disproved"—but such had not been the case. In so far as he had gone, Mr. Cooke (said Mr. Sinclair) had confirmed Dr. McQuibban's charges. It was all right for Mr. Cooke to promise Mr. Nixon information regarding off-peak power that he could not use, but he (Mr. Sinclair) didn't want such information. It was only so much excess baggage—not worth carrying around. As a public man he wanted information to use in the public's interests. How any member of the House could be

satisfied with Mr. Cooke's argument that Quebec power was being bought and delivered to them cheaper than it could be generated in Ontario, said Mr. Sinclair. His argument proved no advantage at all. Simply because the Hydro was paying for Quebec power was no advantage, he, that it could not be purchased cheaper.

**Feels Cruel for Critic.**

By way of reply, Mr. Cooke thought it "cruel" that Dr. McQuibban had been placed in the position he had been placed. He was rather inclined to imagine that the Liberal

spokesman had been doing "more listening than studying" of the Hydro situation, for, he claimed, most of the statements made had been broad last summer about the Hydro.

"By whom?" asked Mr. Sinclair. "Let us have the name."

"I'm not given to bandying names around the Legislature," said Mr. Cooke, "but let me put it this way by inference."

Referring to the attempted Georgian Bay canal steal of some years ago, the Hydro Commissioner told of the Hydro's starting of the plans of the men behind the project, and asked: "Isn't it natural, now, that the people we dealt with would be resentful of our actions? And so you have heard all this broadcasting that has been going on?"

Mr. Sinclair expressed the view that Mr. Cooke seemed to suggest the name of Harry Sifton as that of the broadcaster. "Well, just let me say," he added, "that he had nothing to do with the preparation of this speech. Let my honorable friend get back to his original argument. All the time Dr. McQuibban has been working on this speech Mr. Sifton has been in the West."

Premier Henry, in a brief summing-up of the debate, assumed that Dr. McQuibban had got "mixed" in his off-peak power and his firm power. He would like to know, he said caustically, if Dr. McQuibban really appreciated what off-peak power meant. As the former Chairman of the Hydro, C. A. Magrath, had repeatedly told the House and the public at large, the Hydro was picking up a million dollars annually in the sale to the States of this off-peak power.

**More Mystery.**

"You say they've been picking up \$1,000,000 yearly—a lot of money," Mr. Sinclair put in, "but you won't tell us the terms of the contracts, who gets the power, or what they pay for it. How are we to know what's what? That's another example of the mystery about the Hydro. No wonder there is uneasiness and suspicion about the way things are being run."

At some length, Mr. Henry then proceeded to explain the difference between off-peak power and firm power. The only power going to the States that could be made available here, he said, was off-peak, and it would be made available when demanded. Under the old contracts of the Ontario Power Company the Commission was duty-bound to continue its sale of firm power. With Mr. Cooke, he agreed that, by resolution of the Legislature, discontinuance of the export of off-peak could be directed. The estimates were then passed.

**COMPULSORY FUNDS FOR FIREFIGHTERS ARE NOT APPROVED**

**Nearly All Municipalities Involved Register Protests**

**WELL TREATED NOW**

Following protests from the representatives of nearly all the cities involved, the Legal Bills Committee of the Legislature yesterday threw out the act which would have made it compulsory for 22 Ontario municipalities to establish superannuation and benefit funds for firemen.

The bill was sponsored by E. J. Murphy (Conservative, Toronto-St. Patrick), and supported before the committee by J. R. Cartwright, solicitor for the Ontario Firefighters' Association. Mr. Cartwright declared that firefighting was the most hazardous of peacetime occupations. The superannuation and benefit funds which the bill sought to establish would provide an adequate retiring allowance for firemen of more than 30 years' service. It would be formed by contributions of 2 per cent. of the firemen's salaries by the municipalities, and the firemen themselves would be assessed up to 7 per cent. of their salaries.

The accrued liabilities of the municipalities involved which cities would have to contribute at the opening of the fund totalled \$985,000.

"This bill forces municipalities to adopt this plan," said Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Provincial Secretary, who presided at the meeting.

"Yes," said Mr. Cartwright, "there has been permissive legislation for years, but efforts to induce the municipalities to adopt the plan voluntarily have been unsuccessful."

"Can we go over the heads of municipalities and force them to contribute nearly \$1,000,000 to these funds?" asked Mr. Macaulay. "I have telegrams from all municipalities opposing this bill."

C. F. Swayze, Mayor of Niagara Falls, was chosen speaker of the representatives of municipalities opposing the measure. He stated that Niagara Falls Council at a special meeting had unanimously opposed the legislation. The objectionable feature of the bill was its compulsory provision. W. T. Henderson, City Solicitor of Brantford, argued that his municipality simply could not afford to establish such a fund at the present time. It had made considerable commitments in unemployment relief. Injured firemen of Brantford's department were generously looked after by the municipality, he continued. The firemen received better treatment than most workmen in the shops, a beginning salary of \$3.50 a day and two weeks' holidays with pay. Following Mr. Henderson, Mayor Burton Bedford of Chatham also spoke in opposition to the bill. He declared that such a measure would be voted down 99 to 1 in a reference to the rate-payers.

David Lamb, Secretary-Treasurer of the Firefighters' Association, put up a vigorous defense of the bill. He declared that Belleville had been left out of the municipalities to which the act would apply by request of the Belleville firemen, a request, he added, which had been made under pressure of the Council. He pointed out that the payments of the municipalities to the funds would not commence until 1933. Mayor Beverley Robson of Guelph declared that the City Councils were elected to decide such questions. He denounced the bill as "iniquitous legislation."

W. L. Wilkinson, Vice-President of the Ontario Municipal Association, stated that that body had unanimously voted down a proposal similar to the provisions of the bill. The bill was defeated by the committee, Mr. Murphy and Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, Toronto-St. David) alone supporting it.