

March 31

SINCLAIR CHEQUE CHARGES ANSWERED BY MINISTER

***Finlayson Says Contractor Was Being Paid Amounts
Due Him for Previous Work, Although
No Longer Employed***

Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests, offered an explanation in the Legislature last night to the charges made by William E. N. Sinclair that men had been paid by the Administration of the Northern Development long after they had left the employ of the Government.

The Minister stated that in the case mentioned by Mr. Sinclair a man named Melnick took a contract for the removal of earth at Mileage 488 on the basis of so much a cubic yard. By working long hours he performed in two months and two days work which would have taken 191 days on the basis of an eight-hour day. Since the department could only pay on the basis of an eight-hour day at 30 cents an hour, Melnick consequently had

considerable credit remaining, which the engineer in charge undertook to pay off by cheques during the next few months, at the customary rate, although Melnick was no longer actually employed.

While the engineer exceeded his authority, said Mr. Finlayson, there was no suggestion of irregularity, and Melnick received only what was coming to him.

Mr. Finlayson offered to turn over to Mr. Sinclair full explanation of the incident, as disclosed in the documents which the department had received from officials in the North, and assured the Liberal Leader that he might take up the investigation in the Public Accounts Committee at the next session of the Legislature if he desired to press the matter further.

\$1 Gun License for Farmers Rumored at Queen's Park

Rumors around Queen's Park are to the effect that the Ontario Government will modify its gun license policy before the present session closes so as to reduce to a cost of \$1, in the case of all farmers, the \$2 license which applies generally in many counties of the Province at the present time.

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister in charge of the Game and Fisheries Department, is expected to bring down to the House today or tomorrow, an amendment to the

game laws that will provide for the revision contemplated.

Demand that the gun license be removed altogether have been frequent and emphatic this session, and they have not been confined entirely to Opposition members. Several Conservative members are said to have waited on Mr. McCrea, urging the reduction suggested.

Ever since the inception of the license, Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, has taken the lead in opposing it.

HYDRO NEW HEAD OFFICE APPROVED BY CUSTOMERS

***Union of Municipalities Tells Government It Is in
Favor of Project—Further Plans in
Abeyance***

The executive of the Union of Hydro Municipalities yesterday laid before Hon. John Robert Cooke, Acting Chairman of the Ontario Hydro Power Commission, its approval of the project of a new administration building for the Commission. Mr. Cooke made this statement in the Legislature during discussion of the Hydro estimates and as an illustration of the Commission's policy of

consulting municipalities on major questions. Last year the Legislature voted \$1,500,000 for this building. In his remarks Mr. Cooke explained that the headquarters staff had far outgrown its present building, and accommodation was found in thirteen premises, some of them private residences, around the building. Mr. Cooke, interviewed later, could not say what action would probably follow the report of the executive of the union,