

bers therein. Mr. Johnston has now, it is understood, taken on the role of official liaison officer between Messrs. Nixon and Hepburn, and is aiding in the joint Hydro attack which these two Leaders will bring to bear on the Henry Government during the current session.

ate he has evidently represented himself to be to the Commission."

Mr. Henry's speech of reply—a scrappy answer that unmistakably roused the enthusiasm of his supporters—took the line of argument that the Government had sought to appoint a Commissioner who would have a Commission divorced from politics—that no Commission had been appointed because of what he (Mr. Nixon) or his friend, who had "not thus far dared to come into the house" (Mr. Hepburn), had said through the press from public platforms. Recalling the Gregory Commission (an appointment of the former Drury Administration), which, he said, had worked twenty months and "cost enough," the Prime Minister sharply asserted: "I think that it is with considerable hardihood that my honorable friend (Mr. Nixon) stands up this afternoon to suggest anything that would extend the life of the Commission or prolong its inquiry beyond the bare bringing out of the facts in a clear manner by a legally trained Commissioner—a learned Judge—and a counsel whom he consults to bring out the facts."

Production of an exchange of let-

now far it might go in appointing counsel?" queried Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader.

"No," replied Mr. Henry. "The matter rests with the Commission."

"The Prime Minister reiterated his assurance that the expenses of any counsel appointed by the Commission would be borne by the Government."

The Commissioner's Reply.

"The following is the Commissioner's reply to my letter:

"The Supreme Court of Ontario (Hon. Mr. Justice Middleton).

"Osgoode Hall, Toronto 2, Feb. 5, 1932.

"My dear Mr. Nixon: I have your letter of Feb. 4. I have not yet received my Commission, nor any definite instructions from the Government. I am writing to the Premier to ascertain exactly what authority I am supposed to have in the matter of counsel. I do not know how far I am at liberty to go in pledging the credit of the Government in this matter."

Second Letter.

"In view of this letter, may I ask the Premier if he wishes to revise his answer to my question? Following our interview with the Commissioner, I came to the House, received his letter from the postoffice, which reads:

"Osgoode Hall, Toronto, 2, Feb. 12, 1932.

"Dear Mr. Nixon: I have now received my Commission and authority from the Government to retain counsel to conduct the inquiry directed to be made. Under this I feel that the responsibility of naming counsel devolved entirely upon me, and I have appointed W. N. Tilley, K.C., having his assurance that there is nothing to prevent his conducting a thorough and searching inquiry into the matters referred to. So far as I can at the present time see, there is no necessity for having more than one counsel appointed by the Commission. Mr. Tilley will arrange for any assistance that he may find necessary. It is my intention to investigate the payment to Mr. Aird in the first place, and I hope that I may be able to make a very early report with respect to it. The sittings will take place on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 10 o'clock, at Osgoode Hall."

Mr. Nixon's Reply.

"And I replied as follows:

"Toronto, Feb. 13, 1932.

"Dear Mr. Justice Middleton:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of Feb. 12, advising me of the receipt of your Commission in regard to the investigation into the matters referred to you pertaining to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

"Your letter confirms the attitude taken by you when Mr. Hepburn and I visited you this morning for the purpose of representing to you the importance of appointing competent counsel to represent those who have been responsible in bringing about an investigation into the alleged maladministration of the affairs of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission.

"The future of the Hydro-Electric power development in Ontario depends on public confidence, and I respectfully suggest that the public will not be satisfied with an inquiry at which both sides are not represented by counsel.

"I note what you say in regard to Mr. Tilley's assurance that there is nothing to prevent his conducting a thorough and searching inquiry into the matters referred to," but I believe

bringing out of the facts in a clear manner by a legally trained Commissioner—a learned Judge—and a counsel whom he consulted to bring out the facts.

"We have sought to appoint a Commissioner who will have a Commission divorced from politics," Mr. Henry continued, to the applause of the Conservative members. "I will tell my honorable friend from Brant, and the citizen who has not thus far dared come into this House—

Mr. Nixon—He'll be here. —"that no Commissioner was appointed because he or his friend said something.

"We have passed over what you have said in public meetings, and we have no knowledge that the Commission did issue because of any criticism on your behalf. I am fairly ambitious, but I never expect to have the ambition of being able to satisfy the Leader and his co-Leader, with whom he is now almost afraid to go in double harness."

"We are good friends; very good friends," Mr. Nixon interpolated.

Leaders Twitted.

Mr. Henry—My honorable friend does not want to harness-up with him—anyway, in double harness.

Mr. Nixon—Don't worry about that.

Mr. Henry—I'm not worrying. I am just wondering whether you are going to seek to co-operate with a man who has not dared to come into this House and to make the statements here that he makes on the back sidelines.

"We desire," the Premier concluded, "to establish a non-partisan Commission, bringing out the facts on the two questions which have been submitted; and I think, with all deference to the Commissioner and to the rules of the House, that the matter should be left as it stands. We all know it is not fitting for these questions to be brought out when they are subject to inquiry."

Mr. Sinclair Speaks.

Mr. Sinclair agreed with the Prime Minister—to the applause of Conservative benchers—that the matter with which Mr. Nixon had been dealing was "sub judice," and one with

which they had to deal "rather delicately" if the dignity of the House were to be maintained.

"I do not propose to criticize the Commission or anything of that kind," he added. "I have my own views, but I can't discuss them in this House."

Mr. Sinclair took Mr. Nixon to task for approaching Mr. Justice Middleton without consulting him. "My honorable friend certainly made no effort to get in touch with the Liberal group of this House before he went on his expedition to Osgoode Hall," he said.

"For the time being, at least, the elected group in this House is the Liberal group, and I submit it should have been consulted."

Blunt in Criticism.

Bluntly Mr. Sinclair expressed the belief that, had he gone along to see the Commission, he would have been well received, and that his long standing in the Legislature, his record as a public man, and his standing before the Bar as "a lawyer of some reputation" might have secured from the Commission what Messrs. Nixon and Hepburn had been unable to get.

"If I had been heard with this