

Feb. 17.

Speaker, but I assure you that I have no desire or intention of attempting to encroach upon it.

#### Alleges "Junk" Unloaded.

"In addition to these two, then, that have been referred to the Commission, namely Madawaska and Dominion Power and Transmission, we have still available for discussion the Gatineau contracts, Wahnipitae purchase, Chats Falls, Beauharnois, Abitibi, Maclaren, Bala, Foshay, Beach, and so on. Ye gods! Mr. Speaker, what a harvesting it has been! What an unloading of old junk in the way of power development upon a long-suffering public! And everywhere it still stinks to high heaven, with the local press, in almost every instance, insisting that theirs is the one that should be investigated first.

"One can scarcely appreciate the colossal magnitude of this recent epidemic of Hydro purchases of contract power, totalling close to a million horsepower, which will mean, roughly, \$15,000,000 paid out yearly

over the period of forty years, and well on to \$600,000,000 in all. In every instance the Ontario Hydro Commission has been the donkey-engine (not even the electric motor) for the particular development. What is the usual procedure? Through John Airds, the power barons of Montreal mysteriously get these contracts from our Hydro Commission before there is a sod turned or a foot of concrete poured at the proposed development. Then they proceed to issue their bonds and sell them to the public, advertising in every instance that the fraction of the power developed that is sold to the Hydro will more than carry the entire development, leaving them all the balance as clear velvet; and at the end of the period, when the Province has poured out all these millions of dollars, we will own nothing but the transmission lines across our Province, ending at the border, and will be at the mercy of Quebec power corporations.

#### Policy of "Dark Secrecy."

"The Chairman delights to say: 'You fellows don't know anything about it at all, not as much as the first child we'd meet on the street.' How can we know unless we are informed? And the Hydro policy of dark secrecy has done much to bring the whole business into such bad odor. So we demand, Mr. Speaker, that the information for which we proposed to ask in the form of questions on the order paper shall be provided fully, frankly, promptly—and, if possible, cheerfully. I would ask the Premier, in all sincerity, if he will give instructions to have prepared at once, in pamphlet form, copies of the contracts with Gatineau, Chats Falls, Beauharnois, Abitibi, Maclaren, and copies of the agreements of sale of Wahnipitae, Madawaska, Foshay, Dominion Power and Transmission, Beach and other purchases of the last three years. I think this is a reasonable request.

"The Cabinet has recently spent much time studying these contracts, long after they were made, when they should have spent months studying them before they were made; but if we are to debate these matters intelligently we must have this information, and if not forthcoming in this manner I am prepared to move a series of resolutions asking for the tabling of these contracts with pertinent correspondence.

"All these things must be cleared this session if we have to sit until midsummer."

## Want Slate Cleaned

Moved by William E. N. Sinclair, seconded by Dr. George A. McQuibban, the following Liberal group amendment—virtually a want-of-confidence motion in the Henry Government—was introduced to the Ontario Legislature yesterday, and will force a vote in the House before the present debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne terminates:

"This House condemns the Government for its failure to accede to the demands for a judicial inquiry into the payment of \$125,000 to John Aird Jr. by Mr. R. O. Swezey, at or about the time the contract was completed between the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company for the purchase of 250,000 h.p. of electricity by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and into all the circumstances connected with the following contracts made by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario for the purchase of power:

"1. The Gatineau contract, May, 1926, 260,000 h.p.

"2. The Gatineau contract, December, 1927, 60,000 h.p.

"3. The Wahnipitae purchase, February, 1929, \$2,700,000.

"4. The Chats Falls contract, August, 1929, 96,000 h.p.

"5. The Beauharnois contract, November, 1929, 250,000 h.p.

"6. The Abitibi contract, April, 1930, 100,000 h.p.

"7. The Maclaren contract, February, 1931, 125,000 h.p."

## M'CREA TO SPEAK IN HYDRO DEBATE

### Intervention of Minister of Mines Deemed Un- usual

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, will, it is understood, enter the Hydro battle in the Legislature before the present debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne winds up.

This appearance will be his first recognized debate speech in a good many years. The reasons for it could not be determined last night. Mr. McCrea had nothing to say on the point, and other Cabinet members were equally non-committal.

All yesterday afternoon, while Messrs. Sinclair and Nixon were entangled with Premier Henry over various aspects of the forthcoming Royal Commission Hydro inquiry, and over the Aird-Beauharnois payment matter in particular, Mr. McCrea was observed making references on the sway of argument, and in close study of the Dominion Parliamentary committee report of the Beauharnois investigation proceedings.