

Feb. 19.

The recent editorial in the *New Outlook*, official organ of the United Church of Canada, in which it was argued that it was not a sin to steal, if hunger caused the theft, was scored in the Legislature yesterday afternoon by Premier George S. Henry.

Enlisting the co-operation and general assistance of the press at this time, he said: "I seldom have any criticism to offer of the press, but I have some to offer of an editorial in the Church paper of the denomination to which I belong.

"I fail to see," he went on, "how any person of brains can, at the present time, start a discussion of whether it is right for a man to steal if his family is starving.

"Does the Decalogue still rule or is there some new rule allowing a man to steal for his starving family?

"I am glad to think," the Prime Minister concluded, "that this editorial will not have much effect. The people of this Province are too proud! But there are those who are attempting to sow sedition."

Who Hides Behind the Woodpile?

What are Hon. George S. Henry, Premier of Ontario, and his Government afraid of concerning an investigation by a judicial Royal Commission of the payment of \$125,000 by R. O. Sweezey of the Beauharnois Corporation to John Aird Jr.? What terror confronts them in the disclosure of the facts as to this amazing transaction—a contribution which Mr. Sweezey testified was made to "the Ontario Conservative Party" and Mr. Aird swore was given for the purpose of obtaining the Hydro-Electric contract?

Vehemently and desperately Mr. Henry opposes judicial investigation of this transaction, beating bitterly against the demand from public and press of all political persuasions. Why?

Public opinion forced the appointment of a judicial Royal Commission. But Queen's Park eliminated the \$125,000 deal—whatever it was—from the investigation.

Keep that deal dark. Shut it up in a separate, not-to-be-investigated compartment. Clamp down the lid. Fasten it tightly. Stand guard over it—lest the people of Ontario get access to it and find out the facts.

What is wrong? Why the anxiety? Why the commotion? Why the agitated alarm over investigation? What are Premier Henry and his Government determined to conceal? Of what are they afraid?

NOT "HALF-BAKED" BUT FULL PROBE OF HYDRO WANTED

Laborite Demands Truth,
Asking 'What Was
Hidden?'

FLOUTS ORIGINAL POLICY

"We are demanding a full-fledged inquiry not a half-baked inquiry. We want an inquiry so that we shall see where this money exactly went to."

This statement was hurled forth with stinging emphasis by Delegate Watson during a meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council held last night following the reading of a letter from Premier George S. Henry in connection with the Hydro inquiry to the Trades Council.

In the letter, which was read, the Premier wrote that it was quite clear from the evidence of Mr. Aird that he had secured the funds for his own purposes and that it had no connection with the Conservative Party. The \$125,000, the Premier further wrote, had been paid by Mr. Sweezey, representing Beauharnois interests, to John Aird Jr.

One of Greatest Scandals.

Delegate Watson remarked that the Conservative and Liberal press were fighting over one of the greatest scandals ever tried to be enacted on the people of any country. "I think," he said, "public opinion is strong enough to demand not a half-baked, but a full-fledged inquiry. The full truth has not been given. There was no public inquiry. It was said under oath. What kind of oath? I read that they clapped each others' back. The whole proceedings were not public. What was hidden? What truths came out? What truths did not come out? So far as the Trades Union Movement is concerned, we are not satisfied that any inquiry has been made to date. We demand a full-fledged inquiry, not a halfbaked one." (Hear, hear.)

Speaking on the subject, J. W. Buckley, the Secretary of the Council, said: "If the Government of this Province was consistent, so far as the Hydro part is concerned, it would not only own or have charge of the distribution of power, but we would carry out the original policy of the Hydro. We would manufacture power to be distributed to the consumers in this Province. If that had been done there would not have been any need at this time for such an investigation relative to the payments made to Mr. John Aird."

Blames Private Interests.

"It is because of the fact that private interests are interested so far as the development of power is concerned and in selling surplus power to the Province of Ontario that we find ourselves where we are," he added.

Mr. Buckley further stated that so far as the \$125,000 was concerned and the payment from another source of \$50,000, it would be "charged up" to the consumers. "The \$175,000 that we know of," he continued, "and on top of that the amount paid to the Liberal Party, and also to the Conservative candidates in the Province of Quebec, we, as consumers in this Province, will have to pay.

"I think that the Government should seriously carry out the purpose of Hydro and let us have public ownership from the manufacture of Hydro to the ultimate consumer. I think by that means we can rid ourselves of those who are utilizing what is really a monopoly of the people for their own aggrandisement."

John Noble pointed out that the Prime Minister had stated that it was not going to be "a fishing expedition" so far as Hydro was concerned, and that the Commissioner had been appointed to inquire into two definite things and not to inquire into the other.

A voice—He is afraid to.

"I do not think so," defended Mr. Noble.

The Premier's letter was filed.