

Feb. 22.

POINTED QUESTION TO BE PUT TO HENRY ABOUT BEAUHARNOIS

Does He Know Who Told Company Aird Was Col- lector for Tories?

DEMAND BY HEPBURN

Also Inquires How Much Tilley Has Received in Fees From Hydro

(Special and C.P. Despatches.)

SYDENHAM, Feb. 21.—Declaring that "he has reason to believe that Premier Henry knows full well who it was represented John Aird Jr. to Swezey and Griffith of the Beauharnois Company as a collector for Conservative campaign funds," Mitchell F. Hepburn, M.P., said if the Premier did not know, then he challenged the Premier, at a Liberal rally here on Saturday, "to include the \$125,000 Aird payment in the investigation, summon Swezey and Griffith to appear before the Royal Commission and say who it was who made such representations to them with respect to Aird."

"Responsible Men Advise."

Declaring, further, that "responsible men advise" that W. N. Tilley, K.C., counsel for the Hydro Commission, "and his law firm have drawn from the Ontario Treasury and from the Hydro Commission since 1923 large sums for legal services," Mr. Hepburn urged that, "before another move has been made in the way of investigation, all this information should be made known to the public."

"The limitation of the Hydro probe arouses, further, the well-founded suspicion that the Government is covering up. Mr. Aird, according to the Hydro Commission, was rendering a service to the Hydro in connection with the Madawaska deal, and, accordingly, received \$50,000 for the services rendered. This same Mr. Aird also received \$125,000 from Messrs. Swezey and Griffith of the Beauharnois Company, who stated under examination that Mr. Aird was represented to them as a collector for the Conservative Party campaign funds in Ontario. I have reason to believe that Mr. Henry knows full well who it was represented Mr. Aird to these men as a collector for Conservative campaign funds. I, however, will gladly accept Mr. Henry's word if he states that he does not know who represented Aird to Messrs. Swezey and Griffith as an agent of the Ontario Conservative Party. If such be the case, then I challenge Mr. Henry to include the \$125,000 Aird payment to the investigation, summon Mr. Swezey and Mr. Griffith to appear before the Commission and say who it was that made such representations to them with respect to Aird. Here is a chance for Mr. Henry to prove to us whether he is sincere in this matter or not. Any one with an ounce of reason would know that the Beauharnois Company did not give Aird \$125,000 for telling them where the Hydro offices were located in Toronto.

"Mr. Tilley, of the firm of Tilley, Johnston, Thomson & Parmenter, is, according to the present set-up, the only counsel with standing before

Justice Middleton. Since Mr. Tilley's appointment I have had written opinions from legal men as to Mr. Tilley's and his firm's connection with the Ontario Government. Responsible men advise that Mr. Tilley and his law firm have drawn from the Ontario Treasury and from the Hydro Commission since 1923 large sums for legal services. Before another move has been made in the way of investigation all this information should be made known to the public. One Ontario lawyer writes that I should challenge Mr. Henry to tell the people of Ontario how much in excess of \$100,000 Mr. Tilley and his law firm and his partners have received from the Ontario Government and the Hydro in the past four years alone. In view of these circumstances, what can we expect in the way of restoring confidence in the Hydro?"

Poverty of the Poor.

Concentration of wealth in the hands of the few and the ever-increasing poverty of the poor was the greatest problem confronting the world today, Mr. Hepburn said further. So far efforts to solve the difficulty had been "futile and useless." "Farmers of Ontario, who are struggling for their very existence, are having their burdens increased by the higher interest rates now paid to the moneylenders by the Ontario Government," he declared.

"Can any one picture the helplessness of a man or woman who loses a job today?" he said. "Surely such a condition is an indictment of our whole system. If men of affluence and wealth do not use every effort to apply policies fundamentally sound, then I fear for the future."

A large audience heard Mr. Hepburn, and the hall was filled to overflow. On the platform with him were John Vallance, M.P. for South Battleford; Fred Totzke, M.P. for Humboldt; Harold G. Holton, Secretary of the Central Ontario Liberal Association; Hon. Nelson Parliament, G. Anson Aylesworth, and James Garvin, who was Chairman of the meeting.

Mr. Killam Criticized.

Dealing with the Ontario Administration, Mr. Hepburn said the Hydro was developed as a public utility, and power was to be sold at cost. "Despite the power available on the St. Lawrence," said Mr. Hepburn, "the Province went out and bought \$14,000,000 worth of power from private interests. Let me tell you why the Mail and Empire devotes so much space to telling you what a terrible person I am. Mr. Killam, who owns the Mail and Empire, owns the power company at Chats Falls. He is selling the Province a third of his output for enough money to take care twice of his overhead costs, and to provide for a sinking fund. It pays him well to give space to me, because if I got into office there might be a very searching inquiry into this matter."

Exhibit One

Dated 2nd April, 1930

Dominion Power and Transmission
Company, Limited

and

The Hydro Electric Power Commission
of Ontario

Agreement

TILLEY, JOHNSTON, THOMSON &
PARMENTER

Reproduction of the cover from the official record of the \$22,000,000 transaction between the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission and the Dominion Power and Transmission Company which is to be investigated by Mr. Justice Middleton as Royal Commissioner. The only counsel retained to direct the course of the inquiry and examine witnesses before the Commissioner is W. N. Tilley, K.C., head of the legal firm of Tilley, Johnston, Thomson & Parmenter.

"Is it fitting," Premier Henry was asked on Saturday, "that a lawyer should be engaged to investigate his former client?"

"He is not investigating anybody," the Provincial Premier is reported to have replied. "Mr. Tilley has been appointed by the Commissioner to assist him in getting all the facts."