

# TRAFFIC IN POWER SCORED IN HOUSE BY DR. M'QUIBBAN

Declares Exports Continue  
at Same Time Short-  
age Is Alleged

## MCCREA DEFENDS HYDRO

Minister of Mines Turns  
Guns on Proposals of  
Harry Sifton

Hydro took first place again yesterday in the debate on the Address in the Legislature.

It was declared by Dr. George A. McQuibban, Liberal Whip, that this Province was buying power from Quebec while power was being exported in broad daylight from Niagara Falls and Queenston into the United States. This exportation, he said, took place between the hours of 7 in the morning and 6 at night.

For almost three hours Hon. Charles McCrea, the Minister of Mines, continued his speech, defending Hydro. The Globe was taken to task for its editorial expressions following the speech of T. L. Church regarding the St. Lawrence waterway development. The speaker suggested that the Liberal Party might do worse than rid itself of its Leader, Mitchell F. Hepburn. The policy adopted by the Liberal convention, he charged, was the same that the Sifton interests sought to promote in respect to the Georgian Bay Canal charter in 1927; namely, that the power users should be required to pay the cost of canalization.

N. O. Hipel (Liberal, South Waterloo) rose to move adjournment of the debate at 12.15 a.m. The Premier's objection brought from Mr. Hipel the protest that it was the second occasion on which he had been refused the privilege of moving the adjournment. Premier Henry said that he did not propose to listen to any lecture—that it had been intimated that the three Leaders would speak on Thursday. This agreement with the Liberal Whip was confirmed by the Conservative Whip, W. H. Ireland. Premier Henry moved the adjournment until Thursday.

### Mr. McCrea Speaks.

After recapitulating his speech of last Thursday, Mr. McCrea quoted Harry Sifton as saying in Ottawa in 1927: "The duty of the House of Commons is to the people of Canada as a whole." Further, Mr. Sifton was quoted as having asserted that the costs of the canal must be paid for by the power used.

"He is quite clear about that," Mr. McCrea commented, "and that is the plank which he has issued in the platform of the Liberal Party." Continuing to quote Mr. Sifton, Mr. McCrea said: "Some may think I am not a good public-ownership man. I am not on the side of the Province as against the Federal authorities." Mr. McCrea declared that Mr. Sifton had said that the power should be for the benefit of all nine Provinces, and not for that of only two. "It is the heritage of the Canadian people," Mr. Sifton had observed at that time.

### Mr. Sinclair Questioned.

"I ask the Liberal Leader in this House," Mr. McCrea went on, "if he subscribes to that doctrine of Mr. Sifton's?"

Mr. Sinclair—Why are you asking me?

Mr. McCrea—I understand you speak for the Liberal Party in this House.

Mr. Sinclair—I am not speaking now.

Mr. McCrea—Let you, then—and others, when they speak—come out and say if they stand for the Sifton policy.

Mr. McCrea produced a pamphlet, which he afterward declared to be that issued by Harry Sifton, concerning the resolution he presented at the Liberal convention.

"That looks like that Chicago book," Mr. Sinclair commented.

"I think it does myself," Mr. McCrea remarked, amid Conservative laughter, going on to explain that it was prepared for Mr. Sifton in 1930 for the Liberal convention. Mr. Sinclair denied positively that the contents of this resolution mirrored the policy of the Liberal Party of the Province.

Mr. McCrea then read the document, as, he said, "to clear it up."

"I don't dispute that the resolution was passed at the convention," Mr. Sinclair said, "but I do dispute that it was part of the Liberal platform later."

### Refers to Globe Article.

"I ask the Province," he went on, "Who is standing for Sir Adam Beck's policy today? Is it Mr. Gaby, the Hydro Commission, the Conservative Party of the Province, or is it Mr. Sifton, Mr. Hepburn, the member for Brant, and others—and Mr. Drury?"

"I want to say to The Globe that, instead of writing editorials on Tommy Church and the 'smoke screen,' it would be better occupied smoking out Mr. Sifton, Mr. Hepburn and others who would wreck Hydro in the Province of Ontario."

In respect to a Globe editorial article, Mr. McCrea said: "I can say to The Globe that I did not have the inside knowledge that The Globe did; nor did I have an advance copy of Mr. Church's speech."

Mr. Nixon—The Attorney-General would have known, wouldn't he?

Mr. McCrea—I have made some investigation. When Mr. Church's address was delivered there were eleven people there.

"I would like to ask The Globe," he went on, "with its protestations of affection for Mr. Church, if it stands for the principles there set out by Mr. Church?"

### Party Support for Hydro.

Mr. McCrea asked: "Is The Globe aware of any other party that has given more support to the Hydro than the Conservative Party?" He remarked that the Liberal Party had not sat in power in the Ontario Legislature since 1905. The editorial in The Globe to which he referred, the Minister said, compared his recent speech on Hydro with that of Mr. Church. "I am the last one, I hope, to fail to pay tribute to The Globe for its long consistent support of Hydro and of the late Sir Adam Beck," he declared. Mr. McCrea conceded readily that The Globe had taken an active part in opposing the renewal of the Georgian Bay Canal charter in 1927, and referred to the front-page editorials it had published on that subject.

Quoting from one of these editorials to the effect that the representatives at Ottawa "needed watching," he declared that Mr. Hepburn was one of the representatives on that occasion, and that Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Sinclair "needed watching today."

"If The Globe is sincere, it owes it to itself to denounce Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Sifton for the principle adopted through Mr. Sifton's resolution at the Liberal convention," which was, he said, to the effect that the power-users should pay for the cost of the deepening of the St. Lawrence.

### Mr. Church Criticized.

Reverting to the Georgian Bay Canal issue at Ottawa of some years ago, Mr. McCrea declared that on that occasion Mr. Hepburn had supported Mr. Sifton. "The men who 'needed watching' then were Hepburn and Sifton—and the principles they represented then were incorporated in the resolution on power adopted by the last Liberal convention," he declared.

Mr. McCrea referred to certain passages in Mr. Church's speech, as reported in The Globe. "Has any one ever read such twaddle about Hydro?" he asked.

"And yet this is the type of argument that The Globe, a reputable paper, reports as being valuable, and comments on favorably. I had higher respect for The Globe than to think it would take such twaddle seriously. This is the type of argument it puts forth in urging the granting of an investigation."

He quoted the Chairman of the Montreal Harbor Commission as stating that in providing power at cost

the Ontario Hydro was taking industries away from the Province of Quebec. The policy of Hydro, he averred, was to take no chances on a shortage of power. "If we buy power from Quebec cheaper than it can be generated in Ontario, it ill becomes men on the other side of the House to criticize Hydro for making a bargain which assures there shall be no shortage of power in this Province."

### Says Steam Was Alternative.

The alternative to this purchase of Quebec power, he declared, would have been to resort to steam. "Would Mr. Church have resorted to steam? And would The Globe have patted him on the back if he had advocated the generation of power by steam? What

we have done is to send our money to our sister Province of Quebec for power instead of sending it to the United States for coal to generate power by steam," said Mr. McCrea. "I am surprised at The Globe and its attacks for buying \$15 power from Quebec. The Globe has a great clientele and I am one of its readers. It will be fair enough to tell this side of the facts to its readers."

Mr. McCrea declared that the Liberal Party should get rid of Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Sifton, and throw out the power resolution adopted at its last convention, in the interest of the industrial life of the Province. In time we shall have a great St. Lawrence canal, said he, but the Liberal policy of having this canal paid for by the users of the power generated was erroneous. The canal would be useless to Canada, he stated, without ships. To have ships, Canada must be able to produce goods cheaply, to compete in the markets of the world. To this end, cheap power was necessary, and cheap power could not be made available under the Sifton policy adopted by the Liberal convention of making power-users pay for the cost of canalization.

### Difference in Policies.

"In the different Provinces," Mr. McCrea continued, "the people, because of their right to say so, have different policies." He stated that in Quebec power was developed by private interests, Ontario, he said, started out that way; then, he said, "we instituted the great Hydro System of public ownership, investing millions to aid the industry."

Referring to the so-called "power barons of St. James Street," Mr. McCrea said: "These made it possible for power in Quebec to be sold to the Province of Ontario. Don't let us run away with the idea that they are criminals. Let us take a horse-sense, business view of the situation. Let us review what happened in our own Province. We are attracting industry, where Montreal and Quebec are losing it. What is all the ballyhoo about? Nobody has put his finger on one wrong act on the part of the Hydro Commission or of the Government."

Mr. Nixon—Aren't some of these contracts made to be payable in American money?

Mr. McCrea responded that the contract in 1926 with the International Paper Company called for payment in United States money.

Mr. Nixon—Do you agree with it?

Mr. McCrea—I will give you the answer that the Hydro gave. It was a question of getting power when this Province was on the verge of finding itself in desperate need of power.

He added that this power was acquired at seven or eight dollars per horsepower less than it would have been had it been acquired by steam.

### Uncertainty as to Exchange.

Mr. Nixon suggested that payment in American funds might make a difference of 20 to 30 per cent.

Mr. Sinclair—I am not so pessimistic as the member for Brant.

Mr. Nixon—You don't know what is going to happen in the monetary markets of the world in the next six months.

"I wonder," Mr. McCrea went on, "how many realize what the state of Hydro is. Ontario has invested more than two hundred million dollars in cash, and that is independent of guarantees in bonds which we took over from certain quarters. From that two hundred million we have not any security—that is, security in any