

Mar. 2

WORKERS REDUCED IN NORTHERN CAMPS

Change Now Made to
Six-Hour-a-Day
Basis

STEADILY RETURN HOME

That the number of men engaged in relief employment on the trans-Canada highway must necessarily be decreased from time to time was definitely announced in a statement issued by Hon. William Finlayson, Minister in charge of Northern Development at the Parliament Buildings, yesterday.

The statement reveals that on Feb. 15 there were 3,500 men left or were let out of this work, and declared on March 1 another 2,800 men will either quit or be released. The policy followed is to release men who have been employed a sufficient length of time to accumulate some means. Men who have been in the camps for three months are furnished with transportation at the reduced rate obtained by the Government.

In order to spread the work over as many men and as great an area as possible and to continue it over the spring months, a change is being made on March 1, and men working in the camps will be put on a six-hour-a-day basis. Up to date this work has been on the eight-hour basis, so that this will effect a saving of approximately 25 per cent. The wages will remain at the same rate, namely, 30 cents an hour. With the reduction being made now, there will be approximately 14,000 men employed. As many of these men are working one-half time and two-thirds time, the number who are being given relief exceeds the above figures, and would approximately amount to 20,000 after March.

"At the time the work was started in the fall, the men and the municipalities were given to understand that there would be at least three months' work, and it must be expected that there will be a steady return of these men to their homes during the next two months," said Mr. Finlayson. "This has been going on for a month now, and the men appreciate that they are going out according to the date at which they were given work."

Government Amendment Is Sub Judice, Hints Nixon

Premier's Revision of Oppo-
sition Attack Praises
Hydro for Its Record, But
That Is to Be Determined
by Royal Commission Al-
ready Appointed, Progres-
sive Leader Suggests

Is the Government's own amendment to the amendment to the motion to adopt the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne something akin to the oft-mentioned "sub judice"?

The cross-fire in the Legislature seemed to suggest that yesterday.

Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, wound up his speech with an eloquent plea to the House to support Prime Minister Henry's amendment to the amendment. This amendment possesses brave words about Hydro's "record of integrity, efficiency and administrative capacity."

Mr. Nixon raised the question as to whether, by its amendment, the Government was not asking the House to pass judgment on a matter which was already under inquiry by a Royal Commission of that same Government's creation.

Entry of Mr. Aird.

Citing the entry into the question of John Aird Jr., Dr. McQuibban said: "This feature revealed another chapter in the romance of the Government, of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission and private financial barons. But the story is far from complete, and will only be completed when the true story of Mr. Sweezey and Mr. Aird is revealed, and when the actors and all the missing links in the chain of evidence are welded. Mr. Sweezey says the fund was for the Conservative Party in the Province of Ontario. Mr. Aird says for his service in obtaining the Hydro contract. Mr. Aird thus assumes the role of 'commissioner-at-large,' the go-between of the Hydro and private interests. The Commission has thus demonstrated its utter weakness and incapacity. Doubtless we will be assailed with the campaign fund propensities of Mr. Sweezey, as it involves Senators and others. But oh, be wary! There is political dynamite in this case, and somebody is going to blunder and drop a match close by.

"The Federal Liberal Party took its medicine, but my honorable friends hide and secrete themselves and delay the bitter dregs. Why in all sportsmanship don't they come out into the open, throw wide the doors of the Royal Commission and let the chips fall where they may?"

Defends Party Record.

Hon. Mr. Challies devoted most of his speech in an effort to demonstrate that the Conservative Party had been the main upholder of the Hydro and that certain figures in the Liberal Party had been the principal blockers of this great public-ownership undertaking. He considered individually the points of criticism directed against the Government for its Hydro policy. Regarding the question of the export of power raised by the Liberals at their last convention, he contended it was good business to sell "off peak" power, and that this policy had been endorsed by the late Sir Adam Beck. He declared that there was a 30 per cent. surplus plant maintained by the power interests in the United States to look after possible demands. Dr. McQuibban, he said, had seen fit to bring Beauharnois into the picture. "I think that Liberals are ill advised to bring up this subject," he said.

Deals With Objections.

Regarding the present objections to the inquiry, the speaker declared that he would rather see the charges aired on the floor of the House and have the money used on the inquiry devoted to an extension of Hydro or Hydro service.

Supporting the view that it was "good business" for Hydro to sell its "off-peak power" to private interests in the United States, the speaker read a quotation from The Globe quoting the late Sir Adam Beck as approving such a policy.