

Mar. 3.

NIXON NOT SATISFIED WITH ANSWER GIVEN ABOUT POWER SALES

Wants to Know if Gatineau Power Sold Back at Loss

NO QUEBEC COMMISSIONS

Answers to inquiries from the Opposition concerning the contracts between Hydro and the Quebec power interests constituted the principal business at the short session of the Ontario Legislature yesterday. Premier Henry took the bulk of responsibility in answering these questions.

In answer to one by T. K. Slack (Progressive, Dufferin), the Prime Minister explained that while one contract between the Hydro and the Gatineau was payable in United States funds, the second contract was payable in Canadian currency. In answer to another question, the Prime Minister revealed that the bargain for paying for Gatineau power in United States funds had cost the Hydro an extra \$161,225, owing to adverse exchange rates. The reason for bargaining in a currency which should be either gold or United States funds in the contract for this power was to facilitate the floating of the company's bonds across the border, said the Premier.

Gatineau Power Sales.

When in answer to another question: "Has all power delivered been sold to Ontario consumers?" the Premier said: "All power has been delivered to the Commission," he drew the fire of Hon. Harry Nixon.

"That is not the question," said Mr. Nixon. "We want to know if all the power from Gatineau has been used by Ontario consumers, or if this power contracted for by the Hydro at \$15 a horsepower is being sold back to Gatineau at \$9 a horsepower?" The Progressive Leader finally intimated that he would draft another question on this matter.

The Prime Minister further declared that no commissions had been paid or promised in arranging the contracts between the Hydro and Quebec power interests.

Other information supplied by the Prime Minister in answer to questions by Opposition members, was that the Chairman of the Hydro Commission was paid \$18,000 a year, and the other two members \$10,000; that no fees had been paid to Peter White, K.C., by the Government last year, that G. I. Christie had been appointed head of the Ontario Agricultural College on Aug. 1, 1928, at \$8,000 a year; and, finally, that C. A. Magrath and W. W. Pope, Chairman and Secretary of the Hydro Commission, had signed the contract for power between the Hydro and Beauharnois.

Private Bills Pass.

Second reading was given to seven private members' bills, all of which had been threshed out in committee. They were the City of London; Holland Landing; County of Carleton; Town of Renfrew; Ontario Shore Gas Company; London Y.W.C.A., and McMaster University measures. In addition, the House considered the bill to amend the Insurance Act as pertaining to automobile insurance, but held it in committee stage for further consideration.

Nixon Queries Henry On His Tilley Inquiry

When Premier Henry told the Legislature yesterday that the Government hadn't paid anything to Peter White, K.C., for professional services in 1931, he drew from Hon. Harry C. Nixon, Progressive Leader, the query as to whether he (Mr. Henry) was going to overlook his (Mr. Nixon's) order paper inquiry as to what amounts, if any, had been paid by Government and Hydro Commission as retainers to the law firm of Tilley, Johnston, Parmenter & Thompson, whose senior partner, Mr. Tilley, is acting at present as counsel to the Middleton Royal Commission investigation of Hydro.

"Oh," answered the Premier, "your question will be answered in good time."

"I hope so," said Mr. Nixon.

"We aren't overlooking it," said Mr. Henry. "We answered the easy question first."

"I thought so," clicked Mr. Nixon.