

least capacity the Toronto Power development. But, when so required, all plants at times are operated for peak-load conditions, requiring the maximum use of water that can be made consistent with the daily aggregate prescribed.

"With regard to the subject of daylight hours, it may be said that any one at all conversant with the business of electrical service knows that the maximum capacity of generating plants is used but a relatively short period of each day, in order to meet the heavy demand when the lighting and industrial loads overlap.

"There are, however, electro-chemical and other specialized industries that can use off-peak power. The Commission would have been derelict in its duty if it failed to sell any surplus power not required in Ontario. Such sales result in saving in the cost of power, and this, in turn, results in saving to the Ontario consumers.

"That the member for Northeast Wellington was not sympathetic to the Hydro undertaking is, I believe, clearly displayed in his failure to introduce in the course of his address reasonable allowance for the extremely trying period of depression through which the world at large, including Canada, has been passing.

"In 1929-30, at times, every foot of Niagara water which the Hydro Commission was entitled to use, was employed at the maximum combined efficiency of the three plants, and also, Gattineau power in excess of contract allotment was required, and indeed there were no surplus kilowatt-hours available on maximum peaks.

"The Commission, in a formal statement issued on May 6, 1931, clearly outlined its policy with regard to the power supplies, and this statement shows that only reasonable provisions were made for additional power to be progressively supplied in order to meet such increased demands as might normally be anticipated. The member has not challenged any of the statements made therein, which fully establishes the soundness of the Commission's policy. The Commission, along with others, did not know with certainty how intense and prolonged the present depression would be. The Commission does not stand alone in this respect. Indeed, many prominent industries in the Province have been overtaken by the strenuous circumstances of curtailed business. At the present time the Commission has contracts under which more than 75,000 horsepower of contract power is being paid for by consumers, but for which power they have little present use.

"The member for Northeast Wellington speaks about a million horsepower for which the Commission is obligated, and presents this figure in a manner which would leave the impression that 1,000,000 horsepower was going begging and could not be used. It should be appreciated that arrangements were made whereby the power contracted for, which is much less than 1,000,000 horsepower, comes on the market progressively over a period of some six or seven years. Moreover, a substantial proportion of power—under the Gattineau contract—was actually in use before the depression developed. The total power contracted for by the Commission for the Niagara System is less than 750,000 horsepower.

"I venture to say that if statements such as the member has made on the floor of the House were made outside of it respecting any financial or commercial enterprise, he would hardly escape court proceedings.

"Whose judgment is entitled to

credence in matters relating to the Hydro-Electric undertaking, the Hydro Commission's, the Commissioners of the local utilities and the highly trained and experienced experts upon the Hydro staff, or the innuendoes and false representations of

the member for Northeast Wellington and those who make like statements?

"As my colleague (Hon. Mr. Chalmers) said in the course of his remarks on Tuesday night, the Province would have been in an absolutely helpless and chaotic condition if power had not been purchased by the Commission so as to be available to keep the interests of industry and commerce alive and moving.

"When the member for Northeast Wellington suggests an exaggerated figure which he introduces of \$600,000,000 worth of power to be marketed during a forty-year period, he could, had he so desired, have made a statement which would have shown what great benefit will result for the Province of Ontario through the utilization of this amount of power. Authorities have shown that the cost of power entering into industry is a relatively small percentage of the total cost of the production of goods, and hence this \$600,000,000 for power would correspond to an immense additional volume of Ontario's commercial and industrial activities. Again, and in this connection the member might have pointed out that if this power had had to be provided by steam, a source to which he refers, it would have added upward of \$200,000,000 to the cost of the power."

Nixon Scores Tactics.

Mr. Nixon opened his address with an expression of strong disapproval of the Government's attitude and tactics in the course of the debate. "The Premier and the Minister of Mines took advantage of their preferred positions to divide their speeches in half and take up almost two afternoons each," he declared. Then, Opposition members had been denied leave to adjourn the debate, Mr. Hipel being denied this privilege at after midnight, resulting in his making no speech at all in the debate. Mr. Nixon also took the Premier to task, alleging dilatory habits in opening the House, frequently as late as 3.30 o'clock, and suggested that the Clerk should record the time of opening as well as of closing. So far as understanding as to the arrangements for addresses were concerned he said: "It appears that understandings held by members of the Opposition are not a matter of much concern to the Government."

"Spying Out the Land."

"The next point in the Premier's address is featured under the heading, 'Spying Out the Land.' The Premier says: 'My colleagues and myself are quite willing to carry on, we have put our hand to the plow, irrespective of criticism, the sniping and the desire of some not in league with us politically, that they might have a general election. I know that those so thinking have not so much the welfare of the Province, as their own political advancement at heart. I hear that they have picked out positions in the new Government. I don't know what position my honorable friend from Brant has been promised.' Well, as I sit here, day after day, and watch our friends on the Treasury benches in action, these supermen, these political giants and Goliaths, I cannot find it in my heart to envy any one of them his job, and the men who take over their work after the next election are going to have a thankless task. Somebody is going to sweat blood trying to unscramble this terrible Hydro mess and put this Province on safe ground again financially and get the debt under control.

Friendly Co-operation Is Aim.

"When Mr. Hepburn is elected, I expect to give him independent support, if I am in this House, and his policies are of such a nature that I can support him without dropping the principles for which the Progressives have always stood, and he will be as free as the air to choose his Ministers wherever he likes, as far as I am concerned. A position in his Cabinet has not been a condition of the agreement of friendly co-operation which exists between us.

Regarding the first part of the Government's amendment to the amendment, declaring adherence to the principle of providing power at cost. Mr. Nixon declared he would support that section as it was today nothing more than a platitude. "But this is a double-barrelled amendment," he continued, "and coupled with it we have the following three lines, 'Whose record of integrity, efficiency and administrative capacity, long has been a source of pride and material advance to the Province.'

"This is another matter altogether, and the Premier does little credit to his administration in asking us to give to the Hydro Commission and their administration of affairs during the last few years a clean bill of health, in this regard, when they are actually under investigation at present."