

Mar. 17.

CHANGE IS URGED IN HYDRO SYSTEM BY TORY MEMBER

A. H. Acres Demands Re-organization and Creation of Subcommissions

OUTLINES HIS PROJECT

Complete reorganization of the present head-office system of Hydro administration, with the present Commission looking after the needs of Toronto and the Niagara district, and with three new subcommissions for Western, Eastern and Northern Ontario, was urged upon the Henry Government in the Legislature debate early this (Thursday) morning by A. Holly Acres, Conservative member for Carleton.

"If this great public ownership enterprise is going to meet with the success it is deserving of, and the demands of the people of the Province are to be met," said Mr. Acres, "some arrangement similar to that which I suggest should be brought into operation."

The Carleton member suggested that each subcommission should report once a month to the main Commission in Toronto, and that it be composed of an electrical engineer, a business and financial man, and a construction expert.

A year ago, he pointed out, the Government authorized the Hydro Commission to spend \$1,000,000 on a new head-office building. This appropriation, he contended, should be split three ways and used to provide office accommodation for his proposed subcommissions.

Suggest Aid to Power Users.

Only by operation of such subcommissions, he argued, could the needs of the power users be studied and met to the degree to which they were entitled.

Always an outspoken debater, and occasionally a vigorous critic of Government policy, Mr. Acres this morning renewed his support of private ownership, and claimed that, in spite of the sincere administration of Hydro affairs by Hon. J. R. Cooke and the other Commissioners, justice would not be done to the power users of the Province until a policy had been established whereunder every consumer paid the same price per kilowatt hour.

Scores Road-Building.

Mr. Acres expressed his disapproval of the building of a trans-Canada highway at a time when the country was in the grip of a depression, and claimed that it would be far better to take the funds expended thereupon and use them in providing direct relief. Jobless, he said, should be kept as close to their homes as possible.

Opposition was also expressed by the speaker to heavy truck transportation and bus operations. The railways had built Canada, he claimed, and they should be given a chance.

The first advocacy of sweepstakes operation in Ontario from a Legislature member also fell from his lips. "Fanatics" would protest, he said, but there were always a lot of "fanatics" in Ontario, and a lot of their opposition would be eliminated, he felt, if the moneys raised through sweepstakes were diverted to care of unemployment conditions.

NOTHING DISCLOSED BEARING ON HYDRO, PREMIER ASSERTS

Glengarry Liberal Says: "I Can Give You Some Scandal"

LEGISLATIVE CROSS-FIRE

From Premier George S. Henry the Ontario Legislature last night had the emphatic declaration that there was nothing in the Beauharnois Committee evidence that would indicate that the \$125,000 payment to John Aird Jr., or any other contribution, had anything to do with the contract between the Beauharnois and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of this Province.

"The Hydro contract," he stated, "was signed, as the evidence shows, months before any suggestion of contributions."

"Wasn't there evidence in Ottawa yesterday," interposed Opposition Leader William E. N. Sinclair, "that there was some sort of transaction before the contract was signed? The papers say—"

"I didn't read it that way," replied the Prime Minister.

"You had better read it again," clicked the Liberal Leader.

This brief but electric passage in an evening of dragging Budget debate was precipitated by the unusually stormy attitude on Hydro matters of mild-mannered, mild-voiced John A. Sangster, Liberal member for Glengarry.

"I wouldn't touch on Hydro at all," he said, "were it not for the fact that the Government and its supporters are tagging all the blame for the disclosures in Beauharnois and other things to the Liberal Party." To Premier Henry's interruption, "They got you pretty cheap," Mr. Sangster replied cynically: "Don't you get me started. I can give you some scandal that would get your hair curling."

Obviously ruffled, the Prime Minister rose in his seat to protest the tone of the man from Glengarry's assertion, and to make the declaration already noted.