

POWER SITE PURCHASE QUESTIONED IN HOUSE

*Hydro Maple Hill Transaction on Order Papers —
Liberals and Progressives Join to Restrict Tories
and Commission on Contracts and Agreements*

insurance companies, to say what companies shall and what companies shall not do business in this Province. Nevertheless, they do show how a central bureau might be established, supported by the authority of Provincial statutes, to which all companies carrying on business in the several Provinces could be required to submit returns and demonstrate their solvency, and from which reports could be submitted to the Provincial Insurance Departments for their guidance in the issue and renewal of licenses to transact business.

"So the matter stands at the moment. I trust I have made the position of the Province clear. I have, I believe, shown why it is necessary and advisable to pass this bill."

Ottawa Plans

(By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON.)

(Staff Correspondent of The Globe.)

Ottawa, March 21.—It is the intention of the Dominion Government to introduce within the next few weeks two or more insurance bills respecting the status and powers of British, foreign and Canadian insurance companies doing business in Canada, in lieu of the two bills recently withdrawn in the Senate.

The two bills which were withdrawn were prepared by the Department of Justice in consequence of a decision given by the Privy Council last autumn, which decision, to some degree, limited what were considered to be the powers of the Parliament of Canada with respect to insurance. The Privy Council also found that the existing Insurance Act of Canada was improperly drafted in certain particulars.

Provinces Object.

The Provinces, particularly Ontario and Quebec, objected to the two new bills introduced by Senator Meighen, which were designed to give the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance adequate supervision and control over British and foreign insurance companies doing business in Canada, and many of the companies affected also feared that if the bills became law they would involve the Federal and Provincial Governments in renewed litigation on the question of jurisdiction.

The Senate Committee on Banking and Commerce endeavored to effect some compromise, to arrive at a conclusion which should be as far as possible in harmony with the views of the Provinces and of the insurance companies that were very closely concerned. It developed that this result could be arrived at only by a complete redrafting and re-printing of the two bills, and the prospect now is that two or more bills respecting insurance will be presented to Parliament later in the session. They will be introduced first in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee.

Wants Adequate Authority.

The Dominion Superintendent's view is that he should be given sufficient authority to check the assets and to supervise the policy of insurance companies doing business throughout Canada, for the sake of uniformity.

While the Privy Council has held that insurance belongs solely to the Provinces, there are limitations upon that statement which are questioned, and Premier Bennett is hopeful that some of the Provinces, uniting with the Dominion, will agree that it is in the public interest that there should be central control of insurance rather than control by every Province in the Confederation.

In the United States, according to Mr. Bennett, the forty-eight supervisions of insurance have not always been found to work satisfactorily, because their laws are not uniform.

When asked tonight for comment on the Insurance Temporary Provisions Act introduced in the Legislature by Attorney-General Price, G. F. Finlayson, Dominion Superintendent, said he had not previously heard of the bill.

Federal authorities are hoping to avoid further litigation with the Provinces over the insurance tangle by discussing the situation at a friendly conference with all concerned. In the meantime no official comment is available on the Price bill, which empowers the Ontario Cabinet to make necessary regulation respecting the licensing of insurance companies. The Price bill is not available here tonight.

Liberal and Progressive groups co-operated yesterday in an effort to restrict the powers of the Henry Government and the Ontario Hydro in regard to power contracts, agreements and grants, when D. J. Taylor, Progressive, North Grey, with Dr. G. A. McQuibban, Liberal Whip, as his second, gave notice of the following resolution:

"That, in the opinion of this House, henceforth, (1) no contract for the purchase of power from a private development within the Province; (2) no agreement of purchase of any existing power development; (3) no grant of power rights; (4) no contract to export power from the Province should be completed, legal or binding unless and until confirmed by act of this Legislature."

Mr. Taylor also filed pointed questions regarding the Hydro Commission's purchase of the "Maple Hill" power site. These queries will appear on the House order paper as follows:

"1. On what date was the power

development known as 'Maple Hill' taken over by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission? What was the date of the Order-in-Council confirming the purchase?

"2. What was the total cost to the Commission in acquiring this property?"

"3. To whom was this money paid?"

"4. What is the total power capacity of the plant?"

"5. What is the average amount of power developed and sold?"

"6. To whom is this sold and at what price?"

"7. What solicitor or legal firm represented the Commission in this transaction and what was the amount of retainer and fees paid?"

From Hon. J. R. Cooke, Hydro Chairman, the House had the statement, by way of reply to an Opposition interrogation, that \$8,250 had been paid the law firm of Kilmer, Irving & Davis, between April 16, 1926, and Jan. 24, 1928, for services in connection with negotiating the Gatineau contract.

TORY SPLIT IN HOUSE OVER DOG-BAN BILL IS THOUGHT LIKELY

McCrea Will Press for
Adoption of Ontario-
Wide Measure

MODIFIED LAST YEAR

A Provincial-wide ban on the use of dogs in the hunting of deer is provided in amendments to the Ontario Game and Fisheries Act, which Hon. Charles McCrea, Minister of Mines, brought down to the Legislature yesterday.

This extension of the present ban, which applies only to that section lying north of the French and Mattawa Rivers, comes as no surprise, although thousands of sportsmen are opposed to it, many Conservative members fought against it in party caucus, and the Fish and Game Committee of the House adopted a resolution demanding, in effect, no further tinkering by the Government with the situation until such time as the Black Inquiry Committee had been consulted.

The all-Province ban was attempted last year by Mr. McCrea, but was modified to a half-the-Province curtailment, in view of the strenuous opposition then encountered. However, definite intimation was furnished by the Minister that he would press this session for his original goal. Renewal of last year's opposition has not switched him from his purpose this session.

Rumors are that the covering legislation will strike a number of snags before it actually goes through, and that the Opposition will divide the House to secure a registered vote on the principle involved. Several Tory members have expressed themselves in committee as "not going to change their minds this year," and, if they hold to their declarations, they will be found bolting from Government support of the legislation when the vote is taken.

Other amendments to the Game and Fisheries Act, as sponsored by Mr. McCrea, forbid the use of snares in Victoria County, and the use of hands in the taking of rabbits, where ferrets are being used—do away with the necessity of wearing badges when hunting—and, as a hard-times measure, authorize the sale of muskrats, out of season, provided they have been taken in season.