

April 7

## ELECTRIC HEATERS IN 50,000 HOUSES PREDICTED BY COOKE

**Hydro Chairman States  
Appliances Will Be In-  
stalled Free of Cost —  
Service Charge of Ten  
Cents Monthly to Be  
Sole Fee**

### POWER IS CHEAPER AS MORE IS SOLD

The almost immediate installation in 50,000 Ontario homes of electric water heaters was predicted in the Ontario Legislature yesterday by Hon. J. R. Cooke, Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. The appliances, including necessary wiring, will be installed free of charge and no payment will be asked on the equipment, other than a service charge of about ten cents per month. Mr. Cooke estimated that the outlay by the the Commission on material and labor in the manufacture will put approximately \$1,250,000 in circulation and that the entire amount will be recovered from the consumers in rates during the year.

The Hydro Chairman explained that each heater would, on the average, use about 1 h.p. and, therefore, 50,000 h.p. would be utilized if that number of appliances were used. But he anticipated that nearly 100,000 heaters would be in use a year hence, with a further consequent usage of power. This, declared Mr. Cooke, would tend to lessen the rates to Hydro consumers generally. The more power sold, the cheaper that power would be, he asserted.

#### Follows Long Planning.

The decision of the Commission, the Hydro Chairman said, was the outcome of years of planning which dated back to a survey made by the Commission on the cost of power in 1917. At that time, he outlined, it was found that the average cost of domestic power to the Ontario consumer was

approximately 3.2 per kilowatt hour, while in the United States it was more than 7 cents per kilowatt. Then again in 1929, a survey showed that the average domestic power cost was less than 2 cents per kilowatt, while in the United States it was more than 6 cents per kilowatt.

The survey also showed, stated Mr. Cooke, with the cost of domestic power in Ontario one-third of that in United States, there were three times as many appliances used here; this undoubtedly had assisted in bringing down the price of power, and the Commission was encouraged in planning the use of further appliances.

#### Reduced Costs Expected.

"Their use will have the effect of reducing the costs of domestic power because Hydro history had always shown that, as the load increased, there was a corresponding decrease in the rates," he stated.

Asked by D. J. Taylor (Progressive, North Grey) if a flat rate of three per kilowatt throughout the Province had been considered, Mr. Cooke replied that it would not be practical.

J. A. Sangster (Liberal, Glengarry) —What about the 100,000 people of the Province who have not enough power to light a match? Why not use some of this energy and money to get more power into the rural areas?

Mr. Cooke—You surely would not want to insist that those who have not power must take it; many do not want power.

#### Municipalities May Apply.

The Hydro Chairman went on to explain that each municipality could apply for power, and its application would be considered by the Commission. The locality would have to furnish sufficient consumers, however. He stated it might surprise members to know that three years ago—when times were better—Hydro was building six miles of line in rural Ontario every day. Approximately one and one-half miles were built each day in 1932, and already in 1933 there were 500 or 600 rural lines planned, he declared.

In answer to Mr. Sangster, the Hydro Chairman stated there was no power coming from the McLaren Company, but 20,000 h.p. of the 125,000 h.p. contracted for would be accepted this year. On the Beauharnois 250,000 h.p. contract, 35,000 h.p. was accepted beginning last October, and an annual step-up would be made.

Mr. Cooke—There never was any interference by the Government in those contracts.

Mr. Nixon—Bologna.

Mr. Cooke—The Commission takes full responsibility for every bit of power bought from Quebec. The Commission saw that the power supply would not be sufficient. If the member from Brant comes down to the Commission, he will see the recommendations of the technical staff of the Commission on all these things.

Mr. Nixon—Will I find set out on the records Mr. Gaby's salary?

Mr. Cooke did not reply.

Previously Mr. Nixon had stated that he understood that it is \$35,000 a year for five years.

Mr. Cooke then charged Mr. Nixon with having left Wednesday night when the estimates were being taken up, when he found "that he would have no opportunity to attack the Hydro."

Mr. Nixon—I protest against this statement. It is untrue and unfair. I left because I had an appointment, which was arranged two days ago, and which was with the next Prime Minister—Mr. Hepburn.

Mr. Cooke declared that if the salaries of ten of the officials were given, the salaries of 2,000 of the employees might be asked. "The next step would be to dictate as to what the personnel would be. If you are going to dictate the policy, then very soon you would have the Commission in the same unhappy place as the C.N.R."

Mr. Nixon—I wasn't suggesting anything of the kind.

Premier Henry took issue with Mr. Nixon's contention that it was the inherent right of the House to get information it desired. It was also the inherent right of the Government to decide what information should be given the House, he pointed out. "That is what the Government is doing in this case. The Cabinet went into all those questions and decided it was not in the interest of the Commission, or in public interest generally, to give the information, or that salaries should become the butt of political warfare."

Mr. Nixon—It must be pretty bad, then.

## SCHOOL COURTESY VOTE PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

**Husbands and Wives of  
Catholic Ratepayers to  
Be Able to Vote for  
Own Trustees**

The long-sought courtesy vote in separate school elections was given approval of the Ontario Legislature in Committee of the Whole, when Premier Henry's bill to amend several clauses of the Public School and Separate School Acts, was reported yesterday. The bill now stands for third reading, and will become law in the next few days.

The act is also amended to empower municipalities to designate separate school supporters in the voters' lists by marking "S" after their names.

The clauses are the outcome of some years of endeavor on the part of Catholic ratepayers to obtain the same privilege in voting as supporters of public schools, in so far as husbands or wives of property owners may cast ballots in elections for trustees. Prior to the legislation coming before the House, a wife or husband of a public school ratepayer could vote for members of public school boards of education, but the same privilege was not extended to the wives or husbands of separate school ratepayers in elections for their trustees.

An amendment to the High Schools Act provides that a fee may be charged to pupils who remain in high schools longer than six years. The fee shall not be higher than the average cost per pupil for education in the high school where he or she is attending.

Another clause definitely fixes the two school terms of the year: From

Jan. 3 to June 29, and from Sept. 1 to Dec. 22. An exception allows schools to resume on the following Tuesday when Sept. 1 falls on Friday.