

long run the executive will never be called.

Following Mr. Sinclair's summary of Mr. Maguire's ambiguous position, he advised the Government to give all the facts on salaries to the public. "There will be less trouble—less suspicion," he contended.

The Premier's Statement.

Premier Henry's statement on Hydro officials' salaries, in part, follows:

"True it is that, through all these years (since the inception of Hydro), this Legislature and the successive Administrations have stood back of the enterprise with a helping and sustaining hand. To ensure financial confidence, to stabilize its monetary structure, to maintain at low levels the cost of necessary funds, the Province has been, as it were, the financial backer, but the scheme has retained throughout its municipal savor, and in the public mind the whole undertaking in old Ontario is looked upon as a municipal venture.

"To what is the success of this vast undertaking largely attributable? It is, in my opinion, based upon the confidence which the Commission and its whole organization of administrators have built up in the public mind. That free from political trammels, divorced from a partisan arena, devoting all their time and energies solely to the task in hand, the staff of the Commission have felt free to work with an enthusiasm and spirit toward a goal which had as its objective the carrying on of an enterprise which would be for the lasting benefit of the people of this Province whom they served.

"With this spirit of freedom, with the knowledge that so long as they devoted themselves whole-heartedly to their task, it has never been in the minds of any of the Hydro staff that their status would become embroiled in political spheres, and that matters which vitally affect their personal relationship with the Commission would become the subject of public discussion on the floor of the Assembly.

Sees Danger to Undertaking.

"If one stops for a minute to consider that phase in the matter, it is possible to see with what dangers the whole undertaking may be fraught, and any Government which has the responsibility upon its shoulders must of necessity hesitate before involving the relationship between the Commission and its staff in a discussion on the floor of this House.

"Would any one suggest for a moment that institutions such as our banks and insurance corporations, to which the whole world points as an example of successful enterprise conducted upon sound lines, would be as successful as they are if the full light of public knowledge had to be turned upon the internal and domestic relations which exist between these institutions and their staffs?

"With all the peculiarities which attach to our Hydro undertaking, with all the never-tiring and unending criticisms which opponents of public ownership continue to hurl against the Hydro structure in a ceaseless effort to undermine public confidence in the enterprise, it is essential that we ponder long and decide wisely before we turn inside out all the internal policies and day-by-day relationships which exist in the undertaking and subject them to the annoying and prying eyes and ears of its enemies, and to cause that to be done through the channels of the body politic which this Legislature is.

Province "the Big Brother."

"Can any one suggest that any useful public service is to be achieved by disclosing to the public gaze upon what basis and at what salaries the executive officers are engaged? Is it going to tend to increase their zeal for their tasks if they are made to feel that in their work they are to be held up as targets for criticism at the instance of people who have little or no conception of their work and of the vast responsibilities which rest upon them? I say, advisedly, that such a thing is the last to be desired if we have any real regard for the very purpose these men serve. But, apart from all that, if the domestic affairs of the Commission are to be related, is the floor of this House the proper forum? I feel not.

"The Province is not the father or the mother of the undertaking. It is the big brother, which has fostered it and assisted in many directions. It has an interest to see that all is well because of the huge monetary stake it has in a creditor or surety capacity.

"Therefore, if these municipalities, through their accredited body and representatives, feel that there is need or other object to be served in having made public some of the internal affairs of management and administration are they not the people first to be consulted, and are they not the medium through which a demand for public disclosure of these matters should come and be made?

Opinion Is Invited.

"I believe such to be the case, and in that belief I am satisfied the people of the municipalities will sustain me. To ascertain whether or not I am correct in my view I invite the functioning municipal body in these matters, through its executive, to decide whether or not they feel it to be in the interests of their undertaking that information as to the salaries of the chief officials should be made public. If they, after consulting those they represent, feel that it is proper to be done, neither this Government nor the Legislature can have any further voice in the matter, and I am sure all parties will equally be satisfied with the decision thus made.—(Conservative applause.)

"But for this Government, of its own accord and without any request

from those whose interests are served and for whom the enterprise is conducted, to insist with the Commission that it place on the table of this House information as to matters which are not subject to Government or Provincial control would, I say, be beyond the bounds not only of propriety, but of power of any Provincial Administration.

Confidence in Commission.

"I am very sure that the municipal executive has but to ask the Commission for any information in these matters, and it will receive it. To the present our municipalities have found it possible to rest full confidence in the Commission, and there has never yet been any occasion when it was not able to satisfy completely the people of all our municipalities that the Commission and its whole organization was ready not only to serve but to carry out the behests of those they serve.

"Therefore, I repeat that matters of the nature now under discussion are not proper subjects for disclosure or debate upon the floor of this House, but are for the municipalities and the Commission first to determine. It is of equal importance that we, in this House, while we protect the interest which the Province has in the great Hydro undertaking, do nothing which may tend to destroy it or to break the confidence which the municipalities have in their enterprise. It will be time enough for such disclosure when the municipalities express a desire for it to be made and through the channel through which they function in such matters."