

PUBLISHING SALARIES OF HYDRO OFFICIALS INSULT, SAYS NIXON

**Cooke Says Information
Given Hannigan "Be-
cause He Asked"**

REASON FOR CITY'S DEBIT

Hydro estimates had a violent passage through the Legislature last night, with Progressive Leader Harry Nixon terming as "the greatest insult ever extended to a member of this House," the publication of high officials' salaries while a question demanding this information stood unanswered on the House order paper.

Hon. J. R. Cooke, Commission Chairman, told Mr. Nixon that he had supplied the information to T. J. Hannigan, Secretary of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, "because he asked for it."

Refused to Pay Exchange.

Other interesting points in the estimates discussion were Mr. Cooke's announcement that Abitibi development earnings were running far ahead of expectations and that the Toronto Hydro Commission got a debit thirteenth bill instead of \$76,000 a credit one, because it, alone of all Ontario municipalities, had refused to pay its exchange bill.

"How did you happen to give the salary list to Hannigan?" asked Mr. Nixon. "Is this your roundabout way of doing things?"

Mr. Cooke replied that when Mr. Hannigan had asked for the list, he had taken the happy opportunity to supply the information.

"Is Mr. Gaby's salary before deductions \$35,000?" next asked Mr. Nixon. Mr. Cooke referred the Progressive Leader to The Globe, "which is generally so reliable." The salary list as reported in The Globe had made the situation clear.

Mr. Nixon was unshaken in his contention that the Legislature's right to the information was the prior one.

\$1,638,750 Revenue Expected.

Mr. Cooke reviewed the details of the Abitibi purchase. Hydro's total investment in Northern properties was \$24,687,304, but estimated expenditure necessary to pay off creditors and build distant lines would result in a total capital expenditure of \$29,261,271. Revenues expected this year were \$1,638,750. A surplus of \$6,000 was expected for the next fiscal year after charges on every dollar had been taken care of. The new contracts for power delivery to Smooth Rock Falls, site of Abitibi Paper Mill, would be signed by the Commission within ten days. Before the year was ended, the expectation was, the revenue would be up to \$250,000. In reply to a question by R. A. Baxter (Liberal, Oxford South), Mr. Cooke said the water heater rental plan had not come up to expectations, but the installations were proving satisfactory. No decision had been made to install electric stoves on the same basis.

Before the consideration of the Hydro estimates, Premier Henry delivered a defense of the work of agricultural education. Agriculture must succeed, he declared, adding that the more training and encouragement given to boys and girls the better the result would be. The Premier said in response to Opposition criticism of Royal York accommodations for the boys and girls visiting the Winter Fair, that he had been responsible for the move in the first place and had been determined that the visitors should get the best that the city had.

Passing of the annual automobile acts through committee of the Ontario House last night provoked comment which finally resulted in one amendment limiting to commercial vehicles the application of the new law requiring cars stalled on the highway to light a lantern or flare.

Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways, sponsored the Highway Traffic and Commercial Vehicle Acts through committee, and was forced to make his first explanation when W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C. (Liberal, Ontario South), reopened the questioning of the clause permitting headlights of higher candlepower. The Minister pointed out that tourists and motorists from other Provinces were entitled to the brighter lights, adding that "drivers are driving their cars faster than they used to" and more light is accordingly needed.

Too Hard to Enforce.

Mr. Sinclair and Hon. Harry Nixon asked about some form of inspection which would insure proper focusing of the lights, but Mr. Macaulay pointed out that a bureaucracy would be required to provide enforcement and "we're hardly ready for that." Mr. Sinclair commented: "I can see that if we are going to cut down the expenses 50 per cent., we can hardly focus the headlights."

The Minister amended the clause requiring trailers to be doubly affixed to the truck with an exception in favor of trailers resting on the fore part of the vehicle.

When the minimum wage amendment was brought before the committee, Mr. Nixon asked the Premier: "Have you determined who was right, your Minister or Mr. Laver?" Premier Henry answered that the Minister (Hon. Dr. Robb) had spoken for himself. "That's the history of most of these cases," the Premier went on. When facts are run down, he said, little information is obtained. The Premier intimated that if Mr. Laver had further investigated his cases he would not have given the evidence that he did at Ottawa.

Girls Hidden in Garret.

Instancing a case illustrating the difficulty of obtaining information, the Premier said that a Government inspection of a factory had disclosed absolutely no breaking of the law. Later it was reported that half a dozen girls had been hidden in a garret and

that a perfectly legal pay cheque had been split by several workers.

A drop from \$11,000 allotted in 1932 for typewriter inspection and repair, to an expenditure of \$5,000 for the same purpose listed in the current estimates for 1935, aroused the attention of Liberal Whip C. A. Robertson last night. Hon. Leopold Macaulay explained that the typewriters had formerly been inspected monthly, and under the reduced sum allotted for 1934 and 1935, were overhauled only in case of a demand for such attention. The Minister said that there had been objections from Government employees, but the step had saved \$7,000.

The Liberal Whip then asked if Mr. Macaulay would admit that the cost of the former service had been too high. The Minister declined to do so, and stated that the job had always been let by tender, greater cost resulting in increased service. At the present time, he said, "every department thinks the typewriters are being starved of necessary repairs."

Mr. Robertson did not let the matter drop, claiming the companies doing the work had been getting a "rake-off." In 1932, he said, it had cost \$11,000 to take care of about 800 machines, and with reduced expenses in 1933 it had still amounted to about \$10 a typewriter. It was no secret, the Liberal Whip claimed, that certain people felt that the companies involved had held a monopoly and were receiving too much money. Machines in downtown Toronto, he said, had been serviced in units of one or two at lower prices per machine than the Government had paid for the care of hundreds.