

March 2

Timber Rights' Sale Termed Iniquitous

C. W. Cox, M.P.P., Hints of Deal "as Bad as Hydro Disclosures" — House to Hear Story

An investigation of the "iniquitous" conditions which governed the sale of timber rights in Northern Ontario under the Henry regime would bring disclosures "as bad as the Hydro disclosures now being unravelled by Mr. Roebuck in the Legislature," C. W. Cox, M.P.P. for Port Arthur charged last night at a Ward Three Liberal Association rally in Foresters' Hall.

House to Hear Story.

Mr Cox gave definite intimation that he would bring the matter to the attention of the House. "You will hear from me later on this," he promised, using the words of the Attorney-General, who made a similar promise in Hydro matters.

An area of timber 200 miles long and 100 miles wide had been disposed of in the past fifteen years under Tory administration, Mr. Cox declared, but no benefit had resulted to the people of Ontario. On the contrary, the contracts had never been carried out, and men had been left idle who could have been profitably employed.

"It is significant that all these iniquitous transactions were carried out just prior to elections, and you can use your imagination as to the reason for them," he said.

"That's stolen property. It must be taken back," a man in the audience cried.

"Yes. To use the words of Mr. Roebuck, 'You will hear from me later on,'" Mr. Cox promised.

Lumber Imported.

"The astounding feature of the sales is that not one stick of this timber has been cut. It has been held by private hands," Mr. Cox said. "Thousands of men could have been employed, but instead of this the Government had imported millions of feet of lumber from the United States and overseas.

"I hope for legislation to cure this," he said.

People who had previously invested in the North country had become skeptical because they "did not know whether they were doing business with the Government or just a politician," he said.

Hydro Dismissals Questioned in House

Three questions relating to Hydro were placed on the order paper of the Provincial Legislature yesterday by the Conservative Opposition.

Arthur Ellis, Ottawa, asks reasons for the dismissal of F. A. Gaby, former chief engineer, and of three members of the Commission, the late J. R. Cooke, Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and C. A. Maguire.

He asks who succeeded them and whether the new appointee had "at the time of his appointment any actual experience in the administration or management of any company developing or selling electricity.

Mr. Ellis also asked why P. D. Ross was dismissed from the Ottawa Hydro-Electric Power Commission.