

March 7

Pending Parleys At Their Request, Hepburn Asserts

All Documents Pertaining to Hydro Contracts to Be Tabled in Legislature—Third Mem- ber of Commission to Continue Debate

REPRESENTATIVES of the Quebec power companies will be received at Queen's Park within three or four days.

This turn in the Hydro contract wheel was announced last night by Prime Minister Mitchell F. Hepburn. The Premier said that the representatives of the power companies would have opportunity to confer with the entire Cabinet.

"At Their Invitation."

"At their invitation," he answered when he was asked if the move had come from the Government or from the companies. There had already been several requests for a conference, he said.

In the House the Premier informed Hon. Leopold Macaulay (Conservative, South York), that documents pertaining to power purchases from Quebec by the Ontario Hydro Commission will be placed before the Ontario Legislature today. There may be some, however, the Premier stated, which the Government might not be able to table before Friday.

Wants No Delay.

The Conservative member declared himself as satisfied with the Premier's promise, but stated that he could see no reason for delay in the matter as the documents had formed the basis of the Attorney-General's lengthy address on Hydro affairs.

"Unless," Mr. Macaulay declared, "the Government still desired to secure information from these documents."

At today's "night session" the third member of the Hydro Commission is scheduled to take part in "debate" in the person of Hon. T. B. McQuesten.

He will follow J. H. Clark (Liberal, Windsor-Sandwich), and Hon. G. H. Challies.

IMMUNITY MAY BE AMENDED

Roebuck Dislikes Denial of Suit for Tort

AMENDMENT of the time-honored rule denying suit for tort against the Crown is a matter of Queen's Park consideration.

Raised during yesterday's debate, the legal matter is involved in a recent T. & N.O. Railway accident. The railway was sued, Hon. Arthur Roebuck explained to the Legislature, and the plaintiff received a verdict, but it was not carried out because of the rule that the Crown cannot be sued for tort.

"I don't like that," the Attorney-General said. "The Dominion has allowed a claim for tort to be made against the Crown. It may be that, after detailed consideration, there may be some amendment."

Last night the Attorney-General amplified his statement by saying that it referred in particular to the T. & N.O. incident, but that the principle of the law might come under review.

1,071 Beer Parlors Remain in Ontario

179 Clubs Also Sell Beer, Legislature Is In- formed

According to returns tabled in the Ontario Legislature yesterday in answer to questions placed on the order paper by William Duckworth and J. F. Hill, Conservative members, licenses for sale of beer and wine have been issued to 1,199 Ontario hotels and 218 clubs since sale of beer was legalized last July. Of that number fifty-three hotel authorities were cancelled, and afterward fifteen of them were regranted when premises were altered according to the Liquor Control Board's regulations. Six club licenses were cancelled, four of them because of evasion of the board's regulations and two because the quarters were found not to qualify under the regulations.

At present only 1,071 of the 1,199 hotels which originally received authorities are operating beverage rooms because ninety-six did not renew their licenses. Present number of clubs dispensing the beverage is 179. Thirty-three of the original recipients of authorities did not renew them.

The Government was questioned also on the names of the agents of the various firms. The return indicated in the majority of cases there were no agents. All orders and payments are made by the board direct to the manufacturers.

Control of Milk Helped Producers

More than two and a half million in cash has been the meaning of the Milk Control Board to Ontario milk-producers, according to the board's report tabled at Queen's Park yesterday.

The report—first in the history of the ten-months-old board—deprecates any combines. In production and distribution there should be no combinations, it is held, to exploit the milk business at the expense of the consumer.

The report stated that marketing agreements have been approved in sixty-two major markets. These "have eliminated or minimized a number of unethical practices that were to the detriment of both producers and distributors."

Admitting some price increases to the consumer, the board stated that it was to be noted that this was true in no case unless the producer secured benefits equal to or greater than the price increase.

Listed records included issuance of 1,335 licenses, and deposits of \$1,043,390 in milk-distributors' bonds. This, it was claimed, had a stabilizing effect, and had already proved its worth.