

power—plenty of people out of work. The Province should develop its own power.

"I don't agree with the demand for an immediate decision," he said. "There have been too many immediate decisions."

Repudiation was mentioned. "The Opposition has called on us not to repudiate. I don't care one way or another, but it is surprising to hear the arch supporters of repudiation so speaking."

Mr. McQuesten charged hypocrisy to an Opposition warning the Government not to go wrong on their principles.

"The greatest piece of repudiation done was the moratorium on mortgages."

The bondholders might perhaps be considered as innocent holders of "stolen property." The Minister made it clear that he was not suggesting that they knew of the original situation.

"But the thief cannot have or confer any value, even to an innocent party," he quoted.

No Lectures Wanted.

He was not discussing the right or wrong of the repudiation of the contracts, said Mr. McQuesten, "but we don't want to take lectures from our friends opposite."

Ontario's fate with interruptible power was pointed out.

"We'll have to resort to our power. Why don't we use it now?"

The Minister dug into the huge minute book, and began to take up Hydro's much-discussed "engineers'" minutes. It was the sixth or seventh time that it had been referred to in detail on the floor of the Legislature.

"This attachment was not signed—was obviously not an original—and consists of two documents.

The House applauded.

"There's nothing in here which adopts this report," he said.

The persistency of the Commission of that day in signing contracts for power that was unwanted and could not be used was not done for the benefit of the public, the Minister insisted, but was done to enable them to market their securities.

He quoted an editorial from the

Evening Telegram at the time they were buying this power. The editorial had stated that "it was time for a showdown in Provincial Hydro," and that the Commission was buying more power than it could use.

While they were buying this power from private corporations, he continued, they had their own development engineers idle. No publicly owned project could live without the confidence of the people; or while there were clouds of suspicion hanging over it, he said.

"Shameful History."

"Surely," declared Mr. McQuesten at the outset of his address, "this is the most shameful history and absolutely callous wrecking of this great enterprise that has ever come before the people of this Province." (Applause.)

"It seems to me," he added, "that the ill-considered abandonment of the conclusions of Sir Adam Beck is a suspicious and significant fact. There is no question but that steam power was Sir Adam's conclusion despite the attempt of the honorable member from Grenville-Dundas to show Sir Adam opposed this method of power generation in Ontario. This was Beck's conclusion, and it was the conclusion of his staff of engineers and the Hydro Commissioners. All combined on the view that for the supply of firm power steam plants should be built."

"Clarkson," the Minister declared, "was called in to report on the advisability of steam plants. Clarkson is the man who was sent to Hamilton to give the cloak of respectability to the purchase of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company"

"Much has been made of the letter written to Gale offering to purchase power from Quebec," declared Mr. Mc-

Questen. "But I think Sir Adam was just kidding the boys along when he made that offer."

The next move, the Minister declared, was on Jan. 21, 1925, when a Steam Plant Department of the Commission was established for the express purpose of studying the question.

"On May 27 of the same year," he continued, "Sir Adam wrote to Mayor Foster of Toronto, telling him that the Legislature had voted some \$10,000,000 for steam plants, but that final authority to construct the plants had not been given. The same day J. R. Cooke interviewed the then Premier and urged that authority to proceed be given to the Hydro Commission. Cooke left a memorandum with the Premier setting out the reasons why

the Commission desired to proceed with construction.

"On June 3 Chief Engineer Gaby forwarded information concerning steam plants to Mr. Clarkson, and on July 17, 1925, Mr. Clarkson made his report on the steam-plant proposals to the Prime Minister, declaring that the three plants were necessary, and would generate about 300,000 horsepower."

Sir Adam Beck died in 1925, the Minister explained, but in February of the following year Mr. Brandon, Chief Electrical Engineer, again reported to the Commission in favor of steam plants. The whole run of events, he said, clearly indicated where Sir Adam and the Commission stood on the question of steam-generated power for Ontario.