

March 13

ADVICE GIVEN HOUSE

By One-Man Party

"You could make a drastic reduction of hours and labor in all industries and services."

"You could reduce interest down to 3 per cent., and I'd make it unlawful to charge more than 3 per cent."

"You could bring down a minimum wage for men and boys at a fair standard."

"You might start in on an intensive housing and slum clearance campaign."

"I would urge that a fair wage regulation be adopted by the Government for all contracts."

Sam Lawrence, member for Hamilton East, "Leader"—and sole and first member—of the C.C.F. Party in the Ontario Legislature, provided the Government with this five-planked advice. Further, he put on record his economic philosophy and his political position.

"The Government and the Opposition—that is the main Opposition—agree on one thing," said Mr. Lawrence, "the fundamental structure of the capitalist system. And that is where we disagree—and when I say 'we' I mean between myself and the entire representation in the House."

For politics—"so long as we are in the minority in this House we will be in the Opposition. The movement I represent will sweep down the Province before many years and occupy the position of the Government in this Chamber."

Between advice and statement of principle the Hamilton member sandwiched a call for alleviation of unemployment and depression conditions; a surmise that Hydro paid double what it was worth for Dominion Power and Transmission Company and a running comment on Legislative doings that alternately drew Liberal and Conservative applause.

Committee Probe On Hydro Deals Asked by Ellis

Premier's "No" Ignored —
Tory Scores Hepburn
Dismissals

ACRES SEES INACTION

Previous appeals for a legislative committee of inquiry into the Hydro contracts were raised by the Queen's Park Opposition yesterday to the status of a challenge.

Undampened by Premier Hepburn's unqualified "No" of Monday, Arthur Ellis, Conservative member from Ottawa, proposed a committee of inquiry again yesterday, and made the proposal a gage of battle.

Challenges Government.

"I challenge the Government to appoint a committee of the House to go into these matters in fullest degree," he said. The Opposition so moved, in his words, because of sufficient faith in the former Commission and the Hydro personnel.

"The air should be cleared so that the people know the facts."

In the sequence of his Hydro speech, Mr. Ellis preceded the challenge with a deprecation of repudiation. The greatest of injuries, the member charged, had been done to Hydro "when the Attorney-General intimated that some of the contracts might be cancelled or terminated. I would refuse to be a party to any repudiation of a contract of the Province of Ontario, whether we can get out of it on a legal technicality or not."

Mr. Roebuck interposed that he had not suggested a repudiation of contracts. "I argued," he said, "that a contract was not in force—not that a binding contract should be repudiated."

The Attorney-General's facts and conclusions were the target for an hour-and-a-half attack by Mr. Ellis.

The member from Ottawa—following a previously set Conservative style—saw disagreement between Mr. Roebuck and T. Stewart Lyon, Chairman of the Hydro Commission.

"I would like to know," he said, in reference to 1934 reports of increasing power demand and revenue, "who is speaking the correct state of affairs—the Attorney-General or Stewart Lyon. They are in evident disagreement."

There had been "no more disgraceful thing" than when in July "every engineer on the Hydro staff receiving more than \$5,000 was dismissed, or retained on a day-to-day basis."

Mr. Roebuck interrupted to observe that these engineers were not dismissed, but their contracts were terminated and replaced by continuous, indefinite engagements.

Countermarching over old ground,

the member raised the question of "engineers' approval" and mentioned the famed "minute" for the tenth or eleventh time in session history.

Expresses Regret.

A. H. Acres (Conservative, Carleton) regretted the Government, in the Throne speech debate, made no reference to the King's Silver Jubilee, and that the Premier and Cabinet did not accept the invitation to the State dinner at the residence of Lieutenant-Governor H. A. Bruce.

This was the fourth week of the session and there had been nothing but a rehashing of campaign speeches, Mr. Acres contended. He promised support to any measure that would better conditions.

He thought Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, would have presented new ideas and reform policies. "Good times are not coming back in this country until agriculture is revived," Mr. Acres declared.

Flat Rate on Hydro.

Mr. Acres advocated a flat rate on Hydro throughout the Province, explaining this would benefit farmers, who made Hydro possible, and simplify making up Hydro accounts.

"If electric power was the same price in every city and town in Ontario, then when a man was starting an industry he would not always start in a large city," Mr. Acres said.

Mr. Acres suggested the Province assume the task of disposing of municipal debentures. This would ensure a lower rate of interest and remove the large number of classifications of these bonds.