

# Senator Jaffray Sold Holdings In Public Weal

Hepburn Cites High Standard of Ethics for Henry

**CALLS COMMENT UNFAIR**

**C**HARACTERIZING as unfair and incorrect former Premier Henry's criticism of Hydro Commission Chairman T. Stewart Lyon and the late Senator Robert Jaffray, former President of The Globe, Prime Minister Hepburn, in the Ontario Legislature yesterday, launched into a spirited defense of the two men as champions of Hydro and the public interest.

"It was unfair to a supporter of public ownership," said Mr. Hepburn of a statement made on Tuesday by Mr. Henry regarding the late Senator. Justice to the Senator's memory, the Premier added, demanded a rebuttal, which he then proceeded to offer in a review of Senator Jaffray's record.

#### Resigned Directorate.

Mr. Hepburn recalled particularly how the late Senator had "resigned from the directorate of the Toronto Electric Light Company and severed his connection with the privately owned distribution service, lest that connection should embarrass The Globe in its advocacy of the public power policy.

As for Mr. Lyon, then editor of The Globe, the Premier pointed out that for forty-eight years he had been known and recognized as a firm advocate of the use of water-generated power in the interests of the people.

#### Rebuttal Necessary.

"The statement," Premier Hepburn said, "of the former Premier of Ontario, Mr. Henry, in the Legislature yesterday regarding the attitude of the late Senator Jaffray respecting public ownership and operation of the water powers of the Province is so wide of the facts that, in justice to the memory of the Senator, some rebuttal is necessary."

"Mr. Henry is quoted as saying: 'I find that when Sir Adam started his work there was one Jaffray—owner of The Globe and director of the Toronto Electric Light Company. I find that the records say that The Globe wasn't enthusiastic in those days—that Robert Jaffray as director was more interested in his other responsibilities.' As for Mr. Lyon in his early days, 'for years his enthusiasm would reflect the enthusiasm of the Senator for private interests, and it was years afterward that Sir Adam got The Globe over as a consistent supporter.'

"Any one who has known Mr. Lyon's relations to public affairs in Toronto during the past forty-eight years knows that throughout—long before Sir Adam Beck emerged on the scene—he publicly advocated the retention, development, and use of the water powers of the Province in the interests of the people."

"The suggestion that these views were submerged, so that in the columns of The Globe, in so far as he had any access to or control of them, the enthusiasm of Senator Jaffray for private interests was reflected in Mr. Lyon's writing, is not in accordance with the facts as known and published from day to day, and year to year.

#### Editorial Is Answer.

"Perhaps the best answer to Mr. Henry's statement is to be found in a Globe editorial, written by Mr. Lyon, on the day of Senator Jaffray's death, on Dec. 16, 1914, before the Government of Ontario gave its consent to the first public development at Niagara Falls, and while the Whitney policy of power purchase from private corporations at the Falls and distribution to the municipalities for local consumption was still fully in force. In that editorial Mr. Jaffray's connection with the electrical industry and with the projects for providing power at cheap cost from Niagara Falls was thus referred to:

"His was an eager mind that never ceased to range forward. When incandescent light was still a toy, he was one of a little group of Toronto citizens who laid the foundations of Canada's greatest electric manufacturing enterprise. Many years afterward, when long-distance transmission was beginning to change the entire power outlook, as one of the Commissioners appointed by the Provincial Government to control Queen Victoria Park at Niagara Falls, he took keen interest, together with Chairman Langmuir, in ending the monopoly powers of the original concessionaires, widening the range of competition among the producing companies, and securing a large annual revenue for the public from the power franchises.

"Still later, when public operation came to the front and plans were formulated for covering Ontario with a network of power-carrying wires owned by the people, Mr. Jaffray, rather than stand in the way of progress, resigned from the directorate of the Toronto Electric Light Company and severed his connection with the privately owned distribution service, lest that connection should embarrass The Globe in its advocacy of the public power policy."

"When?" asked the Opposition.

"Before the Whitney Government sponsored public ownership," the Premier answered, with a reference to the first public development at Niagara.

"I don't think my friend should let that stand," he told the Leader of the Opposition. "It was unfair to a supporter of public ownership."

#### Mr. Henry Explains.

"I thought I made it plain yesterday," Mr. Henry declared, "that as far as Mr. Lyon is concerned I felt he is and had been a consistent supporter of public ownership. But as a junior on The Globe staff about 1905 he was not free at that time to give support to public ownership he otherwise would. I did not want to impute that Mr. Lyon has not been a staunch supporter of public ownership.

"Robert Jaffray," continued Mr. Henry, referring to the days before Mr. Jaffray became Senator, "was not an ardent supporter of public ownership." He had, the former Premier declared, "qualifying shares" in the electric company and a greater holding in the transmission company.

"I had no thought of reflecting on the present Chairman of the Ontario Hydro Commission," Mr. Henry emphasized.

# Shortweighting Checked in Bill

Hon. David Croll Strongly in Favor of Hunter's Measure

The principle of cancelling or suspending licenses of coal and coke dealers convicted of selling short weight was approved by the Municipal Law Committee of the Ontario Legislature yesterday morning when a bill along these lines, sponsored by Colonel Fraser Hunter (Liberal, St. Patrick), was reported.

The measure, if finally approved by the Legislature, will give the right of cancellation or suspension of licenses to Police Commissions of cities over 100,000 population and to Councils of townships or cities bordering on cities of the same size.

J. J. Glass (Liberal, St. Andrew) opposed the measure, maintaining it would be used "as a whip" to enforce a present by-law in Toronto, which he termed unjust. This by-law provides for the weighing of fuel in the yards of the dealers.

Hon. David Croll, Minister of Public Welfare, was strongly in favor of the bill.

"If a man is cheating on his coal weight," the Minister declared, "why shouldn't he have his license cancelled?"

Appearing for several large coal companies, J. C. McRuer, K.C., explained that his clients were thoroughly in favor of the legislation.

The measure was explained by H. L. Cummings, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, and also by C. M. Colquhoun, City Solicitor. The latter declared that as the law stands a man could be convicted frequently of short weight, yet no action could be taken to cancel or suspend his license.

# Tax-Exempted Land Limited by Bill

First reading was given in the Ontario Legislature to a bill introduced by Morgan Baker (Liberal, North York), designed to remove exemptions on properties of colleges, seminaries and other institutions whose area exceeds twenty acres. He explained that these exemptions worked a hardship on a number of school sections seeking to raise sufficient funds by taxation.