

"Because," shot back the Premier "before we turn this great enterprise over to the municipalities we are going to clean up the mess we found when we entered on administration." Hydro, he had argued, had not the right to hand to the municipalities increased prices due to the Quebec purchase.

The Quebec power contract picture was briefly sketched by the Government Leader as he opened debate. In Ontario, in the Niagara district in particular, there was a consumptive capacity at present of 835,000 horsepower. In publicly owned plants 906,000 horsepower was produced—"or more than our requirements."

Additional Power.

The Eastern power purchases totalled an additional 764,000 horsepower. The use of this power necessitated transmission lines, and on the one which was in existence it was obviously impossible to convey the 764,000 horsepower from Quebec.

The Premier stressed the point that in order to take this power \$20,000,000 would have to be expended to build another transmission line, and this at a time when consumption did not equal their own supply. Gatineau power, he said, was now purchased at \$15 and sold back as far as possible at \$3.90—a bonus of \$11.10 "to buy off the contract."

"It is not the intention of the Administration to spend \$20,000,000 on another transmission line," the Premier declared. If the companies were paid to grant relief from the contracts the money would have to come out of somebody else's pocket, and the only method would be a raise in power costs to the domestic and industrial consumer.

"Competition knows no Provincial boundaries," the Premier quoted. If Ontario industries were to be saddled with the increased cost of power—"the cost of power in Ontario would be so out of proportion to Quebec that Ontario industry will be driven out of existence."

"Last Straw."

The Opposition broached the possibility of an increasing power demand. With North America losing its export market, with unemployment still pressing, with taxation increasing, the Premier answered that a further load on the basic industries of the Province would be the "last straw."

"This would be the finish, as far as our export products are concerned."

The Government had tried to negotiate the problem, but found it impossible. The executives of the power companies could not negotiate, because the rights of the bondholders rendered them liable.

Attack Opened.

The legislative air crackled as former Premier Henry opened the Opposition attack. Fifty times in a five-hour speech he crossed swords with the Government benches. A record barrage of sallies, personalities, arguments and clippings flared from both sides of the House to the refrain of intermittent desk-thumping.

The fight started when Premier Hepburn proposed to keep an important appointment in his office. Mr. Henry protested strongly that the Premier should not absent himself when the House considered "the most important measures that had ever been introduced to this Legislature in its history."

"I'm not proposing to run away," snapped the Premier. The appointment was cancelled.

Crossfire intervened on widows and orphans and Abitibi bonds, and the charge, flatly denied, that "the air developing around the Parliament Buildings" called for legal assistance if a deputation were to be received by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Henry tangled with the Attorney-General and suggested he was not an apt pupil. "You've got to know more than a dog before you can teach him any tricks," countered Premier

Hepburn. Mr. Henry did not think this was Parliamentary. The Speaker insisted he should repeat the words to which he objected.

"You've got to know more than a dog before you can teach him any tricks," the former Premier repeated solemnly, while the House tittered and then roared with laughter. The protested language had referred to the Attorney-General, who was raising no objection. Mr. Hepburn pointed out. "Go on," ruled Mr. Speaker.

"The Attorney-General was not the solon he sometimes thinks he is." Mr. Henry submitted a few minutes later.

"No more than you." The former Premier's head dropped an inch. "I'm just an humble farmer," he said.

"Overalls," sang out the Premier, and Premier and former Premier invited each other to a day at Oriole and St. Thomas.

So the debate continued with Mr. Henry rounding out the power premises that the Government did not dare to cut off the Gatineau 60-cycle contract, and the consumptive capacity figures were open to question.

A Blunt Question.

Premier Hepburn put a blunt question to the Leader of the Opposition. "What would you have done about the Hydro contracts had you been Prime Minister?" he asked.

"I would have negotiated with the bondholders and attempted to set up some form of moratorium for a postponement of delivery of power."

"Then why doesn't the honorable the Leader of the Opposition argue along those lines?" asked Premier Hepburn. "Now you're talking sense. You know we are in a tough spot."

Mr. Henry then expressed the view that the Province can carry all the power contracted for and still have cheap power rates.

"Would you authorize the construction of another transmission line at a cost of \$20,000,000, which would have to be done to take delivery of all Gatineau power?" asked the Premier.

The Leader of the Opposition evaded the question until pressed by the Premier, but finally admitted there was no need for the transmission line.

"That's exactly what we are doing," the Premier put in.

Would Ask for Delay.

The former Premier then stated that were he Premier now he would first have made a decision "not to repudiate."

"There was a way of dealing with the bondholders," he maintained. "I would have asked for delay in delivery of the power—I would have asked for a delay in the generation of the power." That was urged on the Hydro Commission in 1933 by the Chief Engineer. The problem at that time didn't come to the Government. The Commission decided not to abide by the recommendation of Gaby (Chief Engineer.)

"Does the honorable member know that the bondholders have no say over the price of power unless the companies are in default?" the Attorney-General asked.

"I believe the bondholders would have been pleased to have the contracts continued at a lower rate of interest," said Mr. Henry.

Faith in the Future.

"Why didn't you try it?" asked the Attorney-General.

"Because we had a little more faith in the future of this Province," was the reply.

"And because you had little or no regard for the handling of public money," put in Mr. Roebuck.

"I just wonder how many of the Government members are enthusiastic over the Government attitude," declared Mr. Henry.

"Try them out," urged the Hon. David A. Croll, Minister of Public Welfare.

"Call in the members," suggested Mr. Roebuck.

"This bill," declared Mr. Henry, "is the most iniquitous measure ever presented to an Ontario Legislature."

"It was conceived in iniquity," opined the Premier.

"No Fraud."

"I heard a Government member say outside this Chamber that it was conceived in fraud," said Mr. Henry. "There was no fraud. You are trying to protect yourselves behind men who cannot sit in this Legislature. Isn't it dishonest for a Government to break its word?"

The Federal Government, the Premier pointed out, is asking farmers to write their farm loan mortgages

down 50 per cent. He regarded this as a form of repudiation.

"It's amending a contract," opined Mr. Henry.

"Oh, yes—it all depends on whose ox is gored," put in the Premier.

Mr. Henry then declared: "If the present Premier steps out of office with as clear a conscience as I did he will be fortunate."

"Your conscience is like your appendix—it's an inactive organ," shot back Premier Hepburn.

The former Premier delved into Hydro figures which, he alleged, had been used by Mr. Hepburn when leader of the Liberal Party.

"Paid Tory propaganda," the Premier snapped back.

"Paid Tory propaganda in the Hamilton Herald?" Mr. Henry asked in full sarcasm.

Reading of clippings continued. Mr. Hepburn remarked on the collection. "I suppose that's all you have to do except collect dividends," he suggested. "Have you got any more impudence to get off?" asked Mr. Henry.

A clipping was read from The Globe. "Paid Tory propaganda," the Premier said. "Paid Tory propaganda in The Globe?" the former Premier exclaimed. "I knew of The Globe being astute enough to use a reporter who was a Conservative," said Mr. Henry, "but I have always found them printing the truth."

"In the North we found a paid Tory propagandist, Walter Wraith," Premier Hepburn charged. Mr. Hepburn said that Wraith had admitted he was paid to follow Hon. Peter Heenan and the Premier and produce Tory propaganda.

Recital Coupled.

Mr. Henry coupled the recital of his newspaper clippings with an attack on the Premier for the use of such figures. "The Prime Minister," he charged, "gave us figures this afternoon that he can find no basis for in fact."

Mr. Henry admitted that the contracts were a load, but a load that could be carried. He repeated his appeal for negotiations with a view to a postponement of the power delivery. His Government had not accomplished that because the burden had not seemed onerous before 1937.

The Ogoki development was "a matter for visions more becoming to the Minister of Agriculture."

"You don't inspire visions—you inspire bad dreams," countered Hon. Duncan Marshall.

Chats Falls figures were cited. "It didn't stand," snapped Premier Hepburn, "that we had to enter into a lopsided contract with Killam of the Mail and Empire." Mr. Henry said he didn't know Mr. Killam.

"By his works you know him," said the Attorney-General.

The hope for an understanding was repeated. "A mailed fist with a club in it—that's the way the Leader of the Government thinks of negotiations," charged the former Premier. Nor, he suggested, were the Liberal members or the Cabinet a unit—no matter how unanimously they voted—behind this bill. More crossfire continued as this issue was fought on.

View Expressed.

The Leader of the Opposition expressed the view that the word "repudiation" would "stick to the Premier as long as you live."

A remark was interjected about the reported Opposition filibuster.

"I never discussed a filibuster with any one," declared Mr. Henry, saying it was the imagination of a newspaper reporter.

"You just practice one," put in