

of the Niagara Falls Park and Electrical Development Company. The right accorded to the company to develop power on the Niagara River was regarded as a monopoly which should be broken, and it was broken by the cancellation act of the Hearst Government, he said.

"We are in exactly the same position today," the Attorney-General said, "and the cases are parallel."

"The holdings of the Electrical Development Company, were taken over by the City of Toronto and the Province," said Colonel W. H. Price.

"At a later date," replied Mr. Roebuck.

"Does the present Government intend to take over the holdings of the power companies?" asked Mr. Price.

Holdings of Power Companies.

"You don't know what we intend to do," replied the Attorney-General. "We may or we may not. I am under no obligation to reveal our plans, in view of the calibre of the debate of the Opposition."

"Does the Government intend taking over the Chats Falls in Quebec?" Mr. Price asked.

"The Government has no announcement to make just now," was the reply.

"Do you deny you will take it over?" pressed Colonel Price.

"The Government has no announcement at present," Mr. Roebuck repeated.

The definite suggestion that an interprovincial conference on the situation is possible was made when the Attorney-General visualized Premier Hepburn sitting at one end of a conference table "and the Premier of another Province at the other end."

"This bill," he added, "frees the hands to take such steps as is believed wise between conflicting parties."

Turning more definitely to power purchases, the Attorney-General expressed the view that Ontario could have got along without Gattineau power.

"Why didn't the former Government," he asked, "develop power on the Calabogie, the Madawaska and the Mississippi?"

"Because we couldn't," a Conservative memoer put in.

"Then why did you pay \$1,800,000 for it, and why did you pay John Aird Jr. \$50,000 for his part in the deal?" the Attorney-General shot back amid applause.

Brief Against Cancellation.

On the final record the Conservative Opposition placed their brief against cancellation of contracts. Conservative arguments were summed by former Attorney-General W. H. Price and former Premier Henry, and the latter made a formal statement of opposition as he moved the six-months' hoist.

"We are opposed to the legislation," Mr. Henry said, "because it means a repudiation of legal contracts for purchasing power in Quebec; because the Niagara and Eastern Ontario systems will require in a few years all power contracted for under the agreements; because the Niagara and Eastern Ontario systems are now taking sufficient power to warrant continuance of the contracts."

Hydro municipalities affected by the agreements were not consulted in the cancellation—are not to be consulted in negotiations for new contracts, he charged. The Opposition had not been furnished with briefs showing reasons for or the effect of "repudiation." Also refused, Mr. Henry said, were the opinion by Lewis Duncan and any brief from the Hydro engineers on the effects of cancellation.

"The Opposition," said the former Premier, "interested in the welfare of the citizens of this Province as users of power in all its branches, and in the good name and credit of the Province, but not interested in any power company, believe that repudiation would have the following results:

"Damage the credit of Ontario; disrupt business; destroy confidence; increase unemployment; create future power shortage and postpone recovery, and would stimulate the incentive for new industrial plants to locate in Quebec rather than in On-

tario, because of the possibility of lower power rate and assurance of definite power supply, and for the same reason might cause present plants now located in Ontario to move to the Province of Quebec.

"We suggest that the Government should allow the contracting power companies time to negotiate with the bondholders in a plan of revision of said contracts that would be fair and equitable to all parties concerned."

Says Credit Affected.

"The credit of Canada as a whole is hanging in the balance—the length of our debate was essential to present the facts to the Legislature—the Attorney-General possibly had a bad dream," and hence the amendment providing for proclamation, according to Premier Henry.

"If they intend to cancel the contract, to make us the laughing-stock for the world—that's bad," said Colonel Price. "If they intend to use it as a club—that's bad. The Attorney-General brought up a brief—but a partisan brief. He can't plead his own case, be his own jury, be his own Judge."

Leopold Macaulay concluded with a thrust at the Hydro engineers—"every one under duress, under threat of dismissal—no reduction in salary in effect yet for engineers who have been signing on the dotted line every day." An Attorney-General "blinded by partisanship" was urged to remove from his mind the idea that those opposed to him were dishonest or near-criminal.

Hon. Harry C. Nixon flung the blame on the Opposition when Mr. Macaulay charged credit downfall again. "This is entirely political," the former Minister said, as he summed up for the Conservative Opposition.

In a wind-up of the lengthy debate two charges were flung at bygone transactions by Sam Lawrence, C.C.F. member for Hamilton, and by J. H. Clark of Windsor. In the form of a question, Mr. Lawrence placed the charge that no steps had been taken by the Conservative Government to protect the investing public when the first Beauharnois project binds were issued. The source of his argument, he admitted, was Frank Regan—"but they're unanswerable."

In a review of the circumstances, Colonel Price said that it had not come under his purview as Attorney-General.

Episodes connected with a couple of the contracts deserved review, Mr. Clark said. "If you want an idea look at the Dominion Power and Transmission Company." For a company whose stock was listed at \$30, he charged that the former Government had paid approximately \$70. "Twenty-two million for a pile of obsolete junk."

Dr. Arthur Des Rosiers struck up "Allouette" as the House voted the bill through its third and final reading.

Admission that the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission was exporting power to the United States was drawn from Attorney-General Arthur Roebuck in the Legislature yesterday by Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways in the Henry Administration.

"You are not repudiating there," said Mr. Macaulay when the Attorney-General admitted that a power-export agreement had been taken over by Hydro when it absorbed a private concern.

Mr. Macaulay attempted to draw a parallel between this agreement and the so-called "secret agreements."

HENRY STILL SILENT

Power Bond Ownership Query Unanswered

Once again the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. George S. Henry, was given an opportunity to say whether or not he is a holder of Quebec power bonds, but declined to divulge his position.

In the Ontario Legislature, Attorney-General Roebuck, after referring to Mr. Henry's former holding of Abitibi bonds, said: "The honorable the Leader of the Opposition was asked if he held Quebec power bonds. He maintained a very cautious silence."

The Attorney-General added, looking across at Mr. Henry: "I fancy I can see one of the power barons himself sitting in this Legislature."