

March 6

CHATS FALLS PLAN CALLED "USELESS"

Ex-Secretary Questions Commission's Ability

George Challies, Eastern Ontario Conservative M.P.P., last night told the Legislature that the expensive Chats Falls conversion constructed by Hydro last summer for Eastern Ontario, was "absolutely useless" to that area.

The statement was part of a strongly worded attack on the Hydro regime and its policies.

The Henry Government Provincial Secretary directly questioned the qualifications of the present Hydro Commissioners.

Of Chairman T. Stewart Lyon, he stated: "The only qualification I can see was that he was Chairman of a big rally at Massey Hall, coupled with the fact that he had a very intimate connection with the newspaper which is a great supporter of the Prime Minister."

Fierce Attack.

The Eastern Ontario member levelled the fiercest attack of this session on Hydro in a speech which began a little before 10 o'clock last night. He was not finished when the House rose at 11 o'clock.

Prime point of his early argument was the statement that the Commission was not now providing sufficiently for the future power demand of the Niagara area. Mr. Challies said the Attorney-General could not get enough power from the Niagara plants plus Chats Falls to suffice the Niagara area. The kilowatts out of Chippawa and the two Queenston plants would not supply the big Hydro division, he claimed.

Quebec, said Mr. Challies, was fortunate. Quebec was provided with cheap blocks of power which industry needed.

"I'm afraid my honorable friend won't sleep well tonight after all the stories he's telling," interrupted Mr. Hepburn. "How about the Attorney-General?" retorted Mr. Challies.

"I suggest he'll be standing himself in a corner and putting his umbrella to bed for a month."

When Mr. Challies resumed the discussion of the power contracts entered into by the Liberal Government, he mentioned Arthur Slaght, only to have Premier Hepburn rise in protest.

"I object to the suggestion that Mr. Slaght negotiated the agreement with the Maclaren Company," he said. "He took no part in those negotiations."

"His stamp of approval appeared on the final draft," argued Mr. Challies.

"But not on the early negotiations," said the Premier.

Peak Argued.

The member tangled with Hydro Commissioner T. B. McQuesten about the height of current Hydro peak loads.

"You are telling people to keep off the secondary load," Mr. Challies charged. "Where can you ever build up industry if you tell them to keep off the peak load?"

The Eastern member wanted to know if Hydro's "month by month engineers" approved of a 50,000 horsepower annual increment for the Niagara area. He wanted their report if they had done so.

Turning eastward, Mr. Challies first assailed the Premier, "because he so lacked vision as to say he opposed the St. Lawrence work." The Hydro critic noted with approval that there had been no mention this year of steam power or Ogoki in the speeches on Hydro's future power supplies.

"Eastern Ontario," he said, "has always been dependent on Quebec power, and we're satisfied with Quebec power. The frequency change at Chats Falls should be pulled out and sent back to Hamilton."

vative) Government did purchase too much power."

But, on the other hand, he concluded, the present Government had cancelled contracts for power which some day would be sorely needed, and then had entered into further contracts at a loss.

For, he said, the new Gatineau purchase agreement entered into would cost the Government \$1,802,250, while the previous agreement, rejected by the Government in December, would have involved an outlay of only \$1,615,000.

TEN MILLIONS SAVED, IS CLAIM

Hepburn Regime Credit- ed With Economies

How the Hepburn Administration has cut down Government expenses for the sake of the Ontario taxpayer was told with cold figures in last night's Legislature.

Major J. H. ("Jim") Clark, Windsor, M.P.P., told the story of Government economy. He showed how the Administration had cut costs and raised revenues in almost every department at Queen's Park.

The Major's list of various economies represented savings of nearly \$10,000,000, it was estimated after his speech.

The "baby public accounts" presented by the Windsor member included revenue figures for several of the departments, which are up to date and will not be printed until in the public accounts next fall. The Major figured savings by making comparisons with similar periods of the Henry regime.

His first statement was that the cost of servicing the public debt had been cut by \$20,000 a month below 1934.

Economies Summarized.

A summary of increased revenues and economies was given as follows:

In the Department of Highways a saving of \$11,000 was made in administrative costs and there was an increase of \$5,147,000 in revenue.

In the Department of Lands and Forests, for the five-month period ending in March there was a total saving of \$1,266,000, of which \$410,000 was made up through reduced air services.

In the Department of Education for the fiscal year 1935 there was a saving of \$1,330,179.

The Department of Game and Fisheries showed a total surplus of \$303,499 for the fiscal year 1935.

To January, 1936, the Department of Mines showed a saving of \$32,745 and the Department of Health a saving in salaries of \$55,714.

In the Attorney-General's Department there was an increase in revenue, and there were economies effected which totalled \$337,139, for the end of November, 1935.

In the Department of the Provincial Secretary there was saving during eighteen months of \$17,929. In the Prison and Reformatories branch the total saving was \$188,470.

From August, 1934, to January, 1936, there was a saving of \$10,418 in the Northern Development Department.

A second big saving, Major Clark reported, was in the Public Works Department, which had cut capital expenses by two and a half million.

KENORA SHARE IS \$7,000,000

Sum Includes Trans-Canada, Says Heenan

Ontario's Northern Development Department has spent \$7,313,039 in his riding of Kenora since Aug. 1, 1934, Hon. Peter Heenan told the Legislature yesterday. The sum, the Minister said, included the Dominion's share of the "trans-Canada" expenditures.

At the same time, with a neat bit of parliamentary strategy, Mr. Heenan let the House know that there were 79,175 square miles in Kenora riding, or more than in Old Ontario, and that four highway contracts in the riding were let by the late Government.

The Minister informed the House that the sum of \$1,906,151 had been paid to the Dufferin Paving Company to date in connection with the Kenora-Fort Frances contract—a contract which has already been under Opposition fire.

No aeroplanes have been purchased by the Ontario Government since July 15, 1934. Mr. Heenan informed the House, in answer to a question put by Wilfrid Heighington (Conservative, Toronto-St. David). But the Government has purchased rights for the manufacture of aeroplanes. The sole rights to manufacture the Buhl CA-6 air sedan, or to sell such, has been purchased from A. H. Buhl and L. D. Buhl of Detroit for \$700. One aeroplane has been built and three are in process of construction. The total cost of such an aeroplane is \$11,916.

Mr. Heenan, in answer to a question of J. F. Hill (Conservative, Hastings East), said that no contracts have been let by the Department of Lands and Forests for snowplowing. In answer to a question of Dr. A. D. Roberts (Liberal, Sault Ste. Marie), he stated that the Williams Hardware Company of Kenora did business in the years 1930-1934 with the Government amounting to \$301,117. During 1932, purchases by the Department of Northern Development from this firm had totalled \$189,219.