

HENRY ASSAILS HYDRO POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT

Denounces Attorney-General Roebuck and The Globe

ADDRESS CARRIED

(By a vote of 67 to 18, the Legislature carried the Address. See Second Front Page.)

Hydro policies and Hydro commissions of inquiry set up by the Hepburn Government were flayed by former Premier Henry last night in a slashing Hydro speech in the Ontario Legislature.

The Conservative Leader's statements took the form of an attack on almost all Hydro operations set in motion by the present regime, and a defense of his Hydro and Abitibi record.

Mr. Henry wound up his speech by assailing The Globe "for justifying what you did in the way of repudiation."

He challenged the Hydro Commission—if they could get money at 2.5 per cent.—"as they say they can"—to convert the callable loans issued to pay for Abitibi. The saving, said Mr. Henry, would be \$6,000,000.

"Back to Beck."

"'Back to Beck.' How often have we heard those words," said Mr. Henry. "We never left Beck. I say we never left him."

"Didn't he leave you in 1919, refusing to run as Conservative candidate?" asked Premier Hepburn.

"Sir Adam would never have backed you in contract repudiation," Mr. Henry went on.

"The situation wouldn't have arisen. We wouldn't have been placed in a position making it necessary," shot back the Premier.

"What were we to do?" the former Premier wanted to know. "We needed power, and your friends down

at Ottawa were blocking the St. Lawrence development. What, I ask, were we to do? There may be some debate whether we overbought with regard to Beauharnois and Maclaren, but there should be no word of criticism of our Gatineau purchases."

Turning to the Chats Falls development, Mr. Henry doubted that the Falls was capable of the power output claimed for it.

When Attorney-General Roebuck took issue with him, Mr. Henry said: "What you say is not true, and if I were not prevented by Parliamentary procedure I'd tell you what I think of it."

Mr. Henry proceeded to read the words of Junius, as reproduced daily on The Globe's editorial page: "The subject who is truly loyal to the Chief Magistrate will neither advise nor submit to arbitrary measures."

"And that," he said, "is the slogan of The Globe—'Canada's National Newspaper,' as the radio announcer puts it. And this is the sheet that has been spending the last year in justifying what you did in the way of repudiation. This is the sheet that has been spending so much time and energy in attempting to bolster up a floundering Government."

Mr. Henry then quoted an editorial in The Globe of last Saturday commenting upon Hon. W. H. Price's attack on the Government's Hydro policies. The editorial, he said, was deliberately misleading.

"That," he said, "is the organ that has been supporting your Government."

"Yes, and we're proud of it," interjected Attorney-General Roebuck.

"If I were depending on a broken reed like that, I wouldn't be proud of it," rejoined Mr. Henry.

"I'd like to know," said Colonel F. Fraser Hunter (Liberal, Toronto-St. Patrick), "whether the newspapers are running this Province, or is there any intelligence at all?"

"Well, now, my friend from St. Patrick has put a poser," Mr. Henry retorted. "I can't answer it."

"Can't you think something up for yourself?" Colonel Hunter wanted to know.

The former Premier Henry challenged Hydro Commission to convert callable bonds issued to pay for Abitibi at the lower interest rates which Commission spokesmen said they could get for Hydro money today.

The former Premier told Attorney-General Roebuck that, if he could convert those callable bonds at 2.5, "as the Attorney-General says he can," there would be a saving of \$6,000,000 during the life of the bonds.

"My friend said he could get all the money he wanted at 2.5," Mr. Henry told the Attorney-General. "Why pay 3.5?"

The bonds, he said he understood, were convertible at any interest date and an interest date occurred at the end of the month.

"You can start right now."

The Conservative Leader had previously tangled with the Premier when he read him a lecture on the necessity of laying out the Provincial debt in long-term loans now.

"Some one will reap a harvest of difficulty, debt and want unless the present Premier goes into the long-term market," Mr. Henry said after he had pointed out that the short-term commitments of the Government had mounted to almost 18 per cent. of the debt.

"We are still floating on a falling money market," the Premier flashed back. "When the time is opportune we will refund. I regret that my honorable friend floated \$65,000,000

(Henry regime loans) at 5 per cent. when he must have known we were on a falling market."

The Conservative Leader answered back with the charge that the Government seemed ready to give the public the impression they could get cheap money—"and they haven't got it yet." The former Premier wanted to know what "wizard of finance" was telling the Premier he was on a falling money market.

"I don't know whether my friend knows it," answered the Premier, "but there is a possibility now of another general reduction in the interest in the chartered banks. We are glad our debt is in short-term loans so we can refund at the lower rate when we announce a balanced Budget—something you never did."

The former Premier swung into Hydro suddenly with the comment that Attorney-General Roebuck should have known it was a fruitless task—"to thresh old straw. Johnny Aird and the Madawaska. The old chestnut—worse than threshed straw." The Conservative Leader said the Madawaska was purchased because of its power possibilities, and he had yet to hear from the Hydro Commission that it shouldn't have been purchased.

Then while Liberal members murmured "threshing old straw" he repeated his answers to the Latchford-Smith Commission and tore into the Attorney-General and Arthur Slaght.

Flaring at Mr. Roebuck's statement that he was the Minister of Lands and Forests who signed the Abitibi leases, the Conservative Leader said that was "merely to build up the picture I was the villain, that I was anxious to sign, anxious to invest and make money for myself."

ADDRESS ADOPTED BY 67-18

Tory Want-of-Confidence Amendment Lost by Same Vote

BY A VOTE of 67 to 18 the Hepburn Government, with its young Leader still blushing under a tribute as the most popular public figure in Canada, was upheld in the Ontario Legislature last night on division on the Speech from the Throne.

At 11.20 p.m., in a House showing the strain of a solid month of debate, which began on Feb. 11, the Legislature by that count defeated a want-of-confidence amendment moved by William Duckworth (Cons., Toronto-Dovercourt), and by the same figure upheld the original motion of approval of the Speech.

While party lines were rigidly observed, the two independent members divided their support. Sam Lawrence, East Hamilton C.C.F. representative, voting with the Conservative Opposition, while Farquhar Oliver, South Grey, U.F.O. member, voted for the Government.

The division ended a day of the most consistently spirited oratory and bitter debate since the session opened, with Hon. George S. Henry, Conservative Leader, and Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, holding the attention of a tense House and packed galleries throughout the afternoon and evening.

School Grants Assailed.

Mr. Marshall ripped mercilessly into Conservative critics of his department and the Administration generally; saved his hottest verbal punches for A. H. Acres, the Carleton Tory, who had taken him to task last week; kept the House in roars of laughter with his quips at the Henry Administration and its few remnants in the Legislature; revived the Henry Abitibi bond issue with a warmth that had the former Premier calling for a retraction, and ended with a striking tribute to Premier Hepburn which his fellow-Liberals applauded.

Preceding the Minister of Agriculture, Conservative Leader Henry precipitated the calling of the Public Accounts Committee (the Legislature's probing body) while he was speaking.

Hon. Peter Heenan's offer to have his Northern contracts scanned by the "committee" was followed a few minutes later by the usual Opposition demand that it be convened.

Criticism of Government reduction of school grants, coupled with a plea for money to give poor students a university chance, also featured the Opposition Leader's attack.

"You have chosen to dig up the ghost of Johnny Aird here tonight," said Mr. Marshall. "Let me say that that ghost will follow you to your last day on earth, and, if it ever catches up with you, Heaven help you!"

The Minister recalled that the Department of Education, under Mr. Henry's regime, had increased departmental examination school fees, and had changed the examination date from June to July, "so that what you couldn't get out of their pockets you could sweat out of their hides."

Mr. Marshall pointed out, in response to last week's attack on his administration by A. H. Acres, Conservative member for Carleton, that the exports of farm produce had increased in the past year by \$13,000,000, of which 59 per cent. went to the United Kingdom.

Regarding Mr. Acres's request for a tuberculosis test of cattle, the Minister charged that for several years Mr. Acres sat under a Tory Adminis-