

January 21

## M.P.P.'s Hurl Taunts Across House Floor

### Liberals Gibe at Leader- at-Large Rowe; Chal- lies and Macaulay Get Into Fight

Recalling memories of the days when Premier Hepburn was labelled "leader-at-large" by the Conservative Government of the day, Attorney-General Roebuck yesterday singled out Conservative Leader Earl Rowe for attack on the power question.

The Conservative group came immediately to the defense of the absentee chieftain when the Attorney-General accused him of pledging the Conservative Party to a renewal of the Quebec contracts by "repudiating the repudiation."

George H. Challies (Con., Grenville-Dundas), former Provincial Secretary, took issue with Mr. Roebuck when the latter charged that if elected to office Mr. Rowe had said he would restore the Quebec power contracts.

"Mr. Rowe said no such thing," retorted Mr. Challies.

"Then he won't re-establish the power contracts?" asked the Attorney-General.

"No," said Mr. Challies.

Liberal members thereupon banged their desks and there were cries of "come over on this side."

"What do you say about it?" asked Acting Premier Nixon.

"I'm not saying," said Mr. Challies shortly.

A little later Mr. Roebuck ridiculed the rumor of a power shortage and charged the Opposition with insincerity for making this accusation.

"How can you charge us with insincerity when your own Prime Minister, before he went away, publicly said he would look into this power question himself?" demanded Leopold Macaulay (Cons., South York).

"That's the kind of a Leader we have," retorted the Attorney-General. "He doesn't take anybody's word for things. And when he looks into it and finds everything all right, I suppose my honorable friend will take his word for it."

"And if it's all wrong?" queried Mr. Macaulay.

"We'll fix it," quickly replied Mr. Roebuck.

"He'll fix you," remarked House Leader George Henry, amidst laughter.

## LIBERALS PLAN 'GRAB' PROTEST

Toronto M.L.A.'s to Seek  
Compensation for City  
in Caucus

### HUNTER A CRITIC

Into party caucus next Wednesday the Toronto Liberal members of the Legislature will, it is reported, carry their recent fight against the Hepburn Government's so-called "grab" of all Toronto income tax paid under the Provincial law, unless they have definite assurance beforehand of the Government's willingness to compensate the city adequately for its loss of revenue.

#### Liberal Supports Conservative.

That the Government's action is still resented by a number of its Toronto M.L.A. supporters was evidenced in the Legislature yesterday when Colonel Fraser Hunter, D.S.O. (St. Patrick) outspokenly supported Conservative criticism of that action. The incident arose during Attorney-General Roebuck's lengthy review of the Hydro situation in the Niagara district. Toronto power consumers, said Mr. Roebuck, had been saved \$735,000 by the Government's power policy, "but the municipal authorities," he said, "have screamed to high heaven at what they claim is a loss in revenue of less than \$500,000, resulting from the policy of withholding income tax allowances."

"Are you aware?" interrupted W. A. Baird (Cons., High Park), "that the saving to Hydro consumers does not affect the tax rate?" It was the effect of the income tax policy upon the Toronto tax rate which had aroused the ire of the municipal authorities, he claimed. Although Hydro bills might have been reduced, the tax rate, he added, would be increased.

#### Definition of Toronto.

The Attorney-General rose to reply, but Colonel Hunter beat him to the draw. "I would like to back up the member who has just spoken," declared Colonel Hunter. "You entirely neglect to understand," he told Mr. Roebuck, "who is the City of Toronto. I want to inform you that it consists of 98,000 taxpayers and 700,000 human beings who do not pay taxes."

"I'm obliged to my friend for his information," Mr. Roebuck replied. "There are people in Toronto who don't pay taxes and who use Hydro. I don't know of any one in Toronto who doesn't use Hydro. Maybe their Hydro bill is on a different piece of paper than their income tax bill, but the fact remains that one dollar saved on a bill is as good as a dollar saved on any other bill."