

January 22

TO ENLARGE ABITIBI PLANT

Hydro Plans \$500,000 Expenditure, Attorney-General Announces

NEEDS MORE POWER

The Ontario Hydro Commission plans a \$500,000 expenditure to secure an adequate supply of power to meet rapidly increasing demands in the Abitibi area, Attorney-General Roebuck told the Legislature yesterday. The Abitibi plant's present installed capacity of 275,000 horsepower would be sufficient for the next three years, which was not a great deal of margin, he said.

"It must be pointed out that the mining plants operate day and night, and the electric load is on a twenty-four-hour basis," said Mr. Roebuck. "The call on the water supply at Abitibi plant is, therefore, continuous, and the quantities of water used are tremendous. The load that can be supplied by the plant is limited not by the capacity of its equipment, but rather by its water supply.

"It is estimated by Hydro's engineers that the demand for firm power will, in the next three years, reach the capacity available from the present flow. This capacity may be increased by construction of a storage dam on the Frederickhouse River to control the levels of the Frederickhouse and Night Hawk Lakes — the installation of which was part of the original plan for the Canyon development.

"Construction of this dam would make available an estimated 300,000-acre feet of storage, and increase the dependable flow to 6,200 cubic feet per second. It would also provide for an additional load of approximately 40,000 horsepower," the Attorney-General said.

HYDRO BILLS INTRODUCED

Intention to Withdraw Security Posted on Appeal Indicated

The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario intends to withdraw all moneys posted with the Supreme Court as security in connection with appeals of law suits against it, according to the terms of a bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday by Hon. T. B. McQuesten, a member of the Hydro Commission.

The sum involved was about \$127,000, Mr. McQuesten told the House. Any further need for the Hydro Commission to post security in connection with future cases will be obviated by the measure.

The bill was one of two which were designed to strengthen the position of the Hydro Commission in respect to legal actions against it. The other, also introduced yesterday by Mr. McQuesten, clarifies the meaning of the "consent" clause of the Power Commission Act.