

January 27

Government representatives on the Provincial Hydro Commission, got into a brisk cross-chamber fight with Mr. Macaulay at this juncture.

"Are you charging" he asked, "that Toronto can't get all the power it requires?"

"It couldn't in December," replied Mr. Macaulay.

Mr. McQuesten submitted that what had been done in Toronto in the way of reducing voltage had been done by the local Commission.

"You appoint members to that, don't you?" asked Mr. Macaulay.

#### Asks For Instructions.

"The good ones," Mr. McQuesten retorted. "Well, I repeat that Toronto wouldn't have dared resorted to that trick without direct instructions from the Provincial Hydro."

"On what do you base such a charge?" demanded Mr. McQuesten.

"Show us the instructions."

"We can produce the instructions," said Mr. Macaulay, "and of course you won't. Do you think for a minute that the Toronto Hydro would have adopted such methods without instructions from higher up?"

Never. And the whole thing has been done — this depressing of power demands — in order to justify the unsound stand of the Government on the contracts situation."

"What Bill 31 purports to do," he said, "is to change the Constitution of Canada and of its Provinces by unlawful means, so as to seize jurisdiction over subjects which were not assigned to it by the British North America Act, and the way it is seized is by the Moscow expedient of ordering that no sheriff, bailiff or officer of any court shall execute, carry out or assist in executing or carrying out any process of law or judgment of any court heretofore or hereafter given, made, entered or issued. What right had the Attorney-General to order any sheriff or bailiff or officer of a court not to carry out a judgment of the highest court of Canada or the Privy Council if that judgment is interpreting the British North America Act and giving effect to Dominion jurisdiction as distinct from Provincial jurisdiction?"

#### Glass Supports Bill.

The Hydro record during the past two years, when an improvement of twelve millions had been shown, was sufficient to warrant support of the Government's Hydro policy, declared John Glass, K.C. (Liberal, St. Andrew-Toronto), who went to great lengths in his argument to support the legal foundation of the bill.

Not one Government member in the Legislature would appear after the next election if he votes in favor of the bill, A. Hollis Acres (Cons., Carleton) declared when he made a plea that any surplus power be utilized in a rural power extension scheme that could also wipe out much unemployment by giving thousands of men work.

As one who had spoken from the same platform with Sir Adam Beck at the opening of the first Hydro enterprise in Ontario, William Newman (Lib., Victoria), was proud to still pledge himself to the principle of power at cost, he said.

#### "The British Way."

Whatever money might be saved through repudiation, it would fall far short of the loss sustained from power shortage and the eventual loss of prestige from repudiating an obligation, William Duckworth (Cons., Dovercourt), declared.

The British method, he said, was to seek to find a way out by conciliation. This principle alone had kept peace in the world for ten years, he said, and all British people had carried on in the British way.

"Look at The Globe and Mail," said Mr. Duckworth. "When The Globe took over The Mail and Empire there was no repudiation. If there were obligations, they were

assumed like a man. That is an example to this Government. Now this official organ of the party says you should abide by the court's decision."

#### Wants Expert Advice.

Throughout its whole record of Hydro administration, the Government had revealed an attitude of disappointed suspicion in which it had tried to "hang something dishonest" on previous administrators, yet had failed miserably in its efforts. Wilfrid Heighington (Cons., St. David's, Toronto), declared, Conservative-appointed probes and Liberal-appointed probes had revealed not one improper action.

"Remember," stressed Mr. Heighington, "that you have been asked from the outset to take this whole course of action on allegations of the Attorney-General alone. I am sure he lays no claim to knowledge held alone by a hydraulic or electrical engineer. I suggest that no one in this House knows the real truth and the real facts. Let us, if we are the highest court in Ontario, have all the evidence before us, hear the testimony of the engineers who recommended these power purchases, and then issue our judgment."

"Can the Attorney-General name one court in the land that would pass its judgment on the argument alone of the counsel in court?" asked Mr. Heighington. "Yet that is the fact in this case. The Attorney-General has come in here, fired his allegations and demands a judgment in his favor. I demand that he submit his witnesses and his testimony. I have not lost faith in this Assembly yet, but faith will be lost in it by the people if this course of action is pursued."

A reserve of 120,000 horsepower, or about 10 per cent. of the 1936 peak load, was quoted by D. M. Campbell (Lib., Kent) as an example of the present Hydro Commission's methods of keeping power costs at as low a price as possible in Ontario.

"In brief, the situation appears to be this," declared Goldwyn Elgie (Cons., Woodbine). "More compromise and less dictation could have settled the present controversy without appeal to the courts, if there had been no appeal to courts, there would have been no judgment against Hydro. And if there had been no judgment against Hydro the Attorney-General of Ontario would not have had the present opportunity to stir up Bolsheviks in the Province by a measure which The Globe and Mail has aptly described as this 'wretched bill.'"

## WILL LICENSE GASOLINE MEN

Stricter Administration of  
Gasoline Tax Provided  
in Regulations

FEE A NOMINAL ONE

Retailers Also to Be Li-  
censed, But Will Pay  
No Fee

Licensing of all importers, refiners, distributors, jobbers and wholesalers of gasoline in Ontario and the imposition of a nominal fee of \$1 for each tank or reservoir and each conveyance used for transporting gasoline are provided for under new regulations to the Gasoline Handling Act which the Hepburn Government passed at the 1936 session of the Legislature. These new regulations which come into effect on Feb. 1, next, also provide for the licensing of each retailer of gasoline under a no fee system, as a means of guaranteeing stricter administration of the present gasoline tax.

"The remaining parts of the new regulations," said Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways, yesterday, "are designed for the prevention of fire and explosion and come under the joint jurisdiction of the Department of Highways and the Fire Marshal's Office and govern the transportation of gasoline and other flammable petroleum products on highways as well as the bulk and retail storage and handling of gasoline. Minimum specifications for tank trucks, bulk and retail storage are given, and provision is made for the gradual elimination of all curb gasoline pumps and also for the visible type of gasoline pump in which large quantities of gasoline are kept above ground in a glass container."

Mr. McQuesten said that the new regulations are also designed to help lessen the danger of fires in homes through the improper use of gasoline, by providing for the sale of gasoline, for other than use in an automobile, only in a safety type of metal container. This is in line, he claimed, with the present provisions of the Ontario Insurance Act which renders an insurance policy void if gasoline in the building is contained in a glass jar or any other type of a container except a metal can. The only other part of the regulations affecting directly the general public is, he stated, the provision that car engines are to be shut off when the tanks are being filled at service stations.