

In various stages of their cross-chamber power argument. Dr. Simpson, in generally milder tones, took his gloves off but once, and then when he charged Rev. A. W. Downer (Cons.), a neighbor constituency representative, with trying to rouse "religious prejudices" during the election campaign.

Says Engineer Wrote Speech.

Characterizing Attorney-General Conant's recent Hydro speech as "the same old song and dance" that his predecessor in office, A. W. Roebuck, used to give to the House, Mr. Henry charged that it had been prepared by a Hydro engineer "who seeks promotion in the service" for his work.

"This is the same man," rapped Mr. Henry, "who fairly cringed when he was in the witness box before the Latchford Commission. If ever a man crawled he did. He was on a day-to-day salary basis, and he was afraid he would lose his job."

It was very odd, said Mr. Henry, that Mr. Conant, a newcomer to the Cabinet, should take it upon himself to absolve the Premier of any responsibility for the post-election reversal of the election "Back to Niagara" power campaign. The two Hydro Commissioners, said he, had sat idly by in the Legislature and had heard the Attorney-General say how he had "ganged up" on the Premier and had made him change his mind.

Apparently the Attorney-General, to accept his word at face value, was the "king-pin" in all the negotiations for the new Quebec contracts. It was difficult, he said, to reconcile such a situation with Mr. Hepburn's assurances when the Hydro Commission was re-organized that the new Commissioners would have "a free hand."

"Which was right," put in Acting Chairman W. L. Houck. "The

Attorney-General was only concerned with the litigation end of the power situation."

At the start of his criticism of the Government on Hydro matters Mr. Henry suggested that Engineer Jeffery might have written the Attorney-General's speech, as he used to (said Mr. Henry) for Mr. Roebuck. This accusation Mr. Conant denied, and from then on in the clash of tempers which the Hydro argument produced there was no further "Jeffery" reference.

The former Prime Minister of the Province alleged that Mr. Hepburn's "Back to Niagara" declaration during the election constituted "the most brazen mis-statements of fact" ever perpetrated by a public man of Canada on an electorate. Mr. Hepburn, said he, preached "Back to Niagara" a hundred times, when he actually knew there was no more Niagara power to go back to.

"I'll not stand for any such charge like that," declared the Premier, and he read from documents that in April, 1937, months before the election, Ontario and Ottawa had entered into an agreement, subject to Washington's approval, whereby sufficient water would be diverted from Long Lac into the Great Lakes and through the Welland Canal to provide for a development of 200,000 horsepower at De Cew Falls.

"Firm power?" asked Mr. Henry.

"Peak power," said Mr. Hepburn.

"Oh, that's different," said Mr. Henry.

"Peak power isn't in the same category as firm power. What the Premier has tried to do—is to deceive the public again. He is trying to create the impression that 200,000 h.p. was to be developed at De Cew Falls."

Rebukes Conant.

The Government, from previous correspondence, which it had had with Ottawa, should have realized that there was no chance for the diversion it sought, said Mr. Henry, and yet, parried Mr. Hepburn, Ottawa had sent the agreement on to Washington with its blessing. The whole situation, said Mr. Henry, resolved itself down to "camouflage." None could tell him, said he, that the present Administration at Queen's Park had not realized that no more power could be obtained at Niagara. More "bosh and bunkum"—of a similar type, said he—was to be found in one of the closing clauses of the new Beauharnois contract, where it was provided that the terms of the contract might be extended to the year 2003. "That is just window-dressing of the worst type," said he. "Of course the company will sell more power if the price is made right for them."

More fur flew momentarily as Mr. Henry crossed rapiers with the Government benches over the old Hydro radials issue which Mr. Conant in his recent speech had revived. "Long before you ever came into this house," declared Mr. Henry, with a significant nod at Mr. Conant, "that had all been disposed of, and if you know anything about farming you must realize that threshing old straw serves no purpose."

Sir Adam Beck, said he, had undertaken radials to dispose of surplus power. They hadn't been very satisfactory, he admitted.

"You didn't stop them," said Mr. Conant.

"The Gregory Commission did," said Premier Hepburn.

"And that Commission cost nearly as much as the radials," said Opposition Leader Macaulay.

Just because the radials had been

halted by the Drury Administration, submitted Mr. Henry, it couldn't be inferred that a Conservative Government wouldn't have stopped them, too, had it been faced with a similar situation.

"Why," said Provincial Secretary Nixon, "Hearst was committed to it, hook, line and sinker."

"You were the sinker," gibed Mr. Macaulay.

Mr. Henry claimed that Ontario had no major power sites outside of the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa and the rivers of the Hudson Bay watershed when the original contracts were signed. It would have been criminal of the Commission of that day to have not looked for the power beyond the Province as the demands leaped year by year, prior to 1930, he claimed.

He claimed that Attorney-General Conant had misinformed the House in his Hydro speech when he included 96,000 h.p. from MacLaren in his figure of alleged surplus power that resulted from the contracts. He wondered if he, too, secured figures from the Hydro office.

"Is the honorable member charging that Mr. Jeffery prepared my address?" asked Mr. Conant.

"I think I would be justified in suggesting that some one down in the Hydro office gave some assistance," replied Mr. Henry. Mr. Conant denied it. Mr. Hepburn, in cross-fire pertaining to the firing of Hydro officials, declared: "I told the people in the 1934 election that I would fire F. A. Gaby, the chief Hydro engineer, and they told me to do it by an overwhelming majority and I did it and I have no apologies to make."

Mr Henry argued that there was no wrong in the Commission of the day over-estimating power requirements and in not foreseeing the depression.

"Why did you sign the MacLaren contracts, after the depression set in?" asked Mr. Hepburn.

"There was no evidence of the depression in 1930—that was the peak year," said Mr. Hepburn, and he added, "there could have been an adjustment of the contracts without the rabid step of repudiation"

"Didn't you ask for a stay of power from Beauharnois and it was refused?" asked the Premier.

Mr. Henry couldn't recall it. He claimed that charges that the terms of the original contracts were iniquitous "were largely built up by persons who wanted to make something political out of it."

He recalled that last summer as Beauharnois bonds showed strength a man on the street told him there were new negotiations for Beauharnois power.

Dr. Simpson claimed that Mr. Henry had threshed more old straw than in any speech he had ever heard in the Legislature.

"When he referred to Govern-

ment House, after all, he did wave the flag very well, and suggested the most stupid thing he could suggest—that the Prime Minister was not as loyal as he is," said the Minister.

"Does he suggest that the link with the Crown is Chorley Park? Surely not. The link with the Crown is the Lieutenant-Governor himself, and there is no intention of interfering either with him or his office."

Surely, he claimed, Sir James Whitney was loyal, yet he in 1906 opposed the building of Government House because of the expense. Dr. Simpson then read from the House Journals of 1906 a record of how the Conservative group urged an amendment that Government House be discontinued because of expense in maintenance.

"Yet," said Dr. Simpson, "my honorable friend spent an hour of this House's time ranting about the closure of Government House. I repeat, the link with the Crown is the Lieutenant-Governor and not Government House."

Dr. Simpson observed that the present session was "very largely a love feast." He congratulated Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative House Leader, on his leadership and his willingness to do everything in his power to facilitate the work of the House.

He recalled when he was a member of the little Liberal Opposition, before Mr. Hepburn took over active direction of the affairs of the party. He recalled how Hon. Mr. Henry, then head of the Government, rose from his seat and "tried to put every member of the Liberal Opposition on the spot as to which Leader he would attempt to follow."

"It was the most contemptible thing—an attempt to embarrass new members. I want you to remember some of the abuse you heaped upon the Prime Minister during those years. I venture to say that no man in the public life of this Province had to take the abuse that the Hon. Mr. Hepburn had to take in those years from the Conservatives."

He regretted that Hon. Earl Rowe, Conservative Leader, did not see fit to enter the Legislature, but to attempt to lead and dictate policies from Ottawa. He said he saw signs of resentment from the Opposition.