

March 18

## HYDRO CREDITS CUT-OFF EARNS HOT CRITICISM

Export Power to Farmers,  
Not to U.S., Advice of  
Dufferin M.L.A.

SAYS COST TOO HIGH

Discontinuance of equipment credits in November of last year—one month after the Provincial general election was over—had practically washed out the beneficial effect of the lowered power rates which Hydro had instituted prior to the election, and on which Premier Hepburn and members of his Cabinet had actively campaigned, Rev. A. W. Downer (Cons., Dufferin-Simcoe) charged in the Legislature yesterday. "Will the Government please explain the discontinuance of these credits if it can?" asked Mr. Downer.

If there were more action and less talk about Hydro it would be much better for the Province as a whole, Mr. Downer submitted. "It seems that all we have heard this session is Hydro," he said. "Power experts seem to flourish as flowers of the field. Each spring brings a new crop. Much has been said about the man in the back concessions, but little has been done for him. He wants Hydro, he needs it, but the cost is prohibitive. Let us see to it that every farmer desiring Hydro service—and there are 166,000 of them—gets it and at the least possible cost. I would strongly recommend the abolition of the service charge altogether to bring about that desired end."

### Scores Power Program.

Mr. Downer scored the Government and the Hydro Commission for their reversals of policy on the Quebec contracts situation—for the "back-to-Niagara" campaign of deception practiced during the election—and for their present move to export current to the United States.

"Let's export that power to the back concessions of Ontario, and not to New York State," he added, "and give our own people a chance to benefit by it."

The whole Lake Sulphite financial collapse "smells, and smells badly," Mr. Downer alleged. The public was demanding that it be investigated, and the Government should investigate it at once, he said.

### Places Blame for C.I.O.

The Government also came in for a stiff panning from Mr. Downer on the C.I.O. question. The Government, he said, was responsible for the C.I.O. invasion of Ontario last spring. "If," he added, "they had enforced a minimum wage act, had enforced reasonable hours and fair conditions in industry, there would have been no occasion for that invasion. The C.I.O. is still in Ontario, and here to stay, as can be judged from the great testimonial banquet which was given Homer Martin and other C.I.O. leaders in Oshawa recently. Let me say to the Government: Give our people just wages and reasonable hours and we will have no fear of the C.I.O. or any other 'ism. We must eradicate the things that breed communism, fascism, and the C.I.O. Give every home a fair pay envelope and general unrest in this country will soon disappear."

Mr. Downer advocated the early appointment of a special committee from the House—not a Royal Commission; "we have too many of them as it is"—not a committee of lawyers and doctors, but one of successful farmers—to study farm conditions, and if necessary, go abroad and consider conditions and methods of operation there obtaining, with a view to improving the Ontario situation.

Mr. Downer supported the principle of compulsory pasteurization, but not the method of application as provided for in the current Government legislation. "It only applies to a few cities where there is pasteurization already," he said, "and I doubt if it will ever be extended any further. I wonder how much the canned milk people paid to the Government—"

Premier Hepburn, his face flaming with anger, was on his feet at once, and cut Mr. Downer off with a quick: "We've had enough of these irresponsible statements."

"Slimy insinuations," Provincial Secretary Nixon supplemented.

"Take it back or lay a definite charge," cracked the Premier.

"I make no definite charge," Mr. Downer replied.

"No, you bet you don't," Mr. Hepburn shouted.

## HOUSE SOLONS READ LECTURE ABOUT DUTIES

Love Feast Must Be Ended  
in Legislature, Asserts  
Col. Fraser Hunter

APATHETIC, HE THINKS

Col. Fraser Hunter told the Legislature last night that its members should take their duties more seriously in future, and declared it was time the "Love Feast" between members of the Government and Opposition, which had characterized sittings of the House during this session, was ended.

Opening the first night sitting of the Legislature since the session opened, the doughty member from Toronto-St. Patrick cautioned the House against its "lethargic attitude," which, he said, was rendering the members little more than "rubber stamps" in the legislation of the Province.

"Parliament can enact any law, irrespective of constitutional barriers," he said. "It can provide for such social reforms as old age pensions, or it can provide for boiling the Bishop of Rochester in oil if it chooses. But here in this House we are being treated to a love feast in which the term 'rubber stamp' has become a term of endearment. I would impress upon every member the necessity of taking his duties more seriously."

### Ridicules Front Benches.

The one-time Bengal Lancer swung into his sardonic attack on the Legislature's apparent apathy without any preliminary fanfare of trumpets as he likened the front benches of the House to the twenty-four blackbirds in the legendary pie.

"Looking over the legislative program before this House," he said, facetiously, "we find plenty of soothing songs for the twenty-four little boys in the front benches—and I've counted them, so my figures are correct—but very little meat for the people."

### Raps Government Cost.

Colonel Hunter took issue with the high cost of government in Canada, declaring that the Dominion spent \$500,000 more each year on government than did Great Britain, with more than 45,000,000 people to govern.

"Denunciation of this extravagance is useless," he declared. "We have found that out before. The only thing that will curb it is a declaration of war on 'squandermania' by the people themselves. In an average year this Government spends \$50,000,000 in cash and almost as much more in credits on the people of this Province. Last year we spent \$90,000,000 and we will soon be spending \$100,000,000."

"Those who pay should call the tune," he said, "but before they can do that they must be organized in some form of Dominion-wide body and speak with a united voice."

The lethargy of the electorate concerning the actions of their own representatives, Colonel Hunter believed, tended toward incompetence, extravagance and decay in government. He advocated the teaching of the duties of Government in schools throughout the Province so that men and women could be recruited for the Civil Service, well versed in the rules of government.

"Not until we can put the Civil Service on a plane above that of partisanship will we be able to rid this House of the turbulent priest of patronage," he exclaimed.