

April 7

"It reflects on the dignity of the Chair."

"Well, I have never declined to bow to a ruling of the Speaker or the Chair," said Mr. Roebuck, "and I'll not refuse now. I accept the ruling."

People Should Know.

Mr. Macaulay jumped to his feet, saying, "Well, let's see if I can talk to section 4 of the bill and keep within the letter of the law. The Government got a mandate from the people to go back to Niagara for power, and they have not yet demonstrated why they saw fit to change their mind. The people should know why—and until they know, these contracts should not be ratified."

At the outset of his argument, Mr. Roebuck urged the deletion from the validating bill of provisions saying that the Power Commission Declaratory Act of 1937 and the Privy Council Appeals Act of 1937 did not apply to the new agreements. The Power Commission Declaratory Act, said he, provided that no action could be brought against the Hydro Commission or the Attorney-General without consent of that official. The Privy Council Act protected the Province against appeals to the Privy Council.

"To Benefit Rich."

"The bill," said Mr. Roebuck, "proposes to leave the power companies under the clause as was the case previously, but allows the Declaratory Act to affect other people."

"It says, in effect, that every small litigant must obtain the consent of the Attorney-General before bringing an action against the Hydro Commission, but that they (the power companies) are excepted."

"I don't know why, but I presume they are to be the most favored of all the litigants. You might apply this to all except the millionaires."

"You might amend it to say that it applies to all but the power barons. I would say it is an act to benefit the rich."

FARM PRODUCE CONTROL URGED ON PROVINCE

Action to Align Production With World Demand Advocated

J. S. McLEAN HEARD

Farm production control in relation to market demands, through Government agencies, was advocated yesterday before the Legislature Agricultural and Colonization Committee by J. S. McLean, President of Canada Packers Ltd.

Mr. McLean, who presented to committee members the argument that the price of Canadian farm produce was wholly dependent upon the prices that were being paid for that produce on world markets, declared Canada's problem was to control surpluses in relation to domestic and foreign market demands and to adjust production to meet the demands of the best markets abroad.

Solution to that problem, he held, lay largely within the scope of government, even if action went no further than to acquaint farmers of market trends and to advocate the lines along which production should be directed.

Behind his argument, Mr. McLean cited that the welfare of agriculture depended upon the sale of approximately one-third of the year's production abroad. Proof of that was given in 1932 when farmers were the hardest hit of all classes in the Dominion because they were unable to sell their surpluses abroad. Consequently the local market was glutted.

The hog situation was relieved in a spectacular way by the Empire Trade Agreements, which suddenly opened a market for surplus bacon in England under the quota and in a nine months' period, hogs rose from 3¼ cents to 9¼ cents. He claimed also that Canadian bacon sold on an average of 1½ cents less per pound on the British market than did Danish. He attributed the difference, not only to a somewhat superior product, but because in forty years the Danish producers have organized their market so that the shipments are constant from day to day. Canada's policy should follow that of Denmark, he emphasized.

Mr. McLean denied as being "wholly untrue," charges by A. H. Acres (Cons., Carleton) that packers consistently bought at low prices and thereby created a rising market, filled their cold storage plants and then refused to buy on the artificially created higher price level. This action, the Conservative member declared, then automatically formed surpluses with the consequences that the market fell again.

"There is repeatedly made charges that packers rig the price of live stock. There is no such thing as that goes on whatever," claimed the speaker.

Mr. McLean claimed that the packing industry was one of the most competitive industries in Canada. He was told that farmers were losing money this year on cattle, and he agreed.

Last year, he said, Canada had a strong cattle market in United States, due largely to a crop failure in the corn belt. This year, he claimed, farmers with memories of the good year in mind, purchased heavily in feeders, only to find now there was no market such as that of 1936-37 to take their surplus and as a result there was a glut in cattle.

"This is a problem in which Government departments might conceivably do more," he emphasized.