

House on which the Government could act, the Hydro Commission should conduct an inquiry without delay as a continuing body and take into account the social consequences of the decentralization of industry that would accompany uniform power rates.

Mr. Houck replied to Col. Drew that he had gone further with his amendment and could promise that as soon as the report of the Hydro inquiry into power costs was completed copies would be sent to all members of the House.

The very foundation of Hydro was started by a resolution similar to this one the Opposition now offered, said G. H. Challies (Prog. Con., Grenville-Dundas). It led to the public development of the waters of the Niagara for power at cost, instead of by private interests.

Next Necessary Step.

With Hydro's systems inter-switching, with power able to flow in both directions, the next necessary step was uniform prices for power at generating stations and low-cost power for all.

He disputed the claim that Ontario was getting "power at cost." Power was being produced at tremendous profit with 25 to 30 per cent of profit going into reserves which totalled in 1941 over \$158,000,000 with \$100,000,000 more in contracts with the municipalities making \$258,000,000 or more in liquid assets.

He compared widely - varying power rates in municipalities of almost the same size and population — \$29.92 at Oshawa, \$20.32 at St. Catharines, \$29.87 at Port Hope and \$22.49 per horsepower at Toronto, 80 cents less than the average for the whole Hydro system. Even at that, Toronto had a net surplus in 1941 of \$885,000, said Mr. Challies, arguing that power rates could be cut with nothing but the surplus being affected.

Extension Bill Passes Committee

The Ontario Government's bill seeking extension of the Legislature for another year, to Oct. 19, 1944, passed through committee stage yesterday without discussion.

However, when Premier Conant sought permission of the House to give it immediate third reading, usually a formality, Lt.-Col. George A. Drew, Opposition Leader, said he was not prepared to consent to third reading immediately.

It was not known what course Col. Drew proposed when the legislation came up again for last reading.