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No 10



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Hydro Light And Power Commission Letter To Editor

The problem of the Hydro Light and Power Commission is one of varied phases which may not all be dealt with at one meeting. That of revenue has so scarcely been mentioned in press discussions. Ontario more than any other state of the world has pledged her credit in most generous support of hydro development, indeed our province has gone far beyond what Premier Sir James Whitney deemed it wise and right to do.

The daily press has time and again stated that hydro power reduced the costs of manufacturers at Toronto and other central municipalities by \$20 per H. P. thus saving them millions of dollars, yet they have persistently refused to consent that any of their increased profits should be paid over to the government to lessen the burden of expense borne by the community nor would the Commission do anything to relieve the prohibitive charges upon rural towns and villages not to speak of the needs of agricultural districts.

Legislative control of the Commission has not been in accord with the principles of sound democracy. Doubtless such undertakings must be protected against political interference, but that necessity places upon leaders of national and public utilities large responsibility for wise and proper management failure of which must be accounted for to representations of the people.

There appears to be good reasons why the methods of the Commission should be censured. Not only has severely stringent autocratic control prevailed but at times it has exercised in opposition to the rights of the people.

Also an improper control of hydro monies has permitted its use for purposes that were not in the interests of the people or in accord with the principle of legislative control. The granting also of money credits to the Commission has been taken out of the hands of the legislature and given to the Governor-in-Council.

Premier Drury himself has stated that legislation must be enacted to restore to the legislature power to grant or to withhold credits.

The course of the Commission towards voting municipalities has at times approximated to coercion while information given or withheld made it difficult to form a sound judgement.

Chippawa cost and service—Our people are beginning to ask what Chippawa power will cost. We now understand that 60,000,000 have been spent upon that great undertaking and that yet perhaps many other millions will be required before our investment is paid for. For some years it would seem that the power available will not pay the interest charges, while the heavy cost of construction with overhead costs for maintenance and executive service would seem likely to increase the costs of all hydro benefits.

The different phases of the hydro-proposition closely touch the welfare of our people, for which reason it is desirable that as many as can do so attend the meeting that will be held in the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday evening, Sept. 14th at 8 o'clock (standard time) when competent speakers will discuss the different phases of the problem.

HENRY MOYLE,
Secy. U. F. O.

Peston

The town is going ahead, we have two new storekeepers on the job now. Mr. Gurney formerly of North Bay has purchased Mr. James Walker's business and is making things step lively. Mr. R. Gray, who bought Mr. Thomas Wilson's store is also pushing things.

Mr. Sanford, of Toronto, has taken up residence in our midst. Having rented a shop from Mr. James O'Connor he has taken up a shoe repairing business. He guarantees high-class work and solicits your work.

A garage has been located in Mr. John E. Gray's blacksmith shop. Mr. Fry from the West is the proprietor, and he is a hustler, we expect to see a spurt along this line of trade.

The Epworth League will open again on Sunday evening, Sept. 4th, at 7.30 p. m. Rev. F. C. Keam, of Toronto, will give an address on work, Temporal and Spiritual. A cordial welcome is extended to all. Rev. H. Archibald will give a lecture and lantern slides on this work in India on Sept. 5th, which will be very interesting and instructive.

The Canadian Bee-keepers have combined to put on a special exhibit at the Canadian National Exhibition this year.

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Anchoring Shifting Sands

An experiment will be made by the Ontario Provincial Forester to test whether the shifting sand dunes of Prince Edward County can be anchored by the planting of belts of trees in the sand areas. These sand banks, under the influence of winds from Lake Ontario, having been moving inland, covering up fertile lands and rendering them useless. Tree planting has stopped shifting sands in France and other countries, and on the prairie belts of trees, keep light soils from drifting. It is expected the plan will prove equally successful in this Ontario County, one of the most fertile in the whole province.

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