

THE LIBERAL

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THURSDAY, APRIL 12th, 1934

THOSE HYDRO SALARIES

Repeated requests or demands of the Opposition in the Ontario House for a list of the salaries paid to Ontario Hydro officials finally resulted in their publication.

An examination of the figures will quickly show why they were not forthcoming long ago. Engineer F. A. Gaby gets over \$29,000 a year. He works and may earn what he gets, but there is room for grave doubts, though members of the Government claim Mr. Gaby could command a salary of a hundred thousand from private corporations.

Positions with \$29,000 a year, are fairly scarce but those with a hundred thousand a year are proportionately scarcer. At least, that is our impression, but frankly we are not very familiar with many men who are either paying or receiving a salary of such magnitude.

The salaries of sixteen others, some of whom are only part-time workers, are given, and they average about \$11,000 a year.

For 1934 the Chairman of the Ontario Hydro Commission will receive \$13,175.04. For some time that position carried a salary of \$18,000, but even \$13,175.04 is not to be passed up with indifference at this time.

The Fergus News-Record adds "One of the commissioners is an Ontario Cabinet Minister, who came to the Legislature from a rather humble position in Eastern Ontario, and so far as we know, never had any particular training for the job. He is paid for his work in the Legislature, of course, and his work as Commissioner certainly does not occupy all his time, yet his salary for 1934 is only \$25 less than \$8,000. The other Commissioner is Hon. Arthur Meighen. He, too, has many other interests, for he is a conservative leader of the Senate at Ottawa, a successful lawyer and business man. He receives \$7,975.08 for spending some time to act as Hydro Commissioner."

\$11,000 would buy how many average farms in the County of York? Yet that is the amount now being paid or part time Hydro officials. How many sheep, pigs, cattle or horses would a man have to sell at present prices to pay the salary of one of those sixteen part-time workers, to say nothing of the higher-ups? The figures are, to say the least, sufficiently large enough to provide food for thought, though they will not provide food to eat, for the large army of taxpayers, especially those who are jobless.

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VOTING BY RADIO

Buttons for radios are said to be among the inventions of the week. Each radio set would be equipped with three push-buttons, the first marked "present," the second "no" and the third "yes." Pressing the button marked "present" merely indicates to the radio station that you are listening to the program and does not mean that you expect a gift-ample of lip rouge, tooth paste, razor blades or wall paper. It has been roughly estimated that the entire set of buttons will cost about twenty-five cents, but knowing that button number two is likely to wear out before the others, arrangements are being considered to supply them in gross lots at a reduced price.

The Christian Science Monitor says:—"According to the inventor the whole process of operating the radio-voter is simple. When the sponsor of a program wishes to find out whether the pathos in his crooner's lower register is likely to incline you to look favorably on the hair tonic, bicycle or gasoline being advertised, all he has to do is to have his announcer request those listening to the program to press the button marked "yes" or the one marked "no." This pressing would instantly be registered and totalled at the transmitting station."

In this way sponsors may at last be convinced that the public can actually exist without listening to crooners, chestnut retailers, and the patent medicine boosters.

It is not expected that this new radio-voting device can be installed throughout the country overnight, so that the old-fashioned method of expressing an opinion by turning off the instrument is likely to be continued for an indefinite period.

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SEED CATALOGUE NIGHTS

With the arrival of the seed catalogues the householder can now sink down in a soft easy chair and pass evenings making plans for the garden that is to be. The pictures of these gorgeous flowers, fruits and vegetables may be more glorious than anything he may succeed in bringing forth. Yet they are simply perfect examples of nature's abundant good things when brought to perfection by those who know the secrets of nature.

Many of our dreams are things, perhaps unattainable. We dream of big strokes in speculation, or doubled profits in business, of winning our way to high and important positions. Such dreams for most of us may seldom come true but it is better to have a vision of something that it is in our power to create.

The seed catalogue is a book of such dreams. It brings to us a vision of what we can do in our own garden. It paints a picture of things that will give us the sort of happiness that comes with effort and work. And there is this about the seed catalogue. However we have failed in other years to attain the visions it conjures forth, it returns to gain each year to stir us to new hopes and stimulate us to happy hours of planning.

While on the subject, may we remind you that you can purchase your seeds from local merchants. They carry the best and your patronage will be appreciated.

RICHVALE

Next Sunday, Sunday School and Church Service as usual.

The story "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" will be shown by Mr. Frank Maxwell under the auspices of the Richvale Sunday School in the church on Friday evening, April 20th, commencing at 8 o'clock. Musical numbers will be given by Mr. Gordon Maxwell. Come and enjoy yourselves.

Man wanted for Smash-and-Grab Raid. — Headline in a Provincial Paper. The successful applicant will be required to supply his own brick.

Now the radio can control machines at a distance. Oh, for a machine to control radios that way.

Times are better. The patient is improving when he begins to cuss the doctor and the bill.

J. C. McRuer K.C. Assails The Record of Henry Government

RECKLESS EXTRAVAGANCE RESULTED IN GREAT BURDEN OF TAXATION—PUBLIC DEBT SOARING—A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT NEEDED

Bitterly assailing the Provincialism in the administration of public Government for the manner in which the trust funds, however, is the Ontario has coped with the economic situation, Premier Henry himself has some intimate personal knowledge.

Extending his remarks on the deal, Mr. McRuer proceeded: "In 1926 the Government gave away the power rights on the Abitibi River to a subsidiary of the Abitibi Company—a company in which John H. Black, a close personal friend of Mr. Ferguson, had a substantial interest. Then the barons of finance contrived a scheme of organizing the Ontario Power Service Corporation and selling its bonds to the public. Its prospectus, published in 1930 contains the following statement: "Ontario Power Service Corporation has entered into forty-year contracts, under which all of its output of electric energy from the proposed development will be sold to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and to the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, Limited, respectively, except that the Government of the Province of Ontario may direct that a small amount of power, not over 10,000 horsepower, shall be sold and delivered to other customers."

"The revenues to be derived from the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario amount in each of the foregoing periods to more than 40 per cent of the estimated total gross revenue. The estimated expenses are small, amounting to less than 10 per cent of the gross revenue."

"The publicly owned Hydro-Electric Power Commission was used as a distributing agency for this private enterprise, and at this stage Mr. Henry became interested in the private enterprise to the extent of \$25,000. "Mr. Meighen, a Hydro-Electric Commissioner, \$3,000. "British America Life Assurance Company, of which Mr. Henry was a director, \$200,000. "Mr. Meighen's companies, \$213,000. "The same Mr. Black, through another of his companies, entered into a contract to build the dam and the power house at a contract price of \$4,000,000. "But the venture did not turn out so well. True, the bonds had been sold. The promoters had made their profit. But, it became questionable whether the investors had made a good investment, and the bonds declined in the market to \$29. Mr. Henry came to the rescue and bought them in at \$90. The Government of the Province of Ontario, acting on its own, entered into a deal that was committing the Hydro-Electric Power Commission to this purchase. In the House, Mr. Henry said: "The acquisition of the bonds and property of Ontario Power Service Corporation was negotiated and undertaken for the benefit of the Province, and not as an enterprise of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission which merely acted as agent for, and at the request of the Government."

"By what expenditure was the great debt of the Province created," he asked. "This Government instituted a multitude of new taxes, including the gasoline tax which nets over \$120,000,000 a year. It repeatedly promised that this would be spent on roads, but instead of doing so, applied it for ordinary revenue and then borrowed \$165,000,000 to build the roads. It spent \$4,000,000 building palatial offices to house its civil servants and provide them with bowling alleys. The worst example of utter disrespect for their respon-

sibility was the expenditure of \$1,000,000 on the construction of a new building for the Ontario Power Service Corporation. This building, which cost \$1,000,000, was built on a site which was not owned by the Corporation, and the Corporation had to rent the site for \$100,000 a year. The building was built in 1931, and the Corporation has not yet moved into it. The building is now used as a warehouse for the Corporation's equipment.

Reciting how girls in the packing-houses had struck to be paid 3 cents instead of 2 cents for plucking a chicken, the speaker quoted the packing-house operations as declaring their utter inability to meet such a demand. "I put it to you," he proceeded, "were the packing-house operators considering the effect that one cent on the price of a chicken, would have on the consuming public, or was it the profit and loss account that was being considered? Moreover, what did the Government do, either to expose these conditions or effect any remedy?"

Referring to the days immediately following rejection of the strikers' demands, Mr. McRuer continued: "Did Premier Henry go to Stratford as it was his duty to do when toilers of this Province had become turbulent; did he go there to learn that men were working for 8, 9 and 10 cents an hour—for \$3 on a 50-hour week? Oh, no. This benign Government met the situation, with steel, force and intimidation." It was at this time that Inspector Turkin was sent on a mission of mercy to save the chickens declared the speaker.

Stating that a session of the House had since passed, Mr. McRuer charged that the Government did not take a single step to ameliorate such conditions, which he claimed existed all over the Province. "Where has the Minister of Labor been for the last four years?" he queried. "I will go as far as to suggest that 95 per cent of the people of this Province cannot tell you who the Minister of Labor actually is, so greatly has he distinguished himself," said Mr. McRuer who inquired what labor problems he had solved, and what justification he held for holding such an important portfolio.

Turning his remarks to the question of the Province's public debt, the speaker said that it had jumped from \$291,000,000 in 1932, to \$6,000,000 by the end of 1933, and by to-day was probably up another \$10,000,000. Quoting Hon. W. H. Price as stating in the Legislature in 1923 that the Government was placed in office to cut down expenditure and clean up existing confusion and waste, Mr. McRuer went on to say that the same Government, by reckless expenditure in times of prosperity, had forced thousands of men out of work in times of adversity.

Road Money Borrowed. "By what expenditure was the great debt of the Province created," he asked. "This Government instituted a multitude of new taxes, including the gasoline tax which nets over \$120,000,000 a year. It repeatedly promised that this would be spent on roads, but instead of doing so, applied it for ordinary revenue and then borrowed \$165,000,000 to build the roads. It spent \$4,000,000 building palatial offices to house its civil servants and provide them with bowling alleys. The worst example of utter disrespect for their respon-

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"Yet, Mr. Henry says that politics have not entered into the administration of the affairs of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. When the members of the Government, the head of which was personally interested in an investment to the extent of \$25,000,000, loads the Hydro-Electric Power Commission with the purchase, and it has no say in the matter whatever, but merely acts as an agent, it is difficult to know how members of the Government can justify the contention that politics have not entered into the administration of the affairs of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission."

Declaring that if Ontario were to share in the enjoyment of any prosperity in the future, the speaker warned that there must be a drastic reduction in the public debt and provision for unemployment insurance. "Dissipation of our natural wealth by the barons of finance must cease. The people of this Province are entitled to their birthright. The wealth of the mines should be for the prospector and the legitimate investor; the wealth of the farm is for the farmers and the toilers, and not for the milling companies, the dairy companies, the bread companies and all the financial interests that have in the past been exploiting it," concluded Mr. McRuer in his peroration.

Lyman Kennedy, Agincourt, President of the East York Riding Liberal Association, and Harry Johnston were the other speakers, with Frank Lemmar presiding.

Lower class: The one that provides material for books and plays by the upper class.

Way Back in the Liberal Files

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO From Our Issue of April 6th, 1899 Mr. A. G. F. Lawrence has removed his law office from his former residence to the Liberal office. He will visit Richmond Hill every Saturday as usual.

Our enterprise barber in the Lorne Block, in order to encourage the cash-in-advance system, is now giving his patrons who are looking after snags, a nice ticket, good for 12 shaves and a hair cut, all for \$1.00. This will affect a saving of 35 cents to the purchaser of the ticket. Mose is willing, however, that his customers should have this reduction, the only condition being that the dollar must be paid before the ticket is punched.

The record curling match between rinks chosen from the married and the bachelors of the club was played here on Good Friday, the married men winning by 8 shots. In the former match the unmarried men were victorious by five points. The following is a summary of Friday's match. Married men, J. H. Brydon, A. Moodie, F. McConaghy, W. Pugsley, skip 21; Unmarried, H. Hooper, C. Elliston, C. McConaghy, R. Moodie skip 12; Married, T. Newton, G. McDonald, W. Sanderson, W. Storey skip 13; Unmarried, J. Forhan, F. Grainger, H. Nicholls, F. Sims skip 14.

The York County Commissioners met yesterday at the court house. The principal item of business was the consideration of plans for the construction of a new Rowntree Bridge, as ordered at the last session of the Council. This bridge crosses the Humber between York and Etobicoke Townships. The new structure will be an iron one, of one span of about 100 feet. The plans were approved, after which the commissioners inspected the repairs recently made to York Mills bridge.

A meeting of the East York License Commissioners was held at the Clyde Hotel on Saturday, the special business being to consider the applications for the transfer of two tavern licenses. All the members were present, as well as the Inspector, Mr. James Eckardt. Both applications were granted, one being the transfer of the license of the Palmer House to A. E. Plummer as Manager for the Trusts Corporation; the other being the transfer of license to Frederick Duff of Toronto, for the Wellington Hotel, Markham.

The Agricultural Society met in the Lorne Hall yesterday afternoon, with President T. Lloyd in the chair. The following members were present: W. H. Pugsley, J. Palmer, L. L. Hartman, Wm. Thompson, J. Slater, R. Elliott, W. Ormerod, H. F. Hopper, J. H. Sanderson, W. H. Clubine, H. A. Nicholls, D. Lynett and J. N. Boyle. The revision of the prize list by the Executive at their last meeting was confirmed with a few slight amendments. The prize list will be printed as soon as the various committees report as to subscriptions.

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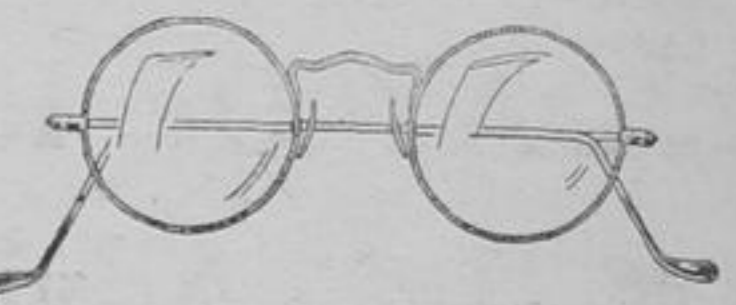
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