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**ASKS SQUARE DEAL FOR ALL IN POWER QUESTION**

**New Liskeard Speaker Makes Further Reference to Proper Attitude Regarding Power.**

The discussion of the power question in this North Land at the recent meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade at Iroquois Falls makes the matter of more than passing interest. The Advance believes, however, that the discussions in the North Land press, and at the Associated Boards has been based on wrong premises. The general opinion seems to be that at the present time there is under way a plan to amalgamate all the power producers of the North. The Advance does not believe that any such plan has made any progress anywhere but in the imagination of some of the Toronto and other outside newspapers who have a habit of making two items blossom where none existed before, one item being untrue or unfounded and the other being a contradiction of the first false item. It's a great scheme, but of what value are two "news" items manufactured in such a way? As suggested in The Advance on previous occasions neither the Hollinger nor the Abitibi seem to be in any plan to dispose of their power plants. Why should they? There may be this much truth to all the power question talk,—that Chicago interests (the Insulls) are negotiating to buy the Northern Canada Power Company interests. There may be that much of truth to all the talk. There does not seem to be any further foundation for the big stories. Buying out the Northern Canada and the creation of a power trust in the North are in no relation to each other. If new interests take over the Northern Canada Power, the new company will be restricted by the same regulations that now apply to the Northern Canada Power. To be fair, it must be admitted that private interests have done their part in supplying the needs of the North in the line of power. No doubt private interests will show the same enterprise in the future. The experience of the North Land has surely not been so delightful in regard to Government enterprise that this North should wish private enterprise to be completely choked off and the whole matter left to Government initiative. Flowery re-

ferences to Government enterprise promptly wither if some one whispers "Roads." It is also worth while keeping in mind the fact that an overwhelming percentage of the power needs of the North Land is for straight industrial purposes. For instance, a single mine calls for 10,000 h.p., while 300 h.p., looks after all the needs of the whole town of Timmins. In view of these facts it seems reasonable enough for the Government to take the attitude it has taken on the suggestion that Ontario Government Hydro Electric take over all the power development of the North. This is the idea of The New Liskeard Speaker also. The Speaker has been giving quite a bit of space to discussing the power question. Last week The Speaker says:—

"The Telegram seems to be 'peevish' because Premier Ferguson does not favor the idea of handing over the water-power of Northern Ontario to the Hydro Commission. We are glad the Premier is unwilling to do so.

"An amalgamation of the three plants referred to by us two weeks ago, the Northern Canada, the Hollinger and the Iroquois Falls plants, might be of advantage economically to these companies in so far as supplying power for the running of the machinery of the paper mill and the mining plants in which the Hollinger at Timmins, is interested is concerned; and perhaps the Government would not try to prevent such a merger, but the rights of other companies requiring power should not be over-looked by the Government. In fact, the Government should not sell any more of Northern Ontario water-power, but lease it on reasonable terms to persons desiring to establish industries always reserving the right to cancel the lease in the event of a lessee not supplying power at a reasonable rate.

"We have said before that the Hydro should not be looked upon as in opposition to private electric power companies, but that it should be ready to supply power in the event of privately owned electric power companies combining to unfairly increase the rates. It ought to be easy enough for the Government to so arrange matters between the power companies and the various industries in the Northland requiring power, such as lumbermen, miners and others, as to convince them that they will be protected in their rights to cheap power. The Government should say 'We are willing to lease to you water power at a low rate with the understanding that you supply power to all industries up to your capacity, at a reasonable rate. If you fail to do this, we reserve the right to cancel your lease.'

"The Speaker knows nothing about the personnel of any of these companies, not even of the Northern Ontario Power Company, although we have been using power supplied by the company ever since the plant was installed.

"What we desire is that the men who are willing to supply capital for the purpose of establishing industries for the development of Northern Ontario shall be protected, while at the same time the people requiring power or light shall also be protected against the avarice of those supplying power, should they manifest an inclination to be avaricious.

"We believe the Government of Ontario will see this important matter in the right light, and do justice to all parties."

**MIGHT INCREASE VALUE OF GOVERNMENT REPORTS**

During the past few days The Advance has received official reports regarding experimental stations and other government activities. The reports are for the year 1923, and they are being issued now—in October, 1924. Naturally such reports, issued so long after the period covered, lose much of their value through the unnecessary delay in publication. Indeed, many people will be inclined to glance at such reports, note that they refer to a past year, and then throw them aside with an exclamation or two. In these days anything allowed to cool for a year or more loses its interest. It is not fair, however, to say that such reports, even when issued so long after their time, are entirely valueless. They are still of value, but their value would be increased one hundred fold if they were issued in a reasonable time. The reports referred to are not complicated or extended affairs, but of the type that would be handled in the ordinary newspaper office in the day's work. All the various departments at Ottawa seem to need a speeding-up and a shaking-up. However, this will have to wait until a Government gets into power at Ottawa. There is apparently nothing now but a party in office there.

If matches are made in heaven, how is it that so many of them smell of brimstone?

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