

# Rural Electric Light Bill Brings On Lengthy Debate

Last Full Dress Session of Present Legislature  
Spent Over Three Hours Discussing Benefit  
To Farmers by Use of Electricity.

The Legislature had a lengthy evening session last evening the proceedings being rather lively at times and continuing until well after midnight. The big discussion, which lasted more than four hours and in which Messrs. Reilly, Richard, Anderson, Gill, Pirie, Atkinson, Siddall and others took part, came as a result of the bill to provide for a reduction in service charges for electric light and power in the rural districts.

When the House went into a committee of the whole on this bill, Colonel Brooks was in the chair. Mr. Richard, of Gloucester, opened the debate, which proved to be a lengthy one.

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) said he thought the Committee should have some explanation as to the necessity for the provisions of the Bill, which had arisen apparently within the last two weeks. A short time ago the Chairman of the Hydro Commission had ridiculed the idea of the equalization of rates and compared it to trying to ride to Saint John on a ticket purchased for Fredericton Junction. As a matter of fact the Government by this Bill had adopted a plank from the Opposition platform.

Although the decision of the Government had come very abruptly he was glad to see it, for the Opposition had been recommending it for the last three years. The House could now visualize what might have happened if Grand Falls had not been given away. In 1925 the idea of carrying Grand Falls power throughout the Province was ridiculed by Hon. gentlemen opposite. They maintained the power could not be sold. It was well known that the development at Grand Falls had not cost half of what gentlemen said it would, and it was known that the International Paper Company was making a handsome profit from it. Oh, no, the Government could not afford to go in debt to develop Grand Falls, but they had increased the debt of the Province by thirty millions of dollars and had nothing to show for it. There was another matter for which the Government should be criticized and that was in allowing the option of five thousand horse power which they had taken from the I. P. Company for distribution to small consumers. Why was not that option exercised? Not on account of distressing conditions for the country was prosperous at that time, and there was a demand for electricity. No effort had been made to try to sell the current, yet a little later two million dollars was spent at Minto, because there was a demand. Everyone knew that Grand Falls had been a great paying proposition for the I. P. Company, and that it would have been equally profitable to the Province.

HON. MR. REILLY said that his Hon. friend from Gloucester had not told the whole story. The International Paper Company paid about seven million dollars to develop Grand Falls, expecting to get eighty thousand horse power, including what the old Government had spent there, about \$365,000.00, mostly for surveys. This amount was being repaid to the Province in yearly instalments with six per cent interest.

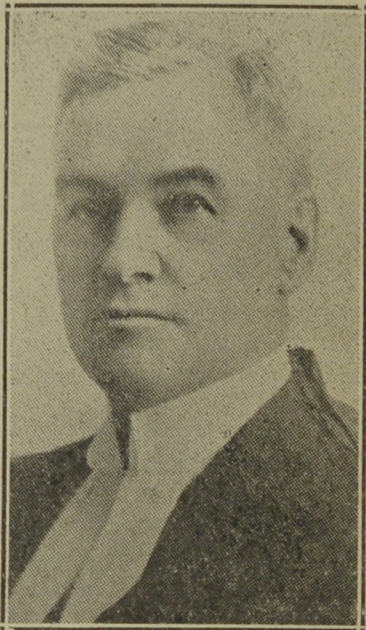
The present Government, after coming into power, had looked over the situation, and concluded that on account of Grand Falls being situated somewhat remote from the large consuming centres, that its development would not be a good business proposition, which he believed was sound judgment, because experience had shown that Grand Falls instead of being capable of producing eighty thousand horse power was only dependable for forty thousand, and that it could not supply at all times the amount of power that had been sold. As to not taking up the option of five thousand horse power, there was no demand in sight for it within the two years the option had to run.

The necessity for the Bill now before the Committee was caused by the growing demand from the Agricultural interests of the Province. Customers in some of the rural sections felt that they could not pay the service fees which were necessary to make the Commission's business self-supporting. A few days ago he had given the House a statement of the number of customers paying above one dollar per month service charge, varying in amounts from \$1.25 to \$2.50, according to local circumstances. The number of these customers was 1892, who would be relieved by this Bill of all payments above the one dollar charge.

HON. MR. REILLY said that Mr. Anderson had certainly opposed the bill because it had not been sold to the Municipalities there on bloc, yet he had that chance in Newcastle when the current was brought from Bathurst, and it had cost customers in that town 15 cents per K. W. H. Today, with the Minto current available customers were getting the current at a service charge of 75 cents per month, the first twenty K. W. H. at 7 cents, the second twenty K. W. H. at 5 cents, and all above that at 3 cents. The Commission had to take the current seventy three miles from Minto with all the cost of line construction, and the wastage en route, and yet was able to cut the former rates in two. Still, the Hon. gentleman said there was too much spread.

MR. ANDERSON said he was misquoted.

HON. MR. REILLY said the current now taken to Newcastle was developed with our own coal and by our own men, with comparatively low interest charges on construction to be met. The other day one of the largest users of current in Chatham said the new system was satisfactory in every respect, and when he got his bill for the month of January, he found it was



HON. E. A. REILLY, M. P. P.  
Chairman Hydro Commission, who introduced Rural Electric Light Bill.

\$37.00 less than what he had paid under the old system in that town for the month of December.

His Hon. friend (Anderson) had complained that the bookkeeping of the Commission as between Musquash and Minto was not fairly kept. The system followed was to give Musquash the credit for all the power it could produce, and when a dry time came and the power fell off, Musquash was charged with the power taken from Minto to supply what properly belonged to Musquash. Last year, at one time, Musquash was only supplying 5 per cent of its capacity.

The necessity for the present bill arose from the farming community, mostly in the Southern part of the Province, and as Chairman of the Commission he had put up the proposition to the Government as reasonably good business for the encouragement of the Agricultural population, and as the Commission had not lost from the administration which said been given it in the last few years, the Government had given approval for the bill. He had thought the policy was wise as he believed that the immediate cost to the Province would be before long made up by additional income from new customers. He could understand the criticism from the Opposition, because it interfered with their canvass which they had hoped to make among the people of the Province.

MR. ANDERSON

MR. ANDERSON said that the Chairman of the Commission had not been fair to Grand Falls, because the development now was only partial. All knew that to get eighty thousand horse power, storage in Quebec was contemplated. He had stated that it cost seven million dollars to develop forty thousand horse power at Grand Falls, and yet he spent two million dollars at Minto to get only seven thousand horse power. Any school

boy, he said, could figure out which was the better proposition. The Minto power could not be sold at a profit at \$20,000.00 per horse power, and went to show that when Grand Falls was given away the most valuable asset in the Province was abandoned.

In regard to taking current to the Miramichi, what he had criticized was that as the Commission was making a yearly loss by bringing power from Bathurst of about ten thousand dollars a year, that it was almost criminal negligence to let that loss run on for years longer than was necessary. As to the rates paid in the Town of Newcastle, there was a twenty per cent discount from the 15 cents rate, making the cost to consumers only 12 cents, and the town got a profit on its distribution system which assisted the tax payers. Musquash had been called a colossal blunder, although it was delivering current at 2 cents, while Minto delivered it at 7 cents. That was why he objected to the claim that Minto was better business than Musquash.

MR. RICHARD (Gloucester) said he was surprised at the chairman's excuse for letting the option on the five thousand H. P. at Grand Falls expire. The Government in making their contract with the I. P. had lacked the foresight to have the current delivered on the North Shore instead of at Grand Falls. It was on the thickly settled North Shore where the demand existed, and how could the Government expect communities there to take delivery at Grand Falls? He did not criticize the action of the Government in bringing in this bill, but he criticized them for letting go of Grand Falls. It was not true that there was lack of water at Grand Falls, that was only an excuse of the I. P. Company for closing their mills when they did not wish to ship their product by rail. He (Richard) knew that sixty thousand H. P. could be steadily developed at Grand Falls. The I. P.'s investment there was so good they were ashamed to show the profits, and they covered them up by merging with Gathenau Power. This Government had certainly treated the I. P. Company well, and had even let them off of their signed contracts to build mills on the Miramichi. The Premier had said no such contracts existed, but he could tell them they did exist, and they were published in the papers.

MR. EVANS said the Government had already won two elections on the issue of Grand Falls, and the prospect of another on the same issue should inspire confidence. He recalled that in the election of 1925, the Opposition of that day had contended that Grand Falls could not produce sufficient power because storage facilities could not be obtained, and the statement of his hon. friends opposite seemed to bear out that argument. An hon. member for Gloucester had stated that lack of power at Grand Falls had been made an excuse by the International Paper Company, for closing its mill at Dalhousie 70,000 tons of coal a year and 40,000 tons of it came from New Brunswick. Even when water was plentiful 3,000 tons of coal per month was used and when water was scarce the consumption ran up to 7,000 tons a month. Hon. members opposite delighted to criticize the coal-burning plant at Grand Lake, and one hon. member (Anderson) said that the power generated there cost more than the power developed at Musquash, but he lost sight of the fact that the transmission line from Minto to Newcastle was much longer than the transmission line to Saint John.

His hon. friend (Anderson) should be the last to criticize the Minto proposition, in view of the fact that it had cost the Province under the old Government \$103,000.00 in order to give the North Shore power at a reasonable rate. An Act to equalize power rates in rural districts was passed by the Government in 1932, but no applications to use the money had reached the Commission. Now it was proposed to deal with the matter in a different way. A comparison would show that the cost of developing power at Minto per H. P. was less than at Grand Falls, and the power at Minto was now transmitted to Fredericton and Moncton, and connected with the Saint John system. But for the Minto power, there would have been a shortage last year, as there was no water at Musquash for part of the time. Under the old Government power had been developed at Fredericton from American coal, and it was used to light the Government buildings; now they were both heated and lighted by coal mined at Grand Lake. The plant at Grand Lake was working satisfactorily, and the time would soon come when another unit would have to be added, and because of the foresight of the Commission, it would be installed at a reduced cost. Had Grand Falls been developed as originally planned, a large sum of money would be going each year to the bond holders for interest, whereas the largest item in connection with the Grand Lake plant was for Minto coal. Therefore, that plant helped provide not only employment for laborers, but a market for the farmers.

HON. MR. STEWART

Hon. Mr. Stewart expressed surprise that Grand Falls had been resurrected in view of the fact that people had twice pronounced upon it in favor of the present Government. He was a member of the House in 1923 when the then Premier (Hon. Mr. Veniot) had secured a vote of \$150,000 for survey of Grand Falls. A promise had then been made that no money was to be expended until the question of development was submitted to the electorate. In 1925 another Bill gave the Government's Hydro Commission authority to expend nine million dollars in the development of Grand Falls. Hon. members opposite now had the temerity to repeat the old cry that the present Government had given away Grand Falls. He would like to ask them why the old Government had agreed to pay the International Paper Co. the sum of \$1,200,000 for Grand Falls, if the pro-

(Continued on Page Three)

Michael T. Gootlieb, member of the Four Aces of Bridge, plays late into the night with his famous partners. However, he's still a business man, and always shows up at his office promptly at 9.15 each morning. He's a prominent New York real estate man and keeps punctual hours, even though he broadcasts at 12 p.m., AST., three nights a week over CBS.

Crisp up  
your  
curtains  
with  
New Color

ARE your curtains gray and dull from dust and smoke, faded from light? Don't be discouraged! You can make them crisp and new looking, with new color! Thousands of women are prolonging the wearing service of their curtains and other decorations and giving new beauty to their homes, with Diamond Dyes! Because Diamond Dyes actually do contain a greater amount of the finest aniline coloring, they give lovelier colors and surer results. Use Diamond Dyes for permanent dark colors by boiling and Diamond Tints for light shades without boiling. All drug stores, 15c.

**DIAMOND DYES**  
MADE IN CANADA  
better because richer in pure anilines

WHEN THE OCCASION REQUIRES  
THE PURCHASE OF A FUNERAL

Those who investigate will find our prices lowest. Prompt and efficient service. Complete stock and equipment. Complete funeral including motor hearse and services \$50, \$75, \$100 and upward. No extra charge for delivering to rural districts.

**H. R. ADAMS**  
459-461 KING STREET  
(Next Wilmut Church)

PROFESSIONAL

**DR. J. C. McMULLEN**  
Dentist  
X - RAY

Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 2 p.m.-5.30 p.m.  
Phone 504 Loyalist Building

**G. I. NUGENT, M. D.**

333 BRUNSWICK STREET  
Phone 808.  
FREDERICTON, N. B.

**Hanson, Dougherty and West**  
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, Etc.  
Carleton Chambers,  
61 Carleton St. : Fredericton

**DR. G. R. LISTER**  
Dentist :  
QUEEN STREET : Below Regent  
Phone 531-11  
Burchill-Wilkinson Building

YOUR HOME IS YOUR CASTLE  
Admit only clean, constructive news by reading

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

A Daily Newspaper for the Home

It gives all the constructive world news but does not exploit crime and scandal. Has interesting feature pages for all the family on Women's Affairs, Homemaking, Gardens, Education and Books. Also pages for the Children and Young Folks. Vigorous editorials and an interpretation of news in the "March of the Nations" Column are of special interest to men.

The Christian Science Publishing Society  
250 Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts  
Please send my subscription to The Christian Science Monitor for a

One year \$9.00 Three months \$2.25  
Six months \$4.50 One month 75c

Name.....  
Street.....  
City.....State.....

Sample Copy on Request

**INSURANCE**  
**HOWARD H. BLAIR**

RELIABLE BRITISH and CANADIAN  
COMPANIES

PHONES—Office 291-21  
Residence 345-11

68 YORK  
STREET

—You Can Rest Assured—

**New Maple Syrup**

Ripe Tomatoes—18 cents per pound. Celery—18 cents per head  
Large Winesap Apples—45c per doz.  
Trinidad, Navel and Jaffa Oranges, Grapefruit, Bananas, etc.  
Iceberg Lettuce—two for 25c

**A. E. EARDLEY** Phone 618 and Be Satisfied.  
Home-owned Store  
Corner Brunswick and St. John Streets

**NEW CABBAGE**

CELERY, LETTUCE, RIPE TOMATOES, NEW BERMUDA  
CARROTS, ORANGES, APPLES, BANANAS

**HAROLD YERXA**

GROCERIES, MEATS AND FISH

PHONE 305

89 YORK STREET

**THE CAPITAL GARAGE**

— W. E. Vaughan, Proprietor —

QUEEN ST. FREDERICTON, N. B. CAMPBELL ST.  
PHONE 206-21 OFFICE 206-41

Northern Electric Radios

Lacquer System of Painting Tires and Accessories of All Kinds

Johnson Outboard Motors and Boats  
ver Automatic Brake Testing Service

DISTRIBUTORS FOR U.S.L. BATTERIES  
Special Attention to Tourist Travel OPEN ALL NIGHT

<p><b>Better Buys for April 5-6-8</b></p>		
<p>Crosse and Blackwell <b>TOMATO CATSUP</b> .15c Special, while it lasts, per Bot.</p> <p>Crosse and Blackwell <b>TOMATO SOUP</b> .25c Special ..... 4 tins</p> <p><b>SNOWDRIFT COCONUT</b> 19c Special ..... per lb.</p> <p><b>SUGARCRISP CORNFLAKES</b> 3 packages ..... 25c</p>	<p><b>QUALITY PEACHES</b> 19c 2's, squat, Special..... per tin</p> <p><b>JAFFA DATES</b> 18c 2's, Special ..... per pkg.</p> <p><b>RED CLOVER SALMON</b> 19c 1/2-lb. tin</p> <p><b>CORN SYRUP</b> 21c Crown Brand ..... per tin</p> <p><b>MINUTE TAPIOCA</b> 8-oz. 15c <b>INSTANT POSTUM</b> 4-cz. 33c</p>	<p><b>Oxydol</b> Large, 50% more suds.....23c</p> <p><b>Grape Juice</b> Welch's 16-oz. bot. .... 29c</p>
<p>Brunswick Brand <b>Sardines</b> Oil or Mustard ..... 5c</p> <p><b>PARA SANI WAX PAPER</b>, 100 feet in handy roll, ..... per roll 25c</p> <p><b>BIG 5 CLEANSER</b>, ..... per pkg. 5c</p>	<p>Bordeau Walnut <b>Shelled Walnuts</b> Per pound ..... 39c</p> <p><b>Wheat Krispies</b> Kellogg's ..... per pkg. 15c</p>	<p><b>LISTERINE</b>, 7-oz. bottle ..... 50c</p> <p><b>BAYER ASPIRIN TABLETS</b> 12's ..... per tin 22c</p>