

Hon. E. A. Reilly Foresees Surplus For New Brunswick Power Commission In 1935

Points to the Minto Steam Power Plant as the Best of Its Kind in North America—Plant will Cause \$28,000 To Be Added to Commission's Profits This Year—J. A. Doucet to Continue Debate Tuesday.

"Next year we will have a surplus," stated Hon. E. A. Reilly, chairman of the New Brunswick Power Commission and government member from Moncton City, speaking in the legislature yesterday of the commission and its service to the people of the province. Hon. Mr. Reilly pointed out that \$28,000 which has been paid for the past several years to the New Brunswick Power Company for service charges will not be paid after May of this year. There has been no service used by the commission from the N. B. Power Company since the erection of the steam power plant at Minto, although the contract for the supply of service does not expire until this year.

"Next year we will add that \$28,000 to our profits and furthermore, we will have a surplus," said Hon. Mr. Reilly, in his remarks concerning the Power Commission.

The Commission

The Hon. E. A. Reilly, K.C., chairman of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, and government member for Moncton city, was the first speaker of the day on the budget debate. In opening his remarks he reviewed the history of the Power Commission and mentioned that it was up to the members of the House to judge whether or not he has done well as chairman of the commission.

The administrators of the commission have installed a coal power plant at Minto to keep up the balance of power during the months when water pressure is down, and this plant is the most efficient of its kind in Canada, stated the speaker.

"We as a commission," said Mr. Reilly "have never been interfered with by the government in regards to services rendered the people of the province."

"The present premier has never

allowed politics to enter into the commission" stated Hon. Mr. Reilly, and this, he added, is one reason why the commission has proven to be so impartial to all classes.

When we came into power we had a debt of over \$3,000,000. Today our debt has increased to about \$6,000,000 an increase of some \$2,000,000. This he said, includes all the power plants and equipment constructed in that time. But, he continued, last year the revenue of the commission amounted to approximately \$852,700 with an expenditure of some \$700,000 leaving a surplus of some \$66,000.

Hon. Mr. Reilly stated that the commission has been paying the N. B. Power Company \$28,000 a year service charge since 1925, even though the Minto plant has been used to generate power in place of that formerly supplied by the N. B. Power Company for the past few years, but next May the commission will stop paying this sum to the N. B. Power Company, as there is no need to pay them a service charge when we have the Minto plant.

"Next year we will add that \$28,000 to our profits and furthermore, we will have a surplus," stated Hon. Mr. Reilly.

Minto Plant

"We have one of the best steam plants in America," said Mr. Reilly of the Minto steam plant. From that plant there is a steel power line with a voltage of 66,000 transmitting power to Moncton, St. John and up the St. John River. This plant has created a certain market, has advertised coal and is a boon to prosperity. "It is a tangible asset," stated Hon. Mr. Reilly. There are nine coal operators who are supplying the plant with coal. There is never a bit of friction between these men and the commission. About half of them are liberal

and half conservative, therefore there is not much politics in their dealings with the commission, stated Mr. Reilly.

"The Commission has got to be non-partisan," stated the speaker. If it is not there is bound to be trouble.

The commission has made extra efforts to fulfill contracts with the people, even in the face of running a power line in the winter months, to render service to the consumers of electricity in the province.

The development in the county of Northumberland in the latter part of 1934 was great and has many new features that have never been known before in this province.

The customers have been offering constructive criticism regarding rates in Northumberland county and judging by their response are well pleased.

Employment

He stated that in the construction of these power lines besides the benefit that it gives the people it provided employment for men of the province, especially in Northumberland County. Thousands of days work were given to men and teams of the province while the line was under construction. Any good work of this kind should not be criticized by the honorable gentlemen opposite.

In boarding the men the commission had bought produce from the farmers of the country and in that way had, in a measure, brought prosperity to their little world.

"The power commission has dedicated the service in Northumberland to the people of that country," stated the speaker.

Service

Electrical power is being transmitted to 23,000 people in the province of New Brunswick, stated Hon. Mr. Reilly. The meter of high voltage lines amounted to 235 miles and 700 miles of distributing lines. This is a service no other government has given the people of the province.

Transmission Line Poles

In speaking of the poles purchased in the United States for the construction of the lines, he stated that the opposition was wrong in stating that the government had bought the poles

Friday In The Legislature

The House met at 3 p.m.

The following bills were read a third time; to authorize Moncton to sell bonds; to amend the Moncton Assessment Act; to enable Moncton to issue debentures; to amend the Act consolidating the several Acts relating to the Town of Moncton; to authorize Moncton to sell lands on account of the non-payment of taxes and mortgages.

The bill respecting Dairy Products was read a second time.

Hon. Mr. Reilly submitted a report from the Standing Rules Committee.

Mr. Atkinson submitted a report from the Municipalities Committee.

Hon. Mr. Leger introduced a bill to provide for debentures falling due in 1936 to the amount of \$1,750,000. He said that a million of these debentures issued in 1931 for hydro development had sinking funds to enable their payment in full at the end of thirty years. \$750,000 of debentures issued for federally aided roads were based on a twenty year sinking fund.

Mr. Pirie gave notice for a resolution, stating that the Provincial Government should demand from the Federal Government a sufficient bonus to pay New Brunswick potato growers at the rate of 50 cents per barrel for graded potatoes and 35 cents for the quantities not graded. He said he wished to make it clear that personally he would not accept one cent of the proposed bonus, but there were hundreds of potato growers for whom such a bonus was a necessity.

Hon. Mr. Speaker said he must call attention to the practice of audible talking among members while speakers had the floor. It was his duty to protect gentlemen addressing the House and he hoped courtesy could be extended to them in the future.

direct. Mr. Reilly explained that the government was retaining \$12,000 of money to be paid the creosoting company in Newcastle upon the receipt of poles of the required size from the said company. These poles are to be from New Brunswick. The purchase of the poles had been contracted to the company and they are expecting to get the poles they want for any of the other lines.

The honorable leader of the opposition should remember, stated Mr. Reilly, that the government of which he (Dysart) was a member in 1922 bought poles for the St. John-Moncton line from British Columbia and did not even creosote them. The poles now were rotten and falling to pieces and will have to be replaced by the commission. Even though we did get poles from the United States we had sense enough to creosote them so that they will last seventy years.

Electric Lights

Despite the fact that the opposition had promised electric lights to the country districts, the government had gone ahead and actually put the promise into a reality.

At this point Mr. Reilly took a few minutes to express sympathy at the death of Eugene Connelly of Newcastle.

Continuing, he stated that the commission had been approached on the question of installing a plant at the Aroostook Falls and that in the near future it would be an actuality.

In closing the Hon. Mr. Reilly stated that the financial standing of the province is in a really good state and the people of the province have no cause for alarm.

J. A. Doucet

J. A. Doucet, opposition member from Gloucester county, in resuming the debate, congratulated the provincial secretary treasurer for the smooth way in which he used his oratory in presenting the budget last Friday.

Mr. Doucet stated that he did not know how the honorable members op

posite could be so carefree in the face of such a staggering deficit as the province had this year. He added that they always had some excuse to offer such as freshets and floods, as a cause of over-expenditure.

The budget shows a greater amount to be used next year. Can the honorable gentlemen opposite foresee more freshets. What degree of sincerity can we place in the financial statement presented to us.

The question of expenditures by special warrants is getting beyond control, stated Mr. Doucet. Since 1925 the government has spent \$12,958,530 on special warrant. This practice is absolutely in violation of our constitution.

Funded Debt

In referring to the funded debt of the province Mr. Doucet stated that it had doubled since 1925 and is piling up all the time.

He referred to a speech on the budget delivered by the honorable Premier in the House in 1926 when he (Tilley) ridiculed the expenditures of previous governments. Where does the honorable gentleman stand today, asked Mr. Doucet when the government has a deficit of nearly one million dollars.

At this point Mr. Doucet moved the adjournment of the debate which was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

The House adjourned at 5 p. m.

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