

The Orillia Packet and Times

Orillia,
Canada

Februa ry 1, 1934

The Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen,
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Meighen:

The appearance of an "Hydro" Engineering party at the Workman's Falls power site on the Gull River has aroused apprehension in Orillia as to the Hydro's intentions in the matter.

May I venture to suggest that the Hydro would win little eclat by trying to prevent Orillia from proceeding with a development which is essential to the town if the position which has been won by a generation of enterprise and hard work is to be conserved. As between the two Commissions such a course would provoke a reference to Naboth's vineyard. And may I also venture expression of the hope that you will use your influence to avoid such a situation, which would be sure to provoke an outbreak whose reverberations would be heard throughout the Province.

It may appear that I am interfering in other people's business. But if a public quarrel were to break out, on me, as a newspaper man, would devolve much of the fighting on the Town's side. Frankly, I do not relish the prospect. While I have always stood up for Orillia's electrical independence, I have also been one who believed that the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission has done a wonderful service to the people of the Province, and I have not hesitated to say so whenever opportunity offered. I should very much regret having forced upon me the duty of seeking out the weak spots in the Hydro armour.

I am writing you because you are the only