

WHITNEY AND HYDRO POWER.

An Answer to the Critics of the Power Policy.

A Statement Made at Request of Economist of London

And Which Will Appear in That Paper To-day.

To-day's issue of the London (England) Economist, a leading British financial and commercial journal, contains a statement from Sir James Whitney, Premier of Ontario, following the published criticism of the Provincial power policy and its effect.

The Economist says: "Respecting the electric power legislation of the Ontario Government, which has been criticised in certain quarters in England and Canada, Sir James Whitney, the first Minister of that Province, has been good enough to furnish the subjoined statement for publication in the Economist. It is not intended as a reply to a statement in the Economist, but rather as a statement of fact which will be of interest to all who are concerned with the power scheme of the Government."

THE PREMIER'S STATEMENT.

The text of Sir James' statement is as follows: "Interested persons have for some time been making attacks on the Government of the Province of Ontario with a view to first, damaging the financial credit of the Province in London, and second, destroying what is known as the power scheme of the Government."

"As a matter of fact the Government is not interested in the power scheme beyond being the agent for certain municipalities—a sort of conduit pipe by which cheap electric power is to be conveyed to them at their expense. The attack was made ostensibly in the interest of the Electrical Development Company, a company the value of the bonds of which it is alleged had been lowered by the power scheme, but Mr. Wm. Mackenzie, the railway magnate, some time ago guaranteed the bonds of the Electrical Development Company, removing that cause of complaint, if cause there was. It may be well to state here that Mr. Mackenzie repudiates in emphatic language all connection with, and responsibility for, the attacks made upon the Government in this matter."

"The attack has been directed against an act passed at the last session (1909) of our Legislature, and which was rendered necessary by a defect in an act of the previous session (1908), passed at the request of fifteen municipalities and dealing with the same subject. Application has been made for the disallowance of this act."

A SAMPLE INDICTMENT.

"For reasons which I shall give later on I do not propose to enter into explanations in reply, but in order to show the methods of these gentlemen I will refer to just one point in illustration, and quote from the indictment against us with reference to the statute I have mentioned. Their statement in the Statist says: 'It is also declared, in the case of one municipality at any rate, that though the municipality had refused to sign the amended contract, the contract should have full force as if it were signed.' Let our readers suppose that we are making a travesty of what actually occurred, we reproduce here with the clause of the act verbatim. Clause 5 reads as follows: 'The said contract as so varied as aforesaid shall be executed by the said corporation of the town of Galt.'"

"Now the facts are, and the truth is, that when the Legislative Assembly passed the act of 1908, as it did unanimously, it was understood by the members and made as clear as specific declarations in debate could make it that its provisions did not require the submission to a vote of the ratepayers of the contracts entered into by such municipalities with the Hydro Electric Commission where by such contracts had already been passed by the vote of the ratepayers of such municipalities. In other words fifteen municipalities acted upon the original legislation, by-laws in each case were carried by votes of the ratepayers, the contracts in question were approved, entered into and entered into by the municipalities, with the exception that the Mayor of the town of Galt refused to sign the contract after it had been passed by the municipal council of the town. Then a mandamus to compel him to sign the contract was applied for, but a judge held that under the act such contract should be again submitted to a vote of the ratepayers. The twelve municipalities at once petitioned the Government and the Legislature to remedy the defect by legislation. Their request was complied with, and there was nothing strange or unusual or improper in the amending legislation, as all English financiers who deal in municipal securities know very well. These are the bald facts. Surely the suppressive veri and suggestio falsi apparent in the extract I have given from the attack made by the Statist are not necessary to a good cause."

PRESS CAMPAIGN MISLEADING.
"I regret being compelled to say that the carefully-drawn statements appearing in several English journals and containing the charges against us are materially false and grossly misleading. I do not complain of this. Such conduct always brings its punishment. We shall put in our reply to the application for disallowance in due course, and in the meantime we regard the situation here with equanimity. At the same time we cannot repress our astonishment that reputable financial and other journals in London should accept without question and publish as true allegations of the most serious character regarding the action of the Legislature and of the Government of a great Province, and this without having first made some inquiries—some attempt at least to verify the statements published by them, all of which, by the way, are couched in practically identical language. In this manner the Government and the Legislature of Ontario have been held up to public reproach."

QUOTES BRITISH LEGISLATION.

"As I have shown, our legislation was merely incidental and necessary to correct a defect, the existence of which was not suspected. But what do our journalistic detractors think of the following substantive constructive legislation taken from the last English Education Bill? 'Section 11 (3) Every education of the Board of Education purporting to be given on any matter which is to be determined, fixed, or computed by them, or on which they have to be satisfied under this act, shall be final, and shall not be liable to be called in question in any court of law or otherwise.' Or what have they to say regarding several other instances of similar legislation proposed by the British Government, which I could quote? Surely we will now hear the voices of those two very eminent publicists, Lord Ridley and Sir Henry Seymour King, raised in denunciation of such legislation. 'It may be a matter of interest to the journals I have referred to to know that all the watered-stock experts and stock gamblers in Canada are on the side of our opponents in this matter, and that the latter are paying full rates per line for every word published in their interest by the newspapers in this country.'"

"Under these circumstances, then, the Government of Ontario, mindful of the self-respect which is necessary to the mental and moral equipoise alike of Governments and of individuals, has no explanation to make. We have been gratuitously attacked. All the facts and the entire truth can be easily obtained by those who wish to ascertain them, and whose objects are not the injury of the financial credit of Ontario, and the destruction of its great electric power scheme."

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VESTED RIGHTS SAFEGUARDED.

"The Government of Ontario is a Conservative Government in a party sense as well as in intention and action. Should it become necessary it can point to its record. The inviolability of property rights and private rights will be upheld by it under all circumstances. At its last session the Legislature under its guidance adopted a well-considered scheme of law reform in which it gladly retained the right of appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to which tribunal these people can take their alleged grievances."

"It is possible that they will succeed in inflicting some injury on the financial credit of the Province in London, and in that event we shall in the future perhaps have to fall back on our knowledge that there are financial centres other than London. The people of Ontario and of all Canada as a body at this moment earnestly desire and are striving to aid in the imperial work of recasting and consolidating the relations between the great communities and groups which together compose the empire, and to that end are willing and anxious to assume their share of Imperial burdens. The 'Jeddah justice' which a few British newspapers have meted out to us in this matter is not in the nature of encouragement, and may, I fear, cause some of the three millions of British subjects in Ontario to ask themselves, Cui bono?"

KILLED AT CROSSING

Buggy With Three Young Men Struck by Train.

Toronto, Aug. 28.—In attempting to drive over a level crossing in order to beat out a C. P. R. train, three young men were thrown from their buggy at street level yesterday. John Gaunt was killed, one is lying unconscious in St. Michael's Hospital, and the third had such a narrow escape from death that he will probably not try the same thing again as long as he lives.

Thomas Gaunt, 21 years old, son of Robert Gaunt; Fred Swithenbank, 15 years old, son of John Swithenbank; and John Ward, 18 years old, all of Streetville, went out for a drive, and at 3.30 commenced to cross the level crossing on a bad curve near the town. Without the slightest warning the C. P. R. flyer struck the buggy in which they were driving, killing the horse and scattering fragments of the wood for yards.

FIGHT AGAINST RAILWAY.

After Four Years C. N. R. is Ordered to Repair Damage Done By It.

Bracebridge, Aug. 27.—After fighting in the courts against the Canadian Northern Railway for four years, Mr. J. J. Beaumont, who owns nearly 300 acres of land on the Muskoka River, four miles from here, has the satisfaction of being upheld by the Dominion Railway Commission.

The decision made by the Commission is regarding the Coulter's Narrows matter, and is particularly satisfactory to all Muskokans, especially in the vicinity of Muskoka Lakes. The Canadian Northern Railway filled in this channel, which is one of the three outlets for the lakes, thereby raising their level everywhere, causing considerable damage to crops, wharves, etc.

The order Mr. Beaumont has secured from the board commands that all the filling-in material be removed from the channel by April 1, 1910.

It is now the intention of Mr. Beaumont to seek damages against the C. N. R. for losses caused by the alteration of the lake's level.

FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Call for First Annual Convention is Issued.

Ottawa, Aug. 27.—The first convention of the Canadian Federation of Labor opens here on September 28, and the call just issued says in part: "At this particular juncture it is of the utmost importance that the Federation show a united front and a continued determination to assert our right to assume control of the trades union movement in Canada. The desperate policy being followed by our aggressors on behalf of American trade unionism, as instanced by the outrage being perpetrated in the Nova Scotia mines, should awaken such a spirit of resistance on the part of all workmen who will bring American domination and interference to a halt in Canada."

"The convention will be asked to consider the advisability of requesting the Dominion Parliament to inquire into the status of foreign labor organizations doing business in Canada, and to establish the liability of such organizations to Canadian measures."

"One of the greatest questions engaging the attention of Canadian people to-day is that of military and naval organization—or imperial defence—and the convention will also have its attention drawn to the class of immigrants coming with a view to improvement, and particularly the class who do not go on the land, but work in cities, at dock labor, mines, etc."

"The attention of the convention will also be drawn to the humiliating incidents which are of so frequent occurrence to Canadians passing over the American border, with a view to bringing the matter before the Government."

Don't strew flowers on the graves of the dead if you have to strew the living to it.

When some fellows talk about drawing a check they are merely drawing on their imaginations.

1809

IN MEMORY OF

1909

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Physician, Philosopher, Poet

Born August 29th, 1809

A Good Man—A Pure Man—A Kindly Man

Such Men Are a Boon to Mankind, and Their Good Influence Does Not End With Their Lives.

THE TWO ARMIES.

(By Oliver Wendell Holmes.)

As life's unending column pours,
Two marshalled hosts are seen—
Two armies on the trampled shores
That death flows back between.One marches to the drum-beat's roll,
The wide-mouthed clarion's bray,
And hears upon a crimson scroll,
"Our glory is to slay."One moves in silence by the stream,
With sad, yet watchful eyes,
Calm as the patient planet's gleam
That walks the clouded skies.Along its front no sabres shine,
No blood-red pennons wave,
Its banner bears the single line,
"Our duty is to save."For those no death-bed's lingering shade;
At Honor's trumpet-call,
With knitted brow and lifted blade
In Glory's arms they fall.For these no clashing falchions bright,
No stirring battle cry,
The bloodless stabber calls by night—
Each answers, "Here am I!"For these the sculptor's laureled bust,
The builder's marble pile,
The anthem pealing o'er their dust
Through long cathedral aisles.For these the blossom-sprinkled turf
That floods the lonely grave,
When spring rolls in her sea-green surf
In flower-framing wave.Two paths lead upward from below,
And angels wait above,
Who count each burning life-drop's flow,
Each falling tear of love.Though from the Hero's bleeding breast
Her pulses Freedom beat,
The anthem pealing o'er her crest
Sprang from that scarlet dew.Till Valor's heroic champions wait
Till all their scars are shown,
Love waits unchallenged through the gate
To sit beside the Throne.

FROM "THE VOICELESS."

O, hearts that break and give no sign,
Save whitening lip and fading tress,
Till death pours out his cordial wine,
Still dropping from misery's crushing press—
If sloughing breath or echoing chord
To every hidden pain is sent,
What endless melodies were poured,
As sad as earth, as sweet as heaven!

FROM "WHAT WE ALL THINK."

That on unquestioned text we read,
All doubt beyond, all fear above,
No cracking axle nor curving tread
Can burn or blot it: God is Love!

THE LAST LEAF.

(By Oliver Wendell Holmes.)
I saw him once and he did not know me,
As he passed by the door,
And again
The pavement stones resound:
As he enters the ground
With his cane.They say that in his prime
Ere the pruning knife of Time
Cut him down,
Not a better man was found
By the cry on his round
Through the town.But now he walks the streets,
And he looks at all he meets
Sad and wane,
And he shakes his feeble head,
That it seems as if he said,
"They are."The mossy marbles rest
On the line that he has pressed
In his bloom.

Teaching Foreigners in Illinois

to Speak the English Language

Pana, Ill., has a free school for the purpose of instructing foreigners in the English language. The school is open to all who are unable to speak English, and it is a very successful one. The school is open to all who are unable to speak English, and it is a very successful one.

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And the names he loves to hear
Have been carved for many a year
On the tomb.My Grandmother has said—
Poor old lady, she is dead
Long ago—
That he had a Roman nose,
And his cheek was like a rose
In the snow.But now his nose is thin
And it rests upon his chin
Like a staff,
And a crook is in his back,
And a melancholy crack
In his laugh.I know it is a sin
For me to sit and grin
At him here,
But the old three cornered hat,
And the breeches, and all that
Are so queer!And if I should like to be
The last leaf upon the tree
In the spring
Let them smile as I do now,
At the old forsaken bough
Where I cling.

HOLMESISMS.

Sin has many tools, but a lie is the
handle that fits them all.The axis of the earth sticks out visibly
through the centre of every town
or city.The more wheels there are in a watch
or brain, the more trouble they are to
take care of.We are old fellows from the moment
the fire begins to go out.Nature gets us out of youth into man-
hood, as sailors are hurried aboard ves-
sels—in a state of intoxication.As a general thing, I would not give
a great deal for the fair words of a
critic, if he is himself an author, over
fifty years of age.The next year stands for the coming
time. * * * Then shall God's min-
istrels build their nests in the hearts of
a new-born humanity.Every real thought or every real sub-
ject knocks the wind out of somebody
or other.Good feeling helps society to make
liars of most of us—not absolute liars,
but such careless handlers of truth that
the sharp corners get terribly rounded.