

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, SAINT JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1926

Dr. Baxter Replies to Veniot's Attack on Grand Falls Policy In Verbal Duel at Legislature

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Here that under Agreement B, the Fraser Companies were debared from purchasing any power from the Hydro Commission is the height of nonsense. The Premier read to the House what he said was the legal opinion of W. N. Tilley, one of the most eminent lawyers in Canada, to prove that this was the case. I do not pretend to question any legal opinion that might be given by such an eminent lawyer, if such an opinion was really given, but I do not hesitate to state that if the Premier had read to the House the full text, not of the opinion definitely expressed because there was no such definite opinion given by Mr. Tilley, instead of reading only such parts of Mr. Tilley's letter as suited the case at the time, the House would not have been led to believe that the Frasers were debared in the manner set forth by the argument used by the Premier.

"If the Premier had read the full text of the letter in question it would be clearly shown that I was right when I contended that the Hydro Commission, without having to consult the International Paper Company, could sell all or any part of its energy of 80,000 horse power (except the reservation of 10,000 or 14,000 horse power) to whom they pleased for any purpose other than a specified sale for grinding purposes.

VALUE OF NEW SCHEME

"What does the province secure under this new scheme? We are told that the Paper Company will reserve for the people some 4,000 horse power, to be under control of the gov-



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CAPACITY OF GRAND FALLS.

The Premier has questioned the capacity of Grand Falls and endeavored to show that there was only 27,000 dependable all time horsepower available.

"I have in my possession the report of eminent engineers engaged by the International Paper Company to report upon and make plans for them in connection with their development of Grand Falls. This report shows an immediate development of 80,000 horse power and an ultimate of 80,000 horse power. The plans were made by John McCrae, consulting engineer in charge of the rebuilding of Chaudiere Dam, in consultation with Cecil B. Smith, who was in charge of the construction of plant of the hydro-electric plant of the Niagara Falls Power Co.

"There was to be eight hydro-electric generating units of 10,000 horse power each. The dam at the Falls would raise the working head 14 feet. Without the dam the effective head was 110 feet and there is more than sufficient water at this head to develop the initial 30,000 horse power, which amount is sufficient for the present market requirements.

"This report further showed that on a utilization of 12,000 horse power for the line to Fredericton and Saint John and Edmundston and Northern Maine, of the 80,000 installed, would leave surplus earnings of \$185,500 after meeting every charge except sinking fund. By the installation of turbines of sufficient capacity to provide for the continuous overload of 35 per cent, they would have a reserve of 25,000 horse power sufficient for the proposed paper mill, and Montreal line, which would still further increase annual income by \$789,500, while operating and interest charges would only be increased by \$28,000 per annum. By the further ultimate development reaching 80,000 horse power, a further income of \$600,000. The 80,000 horse power would yield surplus earnings of \$899,000 less sinking fund—allowing 2 per cent. for sinking fund, the investment of \$5,000,000 would return a 9 per cent. dividend. These are not my figures, but the figures of the very company to which the government is handing over Grand Falls today.

ESTIMATED POWER PRICE.

"According to a report submitted to the government by the International Paper Company, made by Mr. Kerch, a most eminent engineer, in 1921, horse power could be developed and sold at the switch-board at Grand Falls for \$16.75 per horse power.

"Since that time materials, machinery and labor have been considerably reduced in price, and today the same company is undertaking to develop and sell energy at \$20 per horse power. This price is excessive.

"The development contemplated in 1921 was 35,000 horse power, about the same as the company now say they will develop.

"The engineers of the New Brunswick Hydro Commission having planned for a 60,000 to 75,000 horse power development estimated that energy could be sold at the switch-board for from \$12.50 to \$15.

"In the face of these facts have I not a reason for saying that \$20 a horse power at the switch-board is a price far beyond what should be charged the Frasers Company or any other industry as well as for the amount of energy reserved for the use of the province?

URGES PROVINCIAL WORK.

"To my mind these facts should be conclusive proof that the province should go on with the development. We can do it cheaper and save money to the Frasers or any other industry and at the same time give the International Paper Company all the power they will require for their paper and pulp mill.

"It is not reasonable to conclude that if power could be developed in 1921 for \$16.75 a horse power, that it could at least be developed now for that figure. Why then should our industries have to pay tribute to the International Paper Company to the tune of four or five dollars a horse power above what their own engineers reported in 1921? These figures conclusively show that our engineers were right in estimating the cost of horse power in 1926.

PRICES OF HYDRO POWER.

"Those opposed to public ownership are making the claim that the development under private ownership can be made a great deal cheaper and conse-

quently sold to the industries and for other uses at a cheaper rate than under public ownership.

"Such a contention is absolutely contrary to the facts. The proof can readily be found for my statement by an examination of operation of hydro in the province of Ontario, where the government controls about 1,500,000 horse power, and is still seeking to increase it because the demand is so great that they are running short of power very rapidly.

"I have been in communication with several large concerns in Quebec, who own hydro development and have obtained from them prices in various sections of that province. I find the following:

QUEBEC POWER COSTS.

"The Quebec Power Company sells blocks of power to industries of 1,000 h.p. and upwards of the rate of, based on three cents per k.w.h. for first 50 hours use of maximum demand per month. One cent per k.w.h. for the next 50 hours use and one half cent per k.w.h. for next two hundred hours and three mills for balance of consumption. In all cases a maximum

demand metre is installed and charges are based on not less than 75 per cent. of the contracted amount. To all this is added a service charge of \$1 per horse power per month. This is equivalent to about \$40 per h.p.

"Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co., in Montreal district, large blocks of power are sold on basis of fixed flat charge based on maximum demand plus metre-rate for kilowatt hour usage. Cost per horse power year varies between minimum of \$12 and maximum of \$35, depending altogether on load factor and hours of use.

"Power plant situated outside city of Montreal, in blocks of 1,000 horse power and up electrical power is today being sold in Quebec at from \$25 to \$40 per horse power of maximum demand, depending on locality, hours and conditions of use. Maximum demand determined as highest integrated peak over any period of 20 consecutive minutes. Power factor 90 per cent. and up. Contracts for five years or over.

"Ontario public ownership prices. The prices for industries in Ontario run from \$18.50 to \$30, according to distances of transmission and other

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