

are within the knowledge and responsibility of the Ontario authorities. For these reasons I have on previous occasions suggested that technical discussions be held here with the Hydro Electric Power Commission or such representatives as you may designate.

It seems plain therefore that at the present stage the first question which arises is one of procedure. From the beginning of the long period of international negotiations I have mentioned there has been on the part of successive Dominion and provincial Governments a remarkable continuity of policy as to procedure, and on every point involving the provincial interest there has always been full and detailed joint technical examination and estimating between federal and provincial officials. Obviously this was essential if the international negotiations were to be effectively handled, and as a natural result the lines of the previous international negotiations and consequently the shape of their present position have been very considerably fixed by the representations contributed on behalf of Ontario to the joint federal-provincial explorations. We continue to need this kind of detailed technical examination in order that Canada may have the best information in continuing to carry out her duty under the established practice of careful joint consultation with the other country upon matters of joint concern.

Our general policy therefore is to continue trying to clear away the obstacles to the Province's freedom to develop its own resources at its own discretion, however long and complicated the task may be. At the present moment, the matter confronting all concerned being simply one of procedure involving no decision on any aspect of substantive policy, our immediate proposal, in view of our international responsibilities, is to renew the invitation that joint technical examination and discussions now take place between federal and provincial officials.

I should be glad to designate technical representatives for such discussions at any time. I may add that, in accordance with the usual rule and with the practice in the past, such technical discussions would necessarily be completely without prejudice and only for the guidance of the two Governments respectively.

We hope this will be acceptable and that you will find it convenient to designate representatives for this purpose at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.

The Honourable MITCHELL F. HEPBURN, M.L.A.,
Premier of Ontario,
Toronto, Ontario.