

The Power Question.

This important question receives but scant recognition in the address. I do not live in a municipality directly affected by this question, yet I am quite certain the residents of those municipalities where power by-laws have been carried would like to know where the government is at on this question. Has the law been complied with by the Hydro-Electric Commission so far as the submission of the By-laws is concerned? Were estimates of the cost of constructing and maintaining transmission lines furnished to the municipalities? I have been unable to obtain that full information as required by statute was furnished to a single municipality. Was the form of contract furnished to the municipalities by the commission prior to the vote, in accordance with the clear and distinct requirement of the statutes? The people who must pay all expenses ought to have been given the fullest details of the estimated cost of the right of way, and of every other item of expense. Then they could check and test government figures. At the present stage I merely raise the question as an interrogation to find out whether the municipalities have been treated fairly or whether to treat them fairly they must again vote upon these by-laws after the information mentioned in the statute has been furnished them. I repeat, Sir, the municipalities which must pay for the

transmission line should be given full information and should insist upon receiving full information before entering into any contract. (Cheers.)

Opposition Attitude.

Honorable gentlemen opposite have expressed surprise that, for example, my honorable friend to my left did not enter into a lengthy criticism of governmental work. They forget that he expressly stated that he intended to make not a criticizing but a suggestive speech. Let me assure the Government and this House that we do not consider it our whole duty merely to advance adverse criticism. Let me assure honorable gentlemen opposite that we conceive it to be part only of our duty to fearlessly and unsparingly criticize what we believe to be wrong; the remainder of our duty we will cheerfully perform, namely, commend that which we believe to be right and in the best interests of this Province. I am in the judgment, Sir, of those who have watched the course of legislation in this House for the past three sessions whether the statutes of this Province do not bear the distinct impress of the work of honorable gentlemen on this side (cheers). We have endeavored, Sir, to assist in perfecting legislation that in its working out it may, if possible, realize that good old utilitarian maxim "the greatest good to the greatest number." (Cheers).