

"HYDRO" SENDS REPRESENTATIVES TO ENGLAND

E. T. Brandon and E. V. Buchanan Will Also Visit Sweden and Other Countries—To Investigate British and European Methods

NEXT week, E. T. Brandon, electrical engineer of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, accompanied by E. V. Buchanan, local manager of the system at London, Ont., will leave for England to interview British manufacturers, to study their methods, to let them know just what class of electrical material is required in Ontario, and to find out to what extent the British manufacturers are prepared to compete in that province.

Mr. Buchanan will represent the municipalities in a business way, while Mr. Brandon will be his technical adviser, handling all engineering matters.

While on the other side of the Atlantic they will also visit certain European countries to investigate the latest practice in hydro-electric work and to review manufacturing conditions in those countries. Among other countries that will be visited will be Sweden and Holland.

It has been rumoured that one of the principal objects of the trip is to induce the Swedish General Electric Co. to bid on any additional generators that may be required for the Queenston plant besides the two for which contract was let last Saturday, but this is denied by officials of the commission, who state that no undue importance is to be attached to the trip to Sweden, and that the principal object of the trip is entirely in relation to conferences with British manufacturers and in connection with the supply of small machinery and apparatus of every description as well as of larger equipment.

PROPOSE POWER CONTROL IN BRITAIN

CONTROL of the generation and distribution of electricity throughout the United Kingdom is proposed by a bill now being prepared by the British government. Authority over electric supply, which is now vested in the Board of Trade and other government departments, would be transferred by the bill to a very small board, having probably only five members.

The United Kingdom would be divided into districts, the board members having in mind, first of all, the requirements of industrial sections. In each district a subsidiary board would be appointed to take direct charge.

All electric power stations would be purchased and placed in the hands of the local boards, each of which would be held responsible for the supply of electricity in its district and for the establishment of new generating stations and transmission systems.

If private companies wish to enter the electric business, they would be compelled to buy their current from the local board and their earnings would be under control. It is suggested the local boards would only meet all expenses and pay no profits. The financing of the plan would be in the hands of the government, except where it is practicable and advisable to finance the plan locally.

This plan is brought forward as a compromise between public and private control. The report upon which the bill is based was made by a committee which conducted a careful investigation. It points out that the electric system of the country is inadequate, and recommends the adoption of some plan which will meet the requirements of the country.

Capt. J. A. Duchastel and G. A. McNamee, president and secretary respectively of the Canadian Good Roads Association, this week interviewed Hon. F. B. Carvell, Minister of Public Works, to urge that work on the Laprairie dyke be continued and completed. The dyke has been under construction spasmodically for the past ten years.