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IN THE PUBLIC VIEW



Hon. Adam Beck,
Ontario's Power Minister.

HON. ADAM BECK, Ontario's Power Minister, has been more in the public eye since the opening of the year than even the Premier of the Province. There is a personal reason why Mr. Beck has been able to make himself a strong public man without a portfolio. During the Christmas vacation Mr. Beck called on a farmer friend in the County of Kent, and as he has a passion for good horses as well as a string of some of the best horses in Canada, he was taken out to the stable to look over the inmates. One ambitious bay at once attracted the Minister's attention.

"That horse," said the farmer, "has only one fault. He's the breachiest brute I ever had on the place. He can get over a fence nine

rails high." Mr. Beck looked the animal over with that peculiar keen gaze that he has been turning on power problems.

"I shouldn't call that a very great fault," he said. "That horse if properly trained ought to be one of the best high jumpers in the country. That fault is worth money."

That's the Adam Beck eye. A year or two ago the Power Minister knew no more about electricity than the average man. Hear him discuss electrical problems on the platform and you conclude that he has picked up a marvellous amount of useful knowledge on that subject that he has a rare gift of imparting to others. If Adam Beck were appointed a commissioner to investigate microbes he would find out more practical things about germs than a professor of bacteriology. Wherever you see Adam Beck, whether on the platform, or on the race track, or on the streets of his home city of London, he is a wide-awake, keen-sighted man that looks into the real character of things. This year when the municipalities of Western Ontario begin to put into practical effect the power by-laws that have already been passed in fourteen towns and cities, Adam Beck will have a chance to discover how much use to him and the public has been his knowledge of electrical problems.

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THE first Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs ever appointed in any Anglo-Saxon country is Hon. J. H. Howden, the latest addition to the Manitoba Cabinet. For \$3,300,000 the Manitoba Government has purchased the Bell Telephone Company's interests in Manitoba. Hon. Mr. Howden has been taken into the Cabinet partly for the purpose of seeing that this \$3,300,000 concern is wisely utilised for the public good. He will conduct his department under the authority of an amendment to the Telephone Act to go on the statute books during the present session of the Manitoba Legislature. The real work of telephone administration, however, will devolve upon a Telephone Commission. This Commission has already been appointed by the Cabinet. The members are all Bell Company employees. Mr. F. C. Paterson, the chairman, has been manager of the Northwest

department of the Bell system. He has been with the Bell Company since 1889, when he was appointed manager of the exchange at Brandon. In 1903 he was made manager of the entire Northwest system. His salary as chairman of commissioners will be \$7,000 a year which is greater than the salary of any Provincial Cabinet Minister and more than he received from the Bell Company, owing to the fact that the entire responsibility for the management of the system will be shifted from Montreal to Winnipeg. The other two Commissioners are Mr. W. H. Hayes and Mr. H. J. Horan. Mr. Hayes was formerly assistant manager of the Bell system and will now be in charge of the engineering department. His salary will be \$6,000. He has been with the Bell Company for twenty-two years and before going to Manitoba was manager at Windsor for Western Ontario. Mr. Horan will have charge of the auditing on the Commission. His salary will also be \$6,000. He has been fourteen years with the Bell Company.

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MR. REGINALD W. BROCK, Professor of Geology in the School of Mining, Queen's University, Kingston, has been appointed by the Dominion Government Acting Deputy Minister of Mines and Director of the Geological Survey. This appointment will be popular with mining men, especially in the Provinces of British Columbia and in Ontario, where Mr. Brock is best known. Canada has not yet produced a better all-round man in geology and mining than Mr. Brock. While student at Toronto University '91-'95, Mr. Brock spent several summers as field assistant to the Geological Survey. In 1893, on the organisation of the School of Mining in Kingston, Mr. Brock became a student in Queen's University, where he was graduated with high honours in science in 1895. He spent the following summer at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. In 1895 he took temporary charge of the Department of Mineralogy at Queen's. Afterwards he was for five years a permanent member of the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada, chiefly in British Columbia. After another year at the University of Heidelberg, Mr. Brock became Professor of Geology in the School of Mining at Queen's University. He has also since that time kept up his connection with the Geological Survey, spending the field seasons in British Columbia, where his most recent work has been the detailed examination of the Rossland mineral area. His report on the Le Roi, War Eagle, Centre Star, and other mines of Rossland two or three years ago at the request of the companies, was probably the most important report then undertaken on the metal mines of Canada.

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MR. R. C. STEELE, who has just completed his year as president of the Toronto Board of Trade, is taking a very sensible attitude on the Niagara power question. In his annual address he pointed out how public agitation for cheap power had practically arrested private corporate electric development. Under the circumstances, the Government should step in and purchase one or more of the existing companies. Cheap power is a necessity, but legitimate enterprise should be honourably and fairly dealt with. The attitude is the only sensible one and Mr. Steele is to be congratulated on his wisdom and also upon his courage. In the present state of the Ontario temper, it requires courage to advocate such a course.



Hon. J. H. Howden,
Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs.



Prof. Reginald W. Brock.