

If your Government is interested in supporting a constructive development policy for Ontario, I shall be pleased to renew representations already made to you on this subject.

Your truly,

M. F. HEPBURN

Right Honourable W. L. MACKENZIE KING, P.C.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario.

No. 16

*From The Prime Minister of Canada,
To The Premier of Ontario.*

OTTAWA, October 17, 1939.

My DEAR PREMIER:

During the course of the recent conference between Lieutenant-Governor Matthews, yourself and Mr. Drew, and Mr. Walters, and my colleagues and myself, reference was made to the desirability of securing additional sources of Hydro-Electric power to meet the needs of war industry, and it was arranged that the Chairman of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario would come to Ottawa shortly for detailed discussion.

Dr. Hogg arrived in Ottawa on Wednesday morning, October 11th, and remained here until Thursday evening. The whole power situation and related questions were examined in discussions between Dr. Hogg and the Minister of Transport and officials of the Departments of External Affairs and Transport. I understand that the situation as to the several questions that were gone into is as follows:

Trent Canal.—Dr. Hogg raised the question of power from the Trent Canal system. It was agreed, and arrangements will be made, to permit reach levels in the power section of the river to be fluctuated up to the point where maximum power can be derived therefrom, even though navigable depths will be reduced to the minimum of the system, namely 6 feet. This arrangement will continue through the duration of the war. Proposals were made which would, in effect, permit Hydro officials to direct the flow of water out of storage basins as they desire, provided reaches do not fall below the level required to maintain 6 ft. depth for navigation. The exact procedure to be followed has not finally been determined. Dr. Hogg has asked for time to consider ways and means for effecting daily changes, and will confer further with Transport officials shortly.