

# Beck Believes Province Has Power to Start Work On St. Lawrence River

## BECK OUTLINES POWER SITUATION

Points to Previous Action Taken by Province at Different Periods.

Sir Adam Beck, in a strong rejoinder to Ottawa despatches, draws attention to the fact that the provincial government of Ontario, with the approval of federal authority, has in the past empowered private companies and the Hydro-Electric power commission as well to establish and operate electric power generating plants on navigable streams that are both international and interprovincial.

Sir Adam cites these facts as precedent for effective action to hasten the utilization of the water powers of the St. Lawrence river.

"The province of Ontario gave three companies and the Hydro-Electric Power commission the right to establish power generating plants on the Niagara river, a navigable international stream," Sir Adam said. "For these rights the Ontario government has collected rentals for more than thirty years. The same is true in the province of Quebec, where the provincial government is receiving rentals for the power rights of the Cedar Rapids in the St. Lawrence river."

"Ontario has granted rights in the St. Marys river at Sault Ste. Marie also."

"The plans for these developments were approved by the federal government from time to time, and all are in international navigable streams except the Cedar Rapids, which is entirely within the province of Quebec."

Sir Adam stated his position also with regard to Ottawa's claims concerning the advisability or necessity of delaying the first power development works by the Hydro-Electric Power commission in the St. Lawrence at Morrisburg, until an international advisory commission reports.

**Indefinite Answer.**

"This," said Sir Adam, "is a more or less indefinite answer to our application submitted in May, 1924, for approval of our plans and forces the Hydro-Electric Power commission to initiate steam generating to supply power needed for its 400,000 to 500,000 users."

"The people of the province of Ontario have invested \$25,000,000 in their power enterprises. They have bought at a cost of \$100,000,000, between 80 and 90 companies for the purpose of eliminating duplication and reducing cost. It would be calamity if the federal government were to undertake power generation on the St. Lawrence, having no means of distribution unless for export. They would come into conflict with the H. E. P. C. and any new power plant in administration would increase costs."

"It is not enough to say that there is more power available than we have present use for, any more than it would be reasonable to say that the United States should adopt a policy of exporting surplus power to the needs of posterity."

"As Premier Taschereau of Quebec says he is absolutely opposed to the export of power from the province of Ontario, because of the enormous investment that would be made to transmit and distribute the power, it would become a serious matter to secure its return. There might be reprisals. The U. S. might say we have no coal for Canada."

**Twice as Much Power.**

"St. Lawrence power is a more or less local matter for the bulk of the province of Ontario. No one would assume that Manitoba has any interest in the Niagara or St. Lawrence rivers. What interest has Quebec with twice as much power within her own borders? But Ontario has shown its ability to undertake the development of navigable streams, both interprovincial and international and for the portion available within the province of Ontario the people expect the government at least of undertaking development and financing for the direct use of the people of this country, including the large industrial corporations requiring electricity. We have contracts for 336 municipalities and 70 to 80 large corporations at the present time. Within eighteen months or two years we will be forced to operate steam plants."

Sir Adam suggested that the most effective method to secure quick action would be the inauguration of a policy of close and confidential co-operation between the various bodies directly interested in the development of railways and canals and the department of public works at Ottawa, the governments at Ottawa and Toronto, and the H. E. P. C., representing the electric interests of this province.

## YOUTHFUL POOL FANS GET COURT WARNING

Two boys, both under the age of 18 years, appeared in court today to explain their presence in a local pool room. Their parents were brought along, too, that the court might be assured the youths would never enter a poolroom again until they became of age.

One boy had told his family he was going skating, the mother told the court. The other boy had said he was attending a concert. Both were enthusiastically engaged in a pool game when Constable Gavin Monahan interrupted the contest to inquire their ages.

Samuel Stinchcombe, proprietor of the poolroom, paid \$10 and costs for not being aware of the boys' ages. He was under the impression they were more than 18 years, he told the court.

Magistrate Graydon warned the boys that if they were caught again they would be charged with waywardness and could be sent to jail. Although the parents had no objections to their sons playing pool, they agreed with Magistrate Graydon in his belief that a poolroom was no place for a minor.

## TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY

LOST—Auto tire lock and bracket. Reward. Phone 482 King or phone 478.

## MOHAMMEDANISM CALLED 'PRODIGAL SON' OF RELIGIONS

God Loves Sect Best of Non-Christian Faiths, Cairo Missionary Claims.

234,000,000 BELIEVERS

Associated Press Despatch.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Mohammedanism is the "prodigal son" among the non-Christian religions, and among its followers are thousands of "hidden disciples of Christianity," the Rev. Samuel H. Zwemer of Cairo, yesterday told the foreign missions convention of the United States and Canada.

Of the non-Christian religions, God loves Mohammedanism the most, he said, adding that the day is past for a crusade against the Turks.

"We need a new note in view of the new conditions throughout the Mohammedan world," he declared, "because of their numbers and neglect. God is reassured in this multitude. There are 234,000,000 Mohammedans. In India alone there are 60,000,000."

At Saturday's session of the convention, Rev. James Endicott of Toronto was one of the principal speakers.

Mr. Endicott took issue with those who charged that Christianity had been a failure in grappling with the world's problems. Christianity, he said, had been an astute success wherever it had been honestly tried.

## SIR ADAM BECK AGAIN HEADS L. AND P. S. BODY

Concluded From Page 1.

formal proceeding by the London railway commissioners.

**Take No Action.**

When an account for \$500 for city audit charges was read, objection was raised by the city auditor, who said that it was necessary, by statute, for the city auditor to go over all the accounts submitted to him, and that the chairman insisted that all Mr. Ashplant had to do was to check the work of the commission's auditor.

"I don't think that the city is very serious in insisting on payment of this," remarked Sir Adam.

"Leave it over until next month, anyway," suggested Donald Wright, and the mayor agreed.

Letter from London & Port Stanley regarding the proposed extension of the railway board asked for an explanation of policy from the commission. Sir Adam said that the board had been asked to explain its policy, and that the board had been asked to explain its policy, and that the board had been asked to explain its policy.

Fares to St. John's from London were declared exorbitant by several petitioners to the commission. Correspondence from the chamber of commerce and from Philip Pocock was received on this matter, which was finally left for General Manager Richards to adjust.

**Probes Suggested.**

Probes into several matters were suggested by the commissioners, who sought to cut down expenditure. Taxes at Port Stanley appeared heavy, though the manager said that much had been done to keep costs down. Commissioner Wright asked if the city paid for private telephone lines in the homes of officials. This was admitted by the manager, there being six such phones in London and two at St. Thomas. It was also admitted that the city paid for the telephone lines of the manager and his family.

"That's just what hydro's been going through for the last 10 years," interjected Sir Adam Beck. There's all kinds of rumors and then they have a royal commission that costs two million dollars, and everybody's satisfied."

Mayor Wenige suggested that rumors were not a good thing for the road. Insurance costs were discussed briefly and a further report will be brought up at the regular March meeting. General Manager Richards said that the annual report on operations would not be completed for another three weeks.

**TWO DRUNKS FINED.**

Two men, one of 40 and the other of 50, were fined \$10 and costs each in police court this morning. They pleaded guilty to their breach of the peace, and Magistrate Graydon imposed the minimum penalty. A vagrant, 16 years of age, also appeared in court today. He was too intoxicated to come before Magistrate Graydon, and was turned over to the juvenile court authorities.

**YOUTHFUL GLOBE-TROTTERS RETRIEVED IN DORCHESTER**

High Constable Wharton retrieved two small Londoners this morning from Dorchester, where they were found by the local police. The two boys, who were in the early teens, had started out on "see-the-world tour" unaccompanied. Their parents having missed them on Saturday morning, surrounding centers were notified to be on the lookout. Word reached the city today that they were at Dorchester, and by dinner-time they were restored to the bosom of their families. The two boys are brothers.

**CASE ADJOURNED.**

Louis Slobasky, charged in police court this morning with disorderly conduct, had his case adjourned until Feb. 4, at his own request.

**ONE DROPS OUT.**

Two engines were put on the Huron and Bruce train which left here at 9 o'clock this morning. They puffed joyfully along until they reached Elderton. There one of them went lame on developing journal trouble in the tender, the other one had to be left at Elderton, while the other one dragged the "butter and egg special" the rest of the way alone. There was no delay.

**FEES FOR THE SUBDIVIDING OF PROPERTY EAST OF ADELAIDE STREET AND BEYOND.**

The plan is registered and the city will receive sufficient land to open adequate streets through the property.

A meeting of gatekeepers interested in the Hale street sewer system will likely be called next week. The city engineer and others will discuss the proposal with the citizens, and subsequent action will hinge upon the decision of the meeting.

Passes of the London and Port Stanley railway this year will be individual ones only, to railway officials and other officials and city legislators. They will be no "family" passes.

The annual meeting of the Grand Chapter of the order of the Eastern

order to convene Sir Adam Beck, the chairman, who is taking a month's holiday on doctor's orders. Sir Adam will rest up in Florida during the coming weeks.

The G. W. V. A. has been granted permission to hold a spring carnival on the Federal square during the third week of May.

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## MUSICAL CONCERT GIVEN AT CAPITOL

R. C. R. Band and Many Prominent London Artists on Program.



JAMES BALLANTYNE.

Seventeen hundred people heard the Royal Canadian regiment band play at the Capitol theatre last night in a Sunday evening concert, given under the auspices of the Municipal chapter of the I.O.D.E. A varied program of classical and semi-modern selections rendered by the regimental band and numerous solos given by local artists constituted one of the finest Sunday musical concerts given in the city this season.

The R. C. R. band played under the leadership of Lawrence Harrison, and numbers ranging from the tuneful, fiery airs of military music to the more subdued classics drew much applause from an appreciative audience.

"The Penitent" (Dandewater) was sung by Mrs. Ed. Wyatt, soprano, in a finished manner. "The Light of the World" and "The Heavenly Song" were two delightful selections given by Miss Gladys Topping Parnell, contralto. When Urean was a pleasing selection by Mr. Lloyd Bullen. Mrs. Cecelia Lewis and Mr. George Lethbridge acted as accompanists.

The band played through the kind permission of Lieut.-Col. E. A. Seeley-Smith, and funds, gained through a silver collection, will be devoted to work among the blind and other causes in which the I.O.D.E. is interested.

The following selections constituted the program played by the regimental band: "Merrie England" (Edward German); "The Star in the East" (H. J. Alcock); "The Spanish Song" (Elgar).

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## CUSTOMS RECEIPTS DECREASE \$92,000

January Figure Is \$177,560.71, Collector O. H. Talbot Announces.

Customs and excise receipts for January amounted to \$177,560.71, according to the report issued by O. H. Talbot, collector of customs and excise today. The amount is \$92,993.79 less than January last year, when the receipts were \$270,554.50.

The customs duties for the month were \$67,629.12 for January, 1924. They were \$91,343.68, a decrease of \$23,714.56.

Decreases are shown in all departments except sundries. Here there is an increase of \$20,711. \$916.59 was received this January. A year ago \$95.08 was received.

No excise taxes were collected last month. For January, 1924, they were \$107,283, thus showing a decrease of \$107,283.

The excise sales taxes were \$80,828.50. Last year they were \$139,122.15, a decrease of \$58,293.65. Excise duties received in January were \$15,560.35. This was \$1,481.94 less than a year ago. Excise totals were \$100,448.55, a decrease of \$38,785.59 over January last year.

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