Parliamentary Doings

With Ontario's Legislators, Spring, 1939

BY EEDY

With a Premier fresh back from Australia and a brand new Conservative leader all rarin' to go, proceedings in Ontario's Legislature at Queen's Park got off to a lively start March 8, and are likely to continue at slightly less than boiling point throughout the 1939 session. . .

First off, when Mitchell Frederick Hepburn twitted George Alexander Drew about the frequency with which the Ontario Conservative Party has changed leaders of late, the latter bristled, made no reply; he was saving his fire for the more dramatic occasion during the Throne Address debate when he hurled tradition overboard . . . by limiting all Tory contribution to the debate to his own speech. . . no more. . . It was an unprecedented move made (he said) to expedite the business of the Legislature and save the taxpayer money . .

Highlights of the Speech from the Throne: The Government will introduce legislation to enable Ontario to enter into an unemployment insurance agreement with Ottawa; a new method of equalizing municipal assessments; all elected municipal officials to take the oath of allegiance; relief costs to be higher than 1938's $22,000,000 forecast, "unless there is marked industrial improvement"; the Dominion to be asked to repeal the Canada Temperance Act as it applies to Ontario; steps to be taken toward "uniformity and co-ordination in municipal policing"; financial relief to be provided for northern mining municipalities. . .

Looks like a new deal for Ontario's unemployed. . . maybe. . . . if Premier Hepburn carries out his announced intention to co-operate with the Federal Government in introducing unemployment insurance . . . (We should have said Ontario's future unemployed. . . those at present out-of-work would not be aided by the scheme). . .

A host of government bills was introduced the second day of the session covering a number of minor questions, such as amendments to the Cemetery Act, the Pharmacy Act, the Public Hospitals Act. . . but the business of dealing with these measures cannot begin to compare in interest with the debate on the state of affairs so frequently seen in the House. . .

The Budget is likely to be brought down within a week. . . . administrative expenses may be pared. . . car licenses may go up . . . and a two-cent jump in the present six-cent gasoline tax is sure to be announced (Ontario towns want to share in the revenue). . . Questions: what will this mean to the tourist trade?. . . what will it mean to the average motorist driving 10,000 miles a year who has already contributed an extra $15 annually since the tax went up from three to six coppers? . . . However, we may be getting ahead of ourself. . .

The Conservatives want "more light" on what the Government proposes to do with the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, a $125,000,000 property now in process of reorganization. . . a fierce fight is raging around that. . . Mr. Hepburn thinks Col. Drew is unduly suspicious. . . and quibbles too much. . .

They've appointed a bachelor as Speaker of the House for the first time in Ontario's history. Girls, we give you Major Clark!

The Dionne Quintuplets have accepted an invitation to come-see the King and Queen on May 22. Oh, what a day for Toronto that will be! . . .

Thieves have attempted to break into a vault in the Treasury Department. . .an inquiry by the audit department reveals shortages of money, defalcations of funds in several branches of the Government's business. . . there's been dirty work at the crossroads. . .

Don't Look Man Straight In Eye

Girls, said M. Dono Edmond in an interview at New York last week, have an unfortunate habit of looking men straight in the eye.

"It is not alluring," said Edmond, former court beauty adviser to the late Queen Marie of Rumania. "It makes a man feel inferior. He feels you're trying to probe his mind."

Far better it is to look at him fleetingly, and then look away, continued Edmond.

"Yes, I believe women should be somewhat coy," he said, "but I don't mean baby talk. That's terrible! It annoys a man's nerves.

"Women should learn how to blush. It can be done by exhaling a little longer than they are accustomed."

Lakes Much Below Their Usual Level

Water Is Low In The St. Lawrence, Too, According To Dominion Hydrographic Service.

Level of the St. Lawrence River in Montreal harbor during February was 20 3/4 inches lower than January, 7 1/2 inches lower than February, 1938, and 50 3/4 inches lower than the average level of February for the last 79 years, the Hydrographic Service of Canada reports.

Lake Superior at Port Arthur was two inches lower than January, one inch higher than February, 1938; and 5 1/4 inches higher than the average level of February for the last 79 years.

Below Average For 79 Years

Lake Huron at Goderich was the same as January, 9 1/4 ins. higher than February, 1938; and 18 inches lower than the average level of February for the last 79 years.

Lake Erie at Port Colborne was 3/4 of an inch higher than January, three inches higher than February, 1938, and 9 1/4 inches lower than the average level of February for the last 79 years.

Lake Ontario at Kingston was a half inch higher than January, five inches lower than February, 1938; and 13 1/4 inches lower than the average level of February for the last 79 years.

Says Emotions Cause Fatigue

Marie Beynon Ray, whose flight from a job rut has led her through careers as teacher, editor, wife, mother and author, says she has never been tired in her life and that she can tell other women how to become "inhuman dynamos" of energy and interest.

"It is not the work we do but the emotional factors operating while we work that causes fatigue," she said in an interview at New York last week.

"Women tire of housework not because their chores are too hard for them "but because they consider housework an inferior occupation," according to Mrs. Ray.

"Find Interesting Vocation"

"If they cannot escape housework, the thing for them to do is to find some other intensely interesting avocation — perhaps the beautifying of their homes, politics, sport, voice culture—anything to substitute a healthful, vitalizing emotion for boredom and depression."

VOICE OF THE PRESS

SOMEBODY'S KEPT BUSY.

It is estimated that there are 1,218,000 milch cows in Ontario. Think of what they mean in terms of human labor at milking-time.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

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ONION ORCHARD

A Baltimore magistrate has ruled that an onion may be classed as a fruit. What a fine time Mitch Hepburn will have next summer in his onion orchard.

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"UNITY" A LA CANADA

This new trans-Canada air line may do something for Canadian unity. After all, it only takes about twenty hours now to get a complaint from the Pacific coast to Ottawa.—Hamilton Spectator.

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WE'RE KICKING PLENTY, TOO.

It is said that 37 per cent. of the Nazi forces are flatfooted from too much walking and parading. We're getting that way in this country from keeping the foot on the gas.—Peterborough Examiner.

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JOBS, TRAINING FOR YOUTH

Governments make substantial grants of which prizes are paid for the improvement of cows, horses, pigs, sheep, chickens and all kinds of livestock. Perhaps it would not be bad policy to spend more money providing a training for youth and opportunities for employment.—Farmer's Advocate.

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NOT A PUPPET

. . . In short, the Member of Parliament is not intended to be the tool, puppet or rubber stamp of his constituents and still less of any group among them. But it is his function before everything else to represent them and to promote their legitimate interests by all means in his power.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

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HOCKEY IN THE OLD DAYS

Hockey players in some centres are not what they used to be. It is not so many years ago that puck chasers were sixty-minute men and played every game without relief. Recent snow storms have made motor travel impossible for visiting hockey teams and rather than drive by horse and sleigh as their predecessors did many a time, games have been cancelled.—Petrolia Advertiser-Topic.

Officials in Italy have reported that the careful selection of seed and use of chemical fertilizers are greatly increasing grain crops.

Yule Tree Cutting In Ontario Probed

Hon. Peter Heenan, provincial minister of lands and forests, said last week that promiscuous cutting of Christmas trees during the Yuletide season and theft of trees from private property was under investigation by his department and might lead to legislative action.

Either the federal government would be asked to amend the Criminal Code to deal with the situation, or the province would bring down a bill of its own, he said. A decision will be made in the near future.

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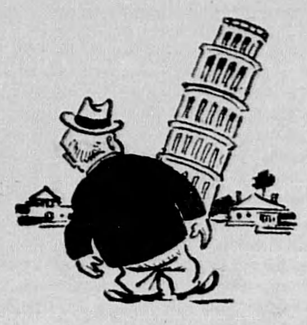
Gregory Clark looks at ITALY

CABLES which Gregory Clark is sending to The Toronto Daily Star from Rome make interesting reading. "Greg," as he is best known to hundreds of thousands of readers of The Star Weekly, hopped a boat for Italy to see the coronation of Pope Pius XII. The papal coronation over, "Greg" is browsing around the country—sampling its delights, ancient and modern. In more than 20 years of newspaper writing, "Greg" has been in many exciting and interesting places, but no experience of his career has furnished such wealth of material for his fluent pen. He will wander through marble palazzos, inspect basilicas and campaniles; appraise famous works of art and architecture, and take a squint at Italian industry. He will tour cities, country and villages; mingle with princes and peasants, blackshirts and officials; ride in Venetian gondolas, sniff the air of sunny Sicily and sample foods that have made Italian chefs famed the world over. He will be more Roman than Mussolini. "Greg's" Italian rambles are already shaping into the most fascinating travelogue ever printed in a Canadian newspaper. It breathes that magic of humor and humanism which "Greg" infuses into every subject he touches. Writers are many, but there is only one "Greg" Clark, and in his stories from Italy he is at his best. Read and revel in his articles which appear every day in



THE TORONTO DAILY STAR

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"I couldn't find the button, dear, so I sewed up the buttonhole."

WONDERLAND OF OZ — By L. Frank Baum

After the clatter, an intense silence reigned in the town and the visitors, all knowing that caution was no longer necessary, hurried forward to see what had happened. They entered the largest house they came to and found the door strewn with pieces of what looked much like fragments of wood neatly painted, all of different and fantastic shapes. "Why," cried Dorothy, picking up one of the pieces," they're Jig-Saw puzzles."

The piece which Dorothy held was an eye, which looked at her pleasantly, but with an interested expression as if it wondered what she was going to do with it. Quite near by she discovered a nose, and by matching the two pieces together, found that they were part of a face. "If I could find the mouth," she said, "this Fuddle might be able to talk and tell us what to do next." "Then let us find it," said the Wizard, and so all got down on their hands and knees.

"I've found it!" cried Uncle Henry, and he ran to Dorothy with a queer shaped piece with a mouth on it, but when they tried to fit it to the eye and nose, they found hat the parts would not match. "This mouth belongs to some other person," said Dorothy. "You see we need a curve here and a point there to make it fit the face." Well it must be some place," declared the Wizard, "so if we search for it long enough we shall certainly find it."

Dorothy fitted an ear on next and the ear had a little patch of red hair above it, so while the others were searching for the mouth, she hunted for pieces with red hair and found several of them, which, when matched to the other pieces, formed the top of a man's head. She had also found the other eye and ear and by the time Aunt Em, in a corner, discovered the mouth. When the face was thus completed all the parts joined together with a nicety that was astonishing.