

## TWO NEW MEMBERS SPEAK IN HOUSE

### Intimation of Surplus of Over Half a Million

## THE REDISTRIBUTION BILL.

### Premier Whitney Introduces Skeleton Measure.

#### Two Political Leaders Will Get Together Before Anything of Government's Intention About Redistribution is Disclosed—Debate on Address is Commenced.

Though the Provincial Legislature was supposed to have commenced its real business yesterday afternoon, practically nothing was done beyond opening the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Two speakers only were heard—Mr. C. R. McKeown, M.P.P. for Dufferin, and Mr. A. E. Donovan, M.P.P. for Brockville, both of them new members. These speeches were somewhat brief, and, while much of the field of Provincial politics was touched upon, the references to the Provincial surplus were especially marked. The exact amount of this surplus has not been made known officially, but Mr. Donovan intimated that it was over half a million dollars. The general impression, however, concerning the surplus is that the figures will mount to nearly \$600,000. Before the House adjourned Premier Whitney introduced a skeleton redistribution bill, which was read for the first time. The bill in its present form makes no disclosure of the Government's intention with regard to redistribution, none of the important schedules being presented. Mr. Whitney announced his intention of conferring with the leader of the Opposition, Hon. A. G. MacKay, regarding the procedure to be adopted before the bill is presented to the House in its complete form. The debate was adjourned on motion of Mr. C. N. Smith, Sault Ste. Marie. It is probable, however, that when the Legislature meets to-day, and following the tradition of purely formal business, there will be a further adjournment until Tuesday. It is understood that a number of members on both sides of the House are desirous of taking part in the debate.

#### Devastating Ground-hogs.

Petitions were received from the county of Elgin asking that the Government should grant a bounty for the killing of ground-hogs. The petition set forth that ground-hogs had increased in such numbers that the damage caused by them was considerable.

A number of petitions were also handed in asking for the repeal of the three-fifths clause with respect to local option. Numerous other ones of minor importance were also read.

The House went into Committee of Supply, when Hon. Col. Matheson moved that \$690,000 be apportioned for interim supplies. This amount, he said, was larger than usual because of the amounts devoted towards the superannuation of school teachers.

#### Two Maiden Speeches.

In moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne Mr. McKeown,

who was received with loud applause from the Government benches, made a touching reference to the death of his predecessor, Dr. F. W. Lewis. Referring to the Whitney Administration, he stated that the members were not daunted in the effort for honest government by corporations and anxious capitalists, though at the same time encouragement had always been given private investment and private capital. During the thirty years of the previous Administration the greatest asset of the Province, the waters at Niagara Falls, had rolled on to the sea unnoticed. He noted with pleasure in the speech from the throne that the liquor license act was to be given further consideration. He felt that in the years to come Ontario would be noted for its universal sobriety.

#### Will Have a Surplus.

Continuing, Mr. McKeown said that once more a surplus would be reported, a surplus not secured by sacrifices of mineral or timber wealth, but by honest business methods. He also devoted a few sentences of eulogy to what the Government had done so far for the care and healing of the insane. The Minister of Agriculture had also done much in trying to secure more farm labor for the Province. Certainly, he added, the great need of the country was population, but he thought it would be better to bring British immigrants here than the offscouring of Europe. Mr. McKeown favored the setting of a minimum salary for school teachers, and he did not think a minimum of \$300 too high. The Government, in order to encourage the better payment of teachers, he pointed out, paid \$40 towards a salary of \$400 and \$80 towards one of \$500 for the rural school.

#### A Little Boast.

Mr. Donovan also received his share of applause upon rising. Mr. Donovan claimed that three Cabinets as good as the Ross Cabinet could be selected from the men now supporting the present Government. The Whitney Administration, he said, had found public support because of business management, fair dealing and economy.

"I have reason to believe," said Mr. Donovan, "that when the Provincial Treasurer makes his budget speech he will be able to tell you that he has several hundred thousand dollars in hard, cold cash as a surplus. (Applause). I will even make a guess that this surplus is over half a million." (Applause.)

#### Good Administration.

Referring to the temperance question, the speaker said even the liquor men of the Province would admit that the law was well administered. He gave it as his opinion that the license reduction question in Toronto should have been referred to the people. There had to be fair play on both sides, he stated, though he believed that in ten years practically all the rural districts would have local option, and the Government would stand behind the people when the latter said they wanted anything.

The adjournment of the House was moved by Mr. C. N. Smith, Sault Ste. Marie.

#### Conditions of Prison Labor.

Abolition of the Central Prison, and the purchase of four or five hundred acres of land, within reasonable distance of Toronto, on which a Provincial Reformatory shall be established, are the chief recommendations contained in the report, made public yesterday, of the special committee of the Legislature appointed last session to inquire into the conditions of prison labor. The committee also recommend that "instead of having the two years' sentence arbitrarily fixed as the boundary line between the Central Prison and the penitentiary it would be much better were the Provincial institution devoted solely to first offenders, regardless of the length of the term for which they are committed." The committee further suggest "an early conference with the Federal authorities in order

to secure a more rational arrangement for the custody of first offenders and the adoption of the indeterminate sentence and parole systems." They further recommend the abolition of what are known as the public account, contract and piece price systems of employment."

#### Rational Treatment.

A further clause suggests that in the equipment of industrial departments regard should be had for the development of the mechanical taste and manual dexterity of the inmates of the institution rather than the specialization of labor and rapid production of goods by machinery. The substitution of ordinary clothing of uniform style and color for the striped suit and the abolition of the dark cell are also recommended. Other recommendations are the introduction of a system of technical education, instruction in elementary subjects with a view to the adoption of a more advanced curriculum, calisthenics and military exercises to improve inmates' physical condition, "thus paving the way for their moral adjustment, but that anything in the nature of a public display be prohibited." The establishment of a branch institution to be located in northern Ontario is suggested.

#### Conditions Out of Harmony.

In conclusion, and as their reason for condemning the existing Central Prison, the committee state:

"From the information which they have been enabled to gather and the experience of those who for many years have been actively identified with prison administration, your committee are impelled to the conclusion that a reorganization of the Provincial institution is desirable. The physical conditions at the Central Prison are now out of harmony with the requirements and purposes of the institution.

"The first conclusion that has forced itself upon your committee is that the present property should be disposed of, a large tract of land purchased and a new institution erected thereon. This change would permit the inauguration of the farm system on a large scale."

#### Notices of Motion.

Following are the notices of motion as handed out yesterday:—

Mr. Hendrie (on Tuesday next)—Bill to amend the railway act; bill to amend the railway and municipal board act.

Mr. Monteith (on Tuesday next)—Bill to amend the act respecting agricultural societies; bill to amend the act respecting horticultural societies; bill to amend the factories act; bill to amend the shops act.

Mr. Brower (on Monday next)—Bill to amend the municipal act; bill to amend the assessment act; bill to amend the municipal drainage act.

Mr. Matheson (on Tuesday next)—Bill respecting municipal securities; (on Monday next), bill to supplement the revenues of the Crown in the Province of Ontario; bill respecting the consolidated revenue fund; bill respecting the raising of loans authorized by the Legislature; bill to provide for auditing the public accounts of the Province.

Dr. Pyne (on Tuesday next)—Bill to amend the public school act; bill to amend the Education Department act.

The majority of these bills are the existing laws as revised by the Judges entrusted with the revision of the statutes. The amendment which it is proposed should be made in the Railway and Municipal Board act is to enable the Ontario Railway Board to certify, when necessary, that money by-laws passed by municipalities are in order.

Mr. A. B. McCoig (West Kent) has given notice of the following questions:—(1) Have the Government decided to grant fishing licenses to fishermen on the River Thames this year? (2) If not, is it the intention of the Government to make any provision for granting licenses to fish in Lake St. Clair to those fishermen deprived of licenses on the River Thames?