

Administration of justice, lessening the number of appeals, reducing the cost of litigation and for other purposes.

"My Ministers have arrived at the conclusion that it is advisable to change the date of the close of the financial year to the 31st day of October, thus enabling the Legislature to meet early in January in each year, and proceed with the despatch of business.

"You will be glad to know that the revenues of the Province are considerably in excess of the estimates and more than sufficient to meet the public expenditure during the year. The public accounts will be laid before you for your consideration at the earliest moment, and the estimates for the coming year will also be submitted to you for your approval at an early date.

"The various subjects which will come before you will, I feel assured, receive your careful consideration, and I trust that your deliberations may be for the best interests and welfare of this great Province."

#### **The Proceedings Closed.**

The Clerk of the House reported the bye-elections caused by the election of Mr. W. R. Smyth of Algoma to the Dominion House and the calling of the Hon. J. S. Duff to the Cabinet. Sir James Whitney introduced the usual bill as to the administration of oaths of office, which was given its first reading, and also gave notice for the appointment of the usual standing committees, and the House adjourned until 3 o'clock this afternoon, when the debate on the address will be taken up.

Hon. J. J. Foy, the Attorney-General, gave notice of the first series of bills to consolidate the statutes, the first result of the Commission on Statute Revision. These introductory measures do not contain many radical changes.

An informal reception to the visitors and members with their wives followed in the Speaker's apartments, light refreshments being served. Mrs. Crawford received.

#### **Will Despatch Business.**

The session promises to be remarkable for speed and despatch of business. Although later than usual in starting, the Government is said to have its plans laid for prorogation by Easter, which will mean a two-months' session.

It is not generally known that over forty Government bills have been already prepared and printed. The Cabinet has not been idle, and the delay in the date of opening was due to Government anxiety to complete the draft of a very substantial legislative bill of fare. The earlier measures will include that of law reform, which promises to be the big thing of the sitting. Hon. Mr. Foy will introduce the bill very closely along the lines of his resolution of last session, and, after its second reading, will allow sufficient time to elapse to consider such suggestions as may be forthcoming. Other early and important bills are likely to be those affecting the liquor license law, the organization of a system of Provincial police, and legislation to further advance the Government's power policy.

By the time the preliminary measures are dealt with, the double dose of estimates necessitated by the changing of the financial year will be brought down. No time is to be lost in this busy session.

#### **The Committees.**

The committees will be organized early. The entrance of Hon. James Duff to the Cabinet leaves the Chairmanship of the Agricultural Committee vacant. It is regarded as likely that Mr. Finlay G. Macdiarmid of West Elgin will succeed the new Minister as presiding officer. No other changes in Chairmanships are looked for. Mr. I. B. Lucas, Centre Grey, is assured continuance at the head of Private Bills; Hon. W. J. Hanna of the Municipal; Hon. J. S. Hendrie of the Railways; Hon. J. J. Foy of the Legal; Colonel Hugh Clark, Centre Bruce, of the Printing; Mr. W. H. Hoyle, North Ontario, of Standing Orders; Mr. J. H. Carnegie, Victoria, of Public Accounts, while the name of Mr. A. C. Pratt, Norfolk, has been suggested for the Fish and Game Committee.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle is likely to be Chairman of the Committee of the Whole in the House. If, as is anticipated, a special committee is appointed to deal with the health campaign against tuberculosis, it is regarded as probable that Mr. J. P. Downey, South Wellington, will be named the Chairman.

**Government House Dinner.**