

### Transmission Line Completed.

The construction by the Hydro-electric Commission of the line for the transmission of electric power has been completed. In working out a new problem of more or less difficulty and delicacy, such as the hydro-electric scheme, certain delays have necessarily occurred, but it is confidently expected that this great undertaking will soon be in full operation. The earnest and unselfish efforts of the members of the Commission in this matter merit acknowledgment and commendation.

### Farmers Prospered.

With good prices prevailing for all kinds of farm produce, due in a large measure to our rapidly-increasing home markets, the year has been one of almost unprecedented prosperity for our farmers, and proves once again that Ontario's place as the premier agricultural Province of the Dominion remains undisputed. It is pleasing to note the increasing interest taken in all branches of agricultural development, and to observe the general commendation of the efforts of my Government to make agriculture more remunerative and attractive.

Owing to the increased efforts put forth, and the advantage of a provision made last session for assisted passages, the number of immigrants coming to Ontario in 1910, including farm laborers and domestic servants, was very considerably greater than in the previous year. An increased appropriation will be asked for this purpose.

### More Agricultural Instruction.

Most important work in agriculture has been done by practical demonstrations carried on in live stock, dairying, fruit-growing and the growing of field crops by the district representatives of the Department of Agriculture in a number of counties in the Province. So prompt and conclusive have been the results from this work that there is now a very general demand for its extension, and you will be asked to consider an appropriation for this purpose.

The revision of the statutes has been proceeded with as rapidly as regard for the important nature of the work would allow and its early completion may be looked for. A number of the revised acts will be laid before you for your approval, and you will be asked to consider also bills amending the liquor license act and other statutes of a public nature.

### Revenue Ahead of Estimates.

I am pleased to inform you that the revenues of the Province are considerably in excess of the estimates.

The public accounts will be laid before you for your consideration at the earliest moment, and the supplementary estimates for the current year will also be submitted at an early date.

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

### A Brilliant Gathering.

Among those who gathered to witness the opening ceremonies were many distinguished public men, Judges, churchmen and educationists, as well as the members of the Consular corps. Among those present were: Right Rev. Bishop Sweeny, Rev. Dr. Carman, Mgr. McCann, Chief Justice Sir William R. Meredith, Mr. Justice Clute, Mr. Justice Middleton, President Falconer, Principal Gandier, Mayor Geary, Rev. Charles P. Goodson and Mrs. Goodson, Rev. George R. Stair of the Chapman-Alexander party, Hon. W. A. Charlton; Mr. S. Nordheimer, Consul-General for Germany; Mr. Frederic Nicholls, Consul-General for the Netherlands; Mr. J. Enoch Thompson, Consul-General for Cuba; Mr. Barlow Cumberland; Mr. Fred Mowat, Sheriff of Toronto; Mr. Frank Daville, Sheriff of York; Mr. James Leitch, Chairman Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, and others.

### No Room for Members.

Sir James Whitney and the members of the Cabinet stood in a group to the right of the Speaker, and the private members were deprived of even the little-loved "back benches." The ladies were in possession and the members got but occasional glimpses of the proceedings, except the few who threw dignity to the winds for the time being and mingled with the crowd in the galleries. Hon. A. G. MacKay, leader of the Opposition, was present, together with a number of Liberal members.

Before moving the adjournment, Sir James Whitney moved that the House consider the speech from the Throne at this afternoon's session.

### Two Notices of Motion.

The members are losing no time in bringing their desired legislation before the House. Mr. W. H. Hoyle, M.P.P. for North Ontario, has given notice of two bills, one to amend the voters' list act and the other respecting line fences.

## HYDRO-ELECTRIC COMMISSION HAS SUFFERED NO DAMAGE

### Hon. Adam Beck Answers Criticisms—Few Trifling Defects Found Along the Line Fell to Companies Taking the Power.

"No machinery has been finally taken over by the Hydro-electric Commission; the apparatus in the stations is all under test, and should it fail to do the work required, or should defects develop, it will have to be remedied or the machinery taken out. No damage has been suffered in connection with operation that can be charged up to the Hydro-electric or to the municipalities taking the power. For the last two weeks we have not had a single complaint from anybody, anywhere."

This is the answer that Hon. Adam Beck, Chairman of the Commission, made last night to criticisms made during the last few days which were based upon the report that losses to machinery alone of \$100,000 had been sustained up to the present.

"During the tests of the machinery installed in the stations and of the transformers and other apparatus put up along the line, there were a few defects found," Mr. Beck continued. "The damage sustained at the stations in this connection, however, was very, very small, trifling, in fact, and such as they were they fell on the companies organized to take the power. But where defects developed during the tests, the manufacturers had to make them good. Those are the facts."

"At Berlin a month ago there was some interference with the transmission line. This was of a malicious

nature; someone had thrown wires over the cable. This was remedied, and we offered a reward for the conviction of the culprit. That was all there was to that. There has also been some trouble in connection with operation at Stratford, Guelph and Preston, but these were of a minor nature. We are always glad to hear of a genuine complaint," Mr. Beck added.

"Mr. Sothman, Chief Engineer of the Commission, said that he could meet all the claims for damage to apparatus of the Hydro-electric with the small change in his pocket," said The Globe reporter.

"That about covers it all," said Mr. Beck. "We had 18,000 insulators set up on our long line and we have yet to have reported a single puncture or breakage from any of them. That is a wonderful record, for the usual percentage of such failures on a high voltage line such as ours runs at about eight per cent. The lines are working very satisfactorily. The operators, who at the beginning were unfamiliar with the current, are now working in concert and that is aiding a great deal. I anticipate no trouble at all of a serious nature."

"On the line to London, from Dundas, we will be taking our men off to-morrow. We will be in a position to supply power to Toronto before the end of this week. There can hardly be any complaint on that score. And, as far as the finances are concerned, we will finish up about \$200,000 within our estimates."