

LEGISLATORS GET READY FOR WORK

Finish To-day Debate in Reply to Speech From Throne.

BOUQUETS FROM MR. PRATT

Member for South Norfolk Pays Tribute to Leader.

Mr. Torrance Says Provincial Secretary is Another John Howard, and Compliments the Opposition Leader for His Spirit and Ability.

The Legislature settled down to business yesterday, and the way was cleared for winding up to-day the debate in reply to the speech from the Throne. Mr. A. C. Pratt, member for South Norfolk, who moved the adoption of the speech of his Honor, spoke for forty minutes, while Mr. Jas. Torrance of North Perth, who followed, addressed the House for thirty minutes. The Labor member from Hamilton, Mr. Allan Studholme, wound up the speech-making.

"I think this is all a waste of time anyway," he remarked in commencing a short declaration of his position, "because it will all come up again in the debate on the Budget."

Waiting for Budget Debate.

The Liberal leader is of the same opinion, and the Opposition will reserve its ammunition until the Provincial Treasurer delivers his Budget address. Hon. A. G. MacKay moved the adjournment of the debate until to-day, which means that the Liberal leader and Premier Whitney will wind up this afternoon and prepare for more serious business.

The member for North Norfolk early in his address entered into the subject of technical education with a declaration of satisfaction that the Government had recognized the need of an appropriation for technical education.

The Duty of the State.

"Our public schools are good," he said, "our high schools excellent, and our universities practically unexcelled. But there is a class of boys and girls to whom the State owes a duty in the way of providing a measure of technical education, enabling them to prepare more completely for their life. A technical system needs to be developed."

The member for Norfolk referred to the discontinuing of the apprentice system in Great Britain, and pointed out the increase in the class of unskilled laborers and of the unemployed that had followed. The same unfortunate conditions would sooner or later obtain here if nothing was done.

For a National Playground.

Mr. Pratt congratulated the Hon. Frank Cochrane and the Government upon their policy with regard to the Algonquin National Park. He raised the question as to whether restrictions should be placed upon tourists who visit the park, particularly men from across the boundary.

"I question," he said, "the advisability of ever allowing cottages there, or even summer hotels."

Mr. Pratt has little sympathy for the "pity the poor farmer" wail, and

yesterday he gave his reasons: a page of figures showing how the farmers of his county were making the soil yield substantial returns, and picking fortunes from the apple trees.

Extend Agricultural Instruction.

The member warmly approved of the system of agricultural instructors, and hoped that the time would come when they would be stationed, not at seventeen points, but from one end of the Province to the other. In this connection he expressed the hope that the Government would lend its support to the encouragement of alfalfa growing in the Province.

Mr. Pratt approved of the attention the Government was giving to reforestation, and told of the wonderful results that had been obtained in Scotland, England and Wales by re-planting.

Should Wait for United States.

Jumping abruptly to tariff matters, the speaker declared his opinion that it was not advisable for Canada to seek reciprocity or a change of tariff arrangements with the United States, and that with the United States tariff three times as high as that of the Dominion, the former country should give proof of a genuine desire for closer relations by reducing its tariff.

Mr. Pratt closed his address with a defence of the Government's temperance record and a tribute to the leadership of Sir James Whitney.

Kind Words for Mr. Hanna.

Mr. Jas. Torrance followed. He defended the Hydro-electric system against the charges made against it, comparing the system to the Quebec bridge, where twice as much money had been lost in the collapse of the great structure. The speaker complimented Hon. W. J. Hanna upon the success that had attended the new Provincial Reformatory scheme.

"His name," he said, "will go down in history in the same class with that of the great prison reformer, John Howard." The Provincial Secretary hid his face behind his hand to veil the blushes.

A Tribute to Liberal Leader.

In closing, Mr. Torrance had something to say of the Liberal leader.

"I wish," he said, "to add a tribute to the ability and the indefatigable spirit which have always characterized the work of the leader of the Opposition. He is of more than ordinary ability, is admired by his opponents, and loved by his followers, few though they be. I am sure that I am voicing the sentiments of the vast majority when I say that I hope he will long continue to hold the responsible position of leader of the Opposition in this House."

Doing Too Much for Farmers.

Mr. Allan Studholme in a short address launched into a condemnation of the Government's action in spending money to assist to Ontario emigrants who promptly "went west." The paragraph in the speech from the Throne indicating a larger vote for this object touched a sore spot with the Labor member, and he expressed his disapproval in unmeasured terms. The glowing reports about the farmers presented by Mr. Pratt supplied Mr. Studholme with material for a declaration that the farmers were well able to pay to bring laborers to the Province without calling upon the Government.

Build Up New Ontario.

The Labor member declared that he would favor the spending of a million dollars for bringing out immigrants if they were put upon the land. The Government had declared that the land in New Ontario was unexcelled, and they should take up the question of bringing men out and putting them on the land.

A Fight on Bilingual System.

That the bilingual situation will provide some warm discussion in the Legislature this session, even if Hon. Dr. Reaume is safely removed from the possibility of trouble, is indicated by a notice of motion that has been given by Mr. G. H. Ferguson of Grenville.

Mr. Ferguson's resolution reads: "That in the opinion of this House no language other than the English language should be used as a medium of instruction in the schools of this