

GOVERNMENT ON GRIDDLE FIRST DAY OF SESSION

Mr. N. W. Rowell in a Fighting Speech Shows up its Weaknesses.

MAKES DEMAND FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY

Opposition Leader Promises Aid in Legislation That Will Help the Country.

The preliminary skirmish of the debate upon the speech from the Throne—a usually mild set-to that prepares the way for the more serious business of the Legislature—developed yesterday into a serious engagement. The new leader of the Opposition, Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., turned his guns upon the Government to such effect that at the hour of adjournment Sir James Whitney was still protesting and the debate instead of being wound up on the first day, as the Prime Minister had hoped, goes on this afternoon.

The debate opened quietly. Dr. Jamieson, the member for South Grey, who moved the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, proceeded leisurely and along well-travelled lines. On only one occasion did he depart from the usual eulogy of the Government's record and that was to remonstrate against the Hydro-electric Commission invading too far the field of private capital in the development of power. Mr. Charles McCrae, Hon. Frank Cochrane's successor in Sudbury, came next. He endorsed the appointment of Hon. W. H. Hearst as Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, and took up the rest of his time advocating the claims of the North to generous treatment, carefully avoiding any reflection upon the Government's record in that regard.

The Debate Warms Up.

The Liberal leader followed. At first the Government members sat back in their seats, prepared to be not too critical of a maiden attempt in the House. Before Mr. Rowell had been on his feet ten minutes every man was alert, following him closely. He scored the Government for the things that had been omitted from the speech from the Throne, paying particular attention to the boundary question, the abandoned change in the Hydro-electric management, and the bilingual issue. He raised the Prime Minister's ire by inquiring why the reasons that had seemed good enough to put the creation of a Department of Power before the people for approval were of no force now. The interests of the municipalities demanded that no such change be made.

The famous all-fours spread on the bilingual question by the Ministers of the Government just before election was recalled in a manner that brought worried protests from the treasury benches.

A "Remarkable" Address.

Sir James Whitney in his opening

POINTS FROM MR. ROWELL'S SPEECH

"If it takes nine years for an unprogressive Opposition to turn out a conservatively progressive Government, how long will it take for a progressive Opposition to catch up to a do-nothing Government?"

"We have nothing (in the speech) with reference to the transfer of the Hydro-electric. . . . The whole blunder is characteristic of the policy of this Government, that where they jump, they jump without due consideration, without proper care for the public interest."

"The Prime Minister declared that there was no such thing as a bilingual school. . . . Here is the Government paying three men as inspectors of bilingual schools, and yet there are no bilingual schools. . . . I can only say this, that if bilingual schools cannot exist according to law, what has the Attorney-General, head of the Department of Justice, been doing for years, when they exist and the public accounts show payments made in connection with them?"

"I venture to say that the people of this Province have never witnessed in any period of our history the public scandal of three Cabinet Ministers coming to the people regarding a matter for which they were responsible, and each making a different speech as to the policy of the Government."

"Does the Government realize that to-day one of the perils of Canada is a cleavage between east and west, in interest and in sympathy? Ontario should really be the backbone of our Confederation, and if the great clay belt were peopled with citizens like those who now fill up old Ontario, we would have forged the link which would bind east and west, and would have made this Canada of ours one and inseparable now and forever."

"If the seven sleepers will awake we on this side of the House will do our best to co-operate with them in carrying forward great, progressive measures for the benefit of the people."

"The Government look upon a settler as a liability. We look upon a settler as an asset."



MR. N. W. ROWELL, K.C.

sentences showed how Mr. Rowell's shots had gone home. He characterized the Liberal leader's address as "remarkable." "Words," he declared, "have been put into my mouth that I never uttered, which I have no doubt he has taken from the columns of an irresponsible newspaper. "My hon. friend," continued Sir James, "will have to make up his mind that the amenities of public life will not allow him to serve his own purposes and forget that which he would be unwilling to forget in private life."

Will Implement His Promise.

Sir James stated that he was unable to find any ground for Mr. Rowell's strictures regarding omissions from the speech from the Throne. Referring to bilingual schools, he declared that he would implement his promise of last session that the abuses would be abolished. The criticism of the Government's part in the boundary dispute he answered by stating that the Ontario Ministers in the Federal Government had turned down Ontario's proposals for a common port on Hudson Bay,