

A MOVE FOR SOCIAL BETTERMENT

Moved in amendment by Mr. Rowell, seconded by Mr. S. Clarke (West Northumberland), that the following words be added to the motion:—

"The present conditions of employment, and the failure of the Government to attempt to seriously deal with the problem, again emphasizes the urgent need for the creation of a department of the Government, presided over by a Minister whose chief concern should be to study and promote legislative and administrative action for the betterment of the conditions of the workers of the Province; and to which should be transferred from the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Labor; and from the Department of Agriculture, the Factory Inspection Branch.

"That in view of the hardship and suffering which thousands of our citizens who are willing and anxious to work have been compelled to endure during this present winter by reason of unemployment, and that periods of unemployment are invariably associated with periods of trade depression; and in view of the important relation which the question of unemployment bears to other social problems of the most vital concern to the State, this House is further of the opinion that action should be at once taken by the Government to investigate the conditions of labor in this Province and the causes and results of unemployment, with a view of proposing measures suitable to our needs for improving the present position of the workers, reducing unemployment to the narrowest possible limits, assisting those out of work in securing employment, and providing systematic relief in cases of enforced unemployment of those willing to work."

Roundly Condemns Government for Neglect of Toiling Classes

SHOULD APPOINT MINISTER OF LABOR

Mr. Hanna Resents Charge of Alliance With Liquor Men

Mr. N. W. Rowell, K.C., leader of the Opposition, opened attack on the Government in the Legislature yesterday, calling for immediate investigation into the conditions of unemployment in the Province, and for the creation of a Department of Labor, presided over by a Minister, to bring about a betterment of social and industrial conditions in the Province.

It was the first gun fired in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne and emphasized the alertness of the Opposition to seize upon problems that are pressing in the public interest. Mr. Rowell did not mince matters. After a few brief references to the paragraphs in the speech from the Throne, he commented upon the failure of the Government to take cognizance of the economic conditions existing, and suggested methods by which they might be solved. He emphasized the fact that while Ontario was in the vanguard of the nations in regard to prison reform, it was regrettably backward in those matters of legislation which affected the conditions of the toiler. He commented upon the omission of any reference to anti-treating legislation, and wondered if the Government was being so pressed by its allies that it had abandoned this proposal.

Mr. Hanna Replies.

Hon. W. J. Hanna had only time before adjournment to open his remarks in reply. He regretted with the others the absence of Sir James Whitney from the House, but spoke hopefully of the Premier's present condition, and expressed the view that he would be spared for many years of usefulness to the people of the Province. He declared that the charge that the Conservative Government was in alliance with the liquor in-