

## SIR JAMES SENDS A LETTER OF THANKS

"Grateful Appreciation of the Warm Sympathy"

### MR. ROWELL DRAFTS REPLY

Workmen's Compensation Bill to be Taken Up Soon—Highways Report Expected Early — Striking and Standing Committees.

At the opening of the short session of the Legislature yesterday the Speaker read a letter from the Prime Minister, which was as follows:

"Dear Mr. Speaker,—The session now being open, I feel it incumbent upon me to endeavor to express, through you, to my fellow-members of the Legislature, and to the people of the Province generally, my grateful appreciation of the warm sympathy which has been extended to me during my recent severe illness, and, above all, for the prayers that were offered for my recovery.

"Apt and fitting language to express as I could wish what I desire to say on this subject would be difficult indeed for me to find, and I confine myself to this simple expression of my hearty and earnest thanks."

#### Mr. Rowell Voices Gratification.

The message was received in silence by the House, until just before adjournment Mr. Rowell arose and moved that the Speaker send a message to Sir James, expressing the gratification with which the House has received the message of the Prime Minister, and the hope for his early and complete recovery."

The resolution, which was seconded by Hon. Dr. Pyne, who was acting as leader of the House, was received with applause from both Liberal and Conservative benches.

In response to a question by Mr. Rowell, Dr. Pyne promised that the bill to provide for workmen's compensation would be brought in very shortly, but he could not tell at present just when.

Mr. Rowell asked Dr. Reaume when the report of the Highways Commission would be forthcoming.

"They are working on it now," replied the Minister of Public Works, "but I don't think it will be ready for two weeks yet."

"Will it be in time for legislation at this session?" asked the Opposition leader.

"Oh, yes," said Dr. Reaume.

#### Votes for Women.

Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) introduced his bills to extend the municipal franchise to married women who were otherwise qualified to vote.

Mr. J. Wesley Johnson (West Hastings) has given notice of a bill to amend the municipal act to prevent municipalities from investing their sinking funds in their own debentures.

Hon. Dr. Pyne gave notices of motions naming select committees to strike the standing committees of the House, to assist the Speaker in the care of the library, and to direct the expenditure of any sum set apart in the estimates for art purposes.

The following will strike the standing committees of the House: Messrs. Foy, Lucas, Pyne, Preston (Lanark), Armstrong, Thompson (Simcoe), Bowman, Proudfoot, Rowell, Johnson, Macdiarmid, Clarke and Elliott. Library Committee—Sir James Whitney, Messrs. Foy, Reaume, Pyne, Hanna, Herdrie, Lucas, Elliott, Ra-

cine and McCormick.

Art Committee—Mr. Speaker, Sir James Whitney, Messrs Foy, Reaume, Hendrie, Mayberry, McDonald and Sinclair.

The House adjourned after sitting only fourteen minutes.

Hon. J. J. Foy returned yesterday from Washington.

## SCHOOLS' ATTENDANCE LOW: CONSOLIDATION ASKED FOR

DEPUTATION OF ORANGEMEN INTERVIEW HON. DR. R. A. PYNE.

Asking for permission to consolidate a number of the rural schools in several of the eastern Ontario counties, a deputation from the counties of Carleton, Stormont, Leeds, Grenville and Prescott waited on the Provincial Government yesterday morning. It was pointed out that many of the schools had so few pupils that they could profitably be consolidated.

The deputation came from the convention of the Orange Order now in session in the city. The Minister of Education was asked to make several minor changes in the schools act.

Hon. Mr. Hanna was also asked for an increase in hospital grants in some of the counties.