

LEGISLATURE OPENED IN MILITARY SPLendor

New House Elects Dr. Jamieson Speaker — Speech From the Throne Filled With the Tone of War — Second Contingent Men in the Guard

With all the embellishment of State ceremonial, military accompaniment and social display, the Legislature was opened yesterday. The session, which will probably be characterized by brevity, will be recorded as representing the effort of Ontario to meet the situation presented by the war. The Speech from the Throne made reference to the unusual circumstances under which the members were summoned; it expressed pride in the response that the Dominion and the Province had given to the call of Empire, and urged measures to meet the conditions that existed.

"A War Session."

The opening was a brilliant affair. Perhaps owing to the nearness of each immediate function it seems to eclipse all predecessors, but there was a blaze of splendor about the opening of the fourteenth Legislature that will be long remembered. From the mounted escort of Royal Canadian Dragoons, the guard of honor from the 19th Battalion of the second overseas contingent and the officers of the Headquarters Staff in service khaki, there was everything to impress the observer that it was to be a "war session."

As usual, the capacity of the chamber was overtaxed, and long before the hour of three o'clock approached every possible vantage point was occupied. Owing to the necessity of electing a Speaker the formal proceedings were somewhat longer than usual, and it was twenty minutes to four when his Honor finally retired.

New Speaker Elected.

When Hon. W. J. Hanna, reading from a carefully-prepared ritual, informed the House that his Honor, in the absence of a Speaker, could not acquaint the members with the reason for summoning them together, Hon. W. H. Hearst proceeded with the nomination of Dr. Jamieson. The Premier's remarks opened with a reference to the historic place that the office of Speaker held from the time in 1576 in England when the House of Lords was separated from the Commons. Since that time there had been a succession of distinguished First Commoners that were worthy to represent any great deliberative assembly. Mr. Hearst made some interesting references to the prerogatives of the Speaker, his duties and responsibilities, and in offering the name of the member for South Grey to the House he felt assured that the best traditions of the office would be upheld. Hon. R. A. Pyne seconded the proposal, and Mr. N. W. Rowell expressed concurrence.

The Speaker's Demand.

After the Speaker was properly regaled in cap and gown, his Honor returned, to be advised of the choice of the House. The Speaker demanded for the House "freedom of speech and access to your Honor's person at all reasonable times."

Much Ground Covered in Speech From Throne

His Honor then read the Speech from the Throne, as follows:
Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It affords me pleasure to welcome you to the discharge of your duties at the inauguration of the fourteenth Legislature of this Province. I am gratified to meet again many members of this House with whom I have had the privilege for years of being associated, and I am satisfied that the cordial feelings thus established will be continued and strengthened in our present spheres of action.

There is one whose absence from this Legislature I cannot refrain from mentioning, and it is with the deepest sorrow and emotion that I refer to the late Prime Minister of this Province. My long acquaintance with Sir James Whitney enabled me, in common with our people generally, to appreciate his great force and purity of character, his remarkable insight with regard to all matters affecting the public welfare, and his power of constructive statesmanship. The death of such a distinguished public servant is a loss not only to this Province, but also to the Empire to which he was so earnestly and devotedly attached. Sir James Whitney has achieved an enduring place in our history as well as in the hearts of the people, and his memory will be cherished as an inspiration for good for generations to come.

Unusual Conditions.

From every point of view the circumstances under which you assemble are of such a serious and unusual nature that they overshadow all other considerations. Our Empire is engaged in the greatest struggle in its history. Hitherto the relations of the European powers to each other have been regulated and controlled largely by treaty engagements, by international law and usage, and by good faith. In consequence of the repudiation of such restraints and obligations in the pursuit of unlimited and unscrupulous ambition, the world has been plunged into a general war. The British peoples have, therefore, been compelled to take up arms to vindicate their honor, to enforce the guaranteed rights of small nations, and to protect the Empire from attack.

In the discharge of this duty great exertions and sacrifices have been and will be entailed. We have all felt proud of the promptness and thoroughness with which all portions of the Empire have responded to the call of King and country. Nowhere has there been greater zeal shown than in the Dominion of Canada and in this Province of Ontario. The unanimous action of the Canadian Parliament, and above all the presence of Canadians at the front valiantly upholding the traditions and aspirations of this liberty-loving people, makes it clear that we will support to the utmost of our ability in men and means the cause of the Empire which is the bulwark of free institutions the world over.

While the ultimate triumph of Great Britain and its allies is certain, we cannot fail to realize and deplore the enormous cost which is being paid to achieve that end. Already the effects of the war have proved to be very far-reaching. In addition to the financial stringency and the disturbance of industry we have been confronted with unemployment in some industrial centres which has given grave concern to our people.

Emergency Legislation.

These conditions as well as our obligations to the mother country have received the serious attention of my Ministers. At the outset of the war a substantial contribution in food was made to Great Britain on your behalf, and also a contribution in cash and food for the relief of the brave Belgian people. To relieve the sudden financial strain upon our people a public assurance was given that this Legislature would be asked to pass an act giving further power to the courts with respect to money secured by mortgages and other similar matters in cases of special hardship arising out of the war. Assurances were also given municipal bodies that this House would give sanction and authority for the expenditure of money by such bodies for patriotic purposes and to relieve unemployment. My Ministers have encouraged the construction of the Toronto and Hamilton highway as an emergency work, and have carried on works of different kinds in Northern Ontario and elsewhere with the object of providing all labor possible. They have also been able to find places for many helpers on our farms, and have appointed a Commission to gather information as to unemployment and report its findings to this House.

One of the most pressing problems of the present situation is that of food production. We have reason in this Province for gratitude to Providence for the bountiful harvest of the past year, and our ability to produce food places us under a special responsibility to exert every effort to keep the granaries of the Empire well stored. This duty has been earnestly impressed upon our farming population by the Minister of Agriculture with excellent prospects of good results, and my Government is co-operating with the Dominion authorities in endeavoring by public appeals to patriotism to stimulate and increase the production of food. The Dominion Government has undertaken to establish in Northern Ontario an exten-