

# ONTARIO'S BIG CHANCE FOR SOCIAL REFORM

## Unusual Opportunity for Temperance Progress

### MR. ROWELL'S APPEAL

Premier Hearst Forecasts Survey of Province's Finances — Important Topics Discussed During Non-partisan Debate in House.

For the first time in many sessions the opening debate in the Legislature was devoid of party acrimony. The debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was begun and concluded yesterday, and the motion thanking the Lieutenant-Governor "for the gracious speech your Honor has addressed to us," was adopted without any amendment being offered. There were only four speakers: Mr. V. A. Sinclair (South Oxford), mover, Mr. Thomas Magladery (Timiskaming), seconder, Mr. N. W. Rowell and Hon. W. H. Hearst. High patriotic ground was taken by all the speakers, and the deliverances of Mr. Rowell and the Premier were looked upon as the most brilliant performances from these gentlemen since they have been members of the House, and when the Premier finished the entire House rose and sang the National Anthem. It is worthy to note in this connection that the National Anthem has not been sung at the conclusion of a debate since Hon. A. S. Hardy was Premier, and Sir James Whitney, then leader of the Opposition, moved and seconded a congratulatory address to her late Majesty Queen Victoria on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee.

While partisan controversy was avoided by all the speakers, there were some subjects mentioned in the Speech from the Throne that demanded reference. Mr. Rowell could not assent to the statement that the deficit in the finances was wholly due to conditions created by the war, and said the Government was reaping the results of what it had sown. He pointed out to the Premier the opportunity before the Government of following in the world-wide movement to curtail the evil effects of the liquor traffic, which was being done by belligerent nations from considerations of economy and efficiency. The Premier intimated that a survey was being made of the financial necessities of the Province, that increased production required co-operation from all classes, and that the Government would propose liquor legislation well abreast of public sentiment.

Several Government bills were introduced, and as little work was ready for to-day, it was agreed that the House should stand adjourned until Monday afternoon.

#### The Movers' Speeches.

In moving the Address, Mr. Sinclair said he was proud that this Government had recognized that this fight was not the fight of the Province alone, or of this Dominion, or of