

of the great Dominions of the British Empire, but it was the fight of liberty-loving people on the globe.

do not know what the purpose of this Government is in regard to meeting the deficit which has been caused and will no doubt be increased by the war," said Mr. Sinclair. "As a private member, voicing my own views only, it seems to me the people of this Province are broad-minded and well-informed enough to know that this expenditure must be met in the most economical, efficient and equitable method, such as a direct war tax, temporary in its nature."

Mr. Magladery praised the Whitney Administration for what it had done on behalf of education, Hydro-electric development, New Ontario, and of workmen. Perhaps in no part of Ontario, he said, did the workmen's compensation act receive more thorough attention than in the riding he had the honor to represent.

### Mr. Rowell Appeals for Social Reform

All through his speech Mr. Rowell observed the party truce. In the era of newness that had struck the Parliament Buildings, he said, he supposed there would be a new Chairman chosen for the Public Accounts Committee, but that committee, without the now Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, with Hon. T. W. McGarry as chief sponsor for the Government, could never be quite what it has been, and the leader of the Opposition was the only landmark remaining. (Laughter.)

Directing his remarks to the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Rowell said the character of the other speeches did not move him to deal with it in any controversial spirit. "It is our desire on this great and momentous occasion, on the opening of this Legislature, to signify to the people of this Province, whom we here represent, that we are united in thought and in sentiment so far as it concerns the great crisis we are now facing." (Applause.)

#### Effects of Past Financing.

While taking that attitude, he wished it to be understood that he did not assent entirely to all the propositions contained in the Address. The reference to the deficit and the necessity for increased taxation was not due entirely to the war, and while the opportunity would come later on for discussing that, yet in his judgment the position facing the Province was the inevitable result of the manner in which the finances of the Province had been managed by the Government in recent years.

There were questions touching the social and physical welfare of the people that had to be considered. He approved of the appointment of a Commission to investigate the unemployment situation, and hoped the investigation would be thorough and productive of results.

#### Helping the Farmers.

Nor was the campaign for greater production necessary only on account of the war. In recent years there had been a diminution of food production. The increase in food production should keep pace with industrial development. The great difficulty confronting the farmer along this line was lack of suitable labor, and he hoped the Government would consider some schemes, even of aiding farmers to erect houses for laborers, or some other assistance that would relieve the scarcity.

#### Forward Step in Temperance.

"One of the factors impairing the efficiency of the life of the people is the liquor traffic," Mr. Rowell continued. "I submit, Mr. Speaker, it would be greatly to the interest of the Province of Ontario and all classes of its citizens if the Government as a war measure would close up all drinking places until the end of the war; and if the Government should say, as the Government might very properly say, 'We have no mandate to deal with it except as a war measure,' then I will submit it to the people of the Province, and let them pass judgment upon the question of whether the bars shall remain closed or be reopened."

"I venture to think," continued the Opposition leader, with emphasis, "if the people of this Province had the opportunity of passing upon it unaffected by any political or party feeling, there would be no doubt whatever as to what they would say."

#### Mr. Hearst's Opportunity.

Then turning towards Mr. Hearst and addressing his remarks directly to him, Mr. Rowell said: "I submit to the Prime Minister that no Prime Minister ever had such a large opportunity to render a conspicuous public service as lies before the Prime Minister of this Province to-day. (Applause.) He holds a unique place among the leaders in this Province, and I want to say to my honorable friend if he will do that, for every step in that direction he takes he will have, for my part, my cordial and most hearty support." (Applause.)

"We in Canada may yet be called upon to do vastly more than we have done," said Mr. Rowell, in speaking of the war, "and I believe the people of Canada will cheerfully bear any burden which may be put upon them." He warned his hearers that the war was not nearly over, and that Germany had not embarked on the struggle without making great preparations. Removed as we in Canada were from the scene of immediate hostilities, with our coasts guaranteed by the British navy, it was not too much to say that Canada should do more than her share. (Applause.)

### Premier Forecasts

#### Financial Survey.

Premier Hearst expressed his appreciation of the way in which the debate had been conducted. He did not intend to go into a discussion on the liquor question at the present time. In the Speech from the Throne the Government forecasted legislation along this line, and when that was brought down he was confident it would be abreast of public opinion. This Government hoped and expected to be in the forefront of that and in every good legislation as they had been in days gone by. He did not intend to strike a discordant note that afternoon, he said, but he taunted Mr. Rowell in asking a vote of the people when only a few months ago he impressed upon his party that "on the ground of a party question that great question should be solved."

#### The Revenue Situation.

Speaking with reference to the finances of the Province, the Premier said they had already taken measures to have a survey, and with the clear logic and judgment so characteristic of the Provincial Treasurer, they would map out the proper course to guide the financial affairs of the Province. The leader of the Opposition had said they were wrong in attributing the deficit this year to the war.

Mr. Rowell would have been wiser if he had waited until the Provincial Treasurer had made his Budget speech and brought down his figures showing the financial state of the Province at the close of the last fiscal year. But for the shrinkage in revenue due to the war and the action of insurance companies who had failed to pay the assessments, which he would assure the House they would pay in one way or another before the year was much older, they would have had a comfortable surplus instead of having a deficit.

#### Increasing Production.

Commending the food production campaign, the speaker put in a plea for the man behind the plough having the co-operation of the bankers, transportation companies, and every other organization which would help to solve this problem. The farmers, in increasing their output at the present time, would be performing a patriotic duty, and he also thought that with decreased production of products in Europe the agriculturists would have good markets. But, apart from that, he appealed to the farmer as a Canadian to do his duty, as every man should, at this great time.

#### Province Gives Million.

The Government had tried to do what it could to help in the struggle. They had contributed in flour to Great Britain, cash and supplies to the Belgians, and apples to the sailors who are fighting in the North Sea, these gifts aggregating approximately one million dollars.

The Premier's speech closed the debate, and the House adjourned till Monday afternoon. The Budget will come up early in the week.