

tion. They have given an immediate and favorable response to the request of the military authorities for the doubling of the capacity of the Ontario Military Hospital at Orpington. Other proposals looking towards the needs of wounded soldiers have received sympathetic consideration.

#### **Patriotism in the Schools.**

I have observed with great satisfaction the part taken by the schools of the Province in the patriotic efforts entailed by the war, both by the enlistment of teachers and older pupils, and also by raising sums of money to aid worthy objects. The measures taken by the Department of Education, through exemption from examinations, to promote enlistment and to provide labor for the farms have met with good results.

My Government participated in the conference recently called by the Dominion authorities to prepare plans for the settlement and employment of returned soldiers. On behalf of the Province the heartiest co-operation in these proposals was undertaken.

#### **Jubilee of Confederation.**

During the present year the Dominion of Canada will complete half a century of Confederation. We have every reason for gratitude to Providence for the blessings and the prosperity we have enjoyed during this period, and we also have undoubted reason for confidence in the future. I observe that it is proposed by the Dominion Government to fittingly commemorate this great occasion, and as a Province we shall be glad to assist in such an effort.

Although climatic conditions were not favorable last year to a full agricultural yield, yet in certain branches a satisfactory crop was obtained, so that on the whole the husbandman enjoyed a fair return for his labors. It is intended that a special effort shall be made this year to increase production of foodstuffs, and to secure the additional labor so necessary to the prosperity of our farmers.

#### **Benefits of Prohibition.**

Under the Ontario temperance act, passed last session, the prohibition of the sale within the Province of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes came into effect in September last. The operations of this measure have been productive of highly beneficial results.

Increased demands for electric power during the year have compelled the Hydro-electric Power Commission to acquire additional current from one of the operating companies at Niagara Falls. The Commission is proceeding as rapidly as is practicable with the necessary works for the utilization for power purposes of all the water that the Province is entitled to divert above the falls at Niagara.

Under the legislation of last session a Trades and Labor Branch has been formed, a qualified Superintendent has been appointed, and good progress has been made with the work of this department.

#### **Nickel Report to Come.**

An expert and thorough inquiry has been made into the refining of nickel within this Province and into mining taxation for Provincial purposes. The findings of the Commission will be laid before you in the shape of a report, and legislation based on information secured by the Commission will be brought down.

You will be asked to consider proposed legislation to provide for the settlement of returned soldiers upon the land; to create a Fire Prevention Department; to authorize the construction of Provincial highways; to provide for certain farm loans; relating to Hydro-electric development; to regulate co-operative societies; to provide for votes for soldiers, and for other purposes.

The finances of the Province are in a satisfactory state; the details will be submitted to you at an early date in the Public Accounts. Estimates for the current and ensuing fiscal years will be presented for your consideration.

I welcome you to the discharge of your Legislative duties, feeling confident that under the guidance of Providence your deliberations will promote the welfare of our Province and that the earnest patriotism of our people will find expression in your decisions.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson (Greenville) has given notice of a bill to preserve the forests from destruction by fire; also on Thursday next a bill providing for the agricultural settlement of soldiers and sailors serving overseas in the present war.

## **NO PEACE POSSIBLE UNTIL VICTORY IS WON**

### **Premier Hearst Will Move Resolution Endorsing Policy of the Allies**

An important resolution endorsing the allies' policy will be moved in the Legislature by Sir William Hearst, Premier. He gave notice yesterday that on Thursday he would move: "That we, the members of this Legislative Assembly of Ontario, individually and as a body, hereby reaffirm our belief in the righteousness of the cause for which Great Britain and her allies are fighting, and record our approval of the firm and statesmanlike answer given by the allied Governments to the recent peace overtures made by the President of the United States and by the Teutonic powers.

"We heartily endorse the declaration that no peace is possible until the object for which the allies are fighting has been achieved in such a way as to insure the future security of civilization against a repetition of the wrongs that have been inflicted upon us. We desire to express our most earnest appreciation of the splendid and heroic services of Canadians on the field of battle, as well as our admiration of their patriotism, determination and dauntless courage on all occasions. We recognize, moreover, in the cheerful and uncomplaining demeanor of our wounded and suffering soldiers qualities which none the less indicate valor of the highest order and appeal to our gratitude as a nation.

"We hereby solemnly pledge ourselves anew to assist in every way in our power in the struggle for freedom, alike by keeping our fighting strength and military resources by conserving our energies as a people, and by exercising industry, thrift and economy.

"To that end, and confident of a generous response, we call upon the people of the Province to keep the successful prosecution of the war above all other considerations, and to devote every energy and every moment to the cause of our country, so that tyranny may be finally overthrown, and righteousness among the nations made to prevail."

### **Votes for Women Urged by Several Local M.P.P.'s**

Women's rights to an extension of the franchise will be placed before the Ontario Legislature at an early stage, notices to introduce this having been already given by Messrs. William Macdonald (Liberal member for North Bruce) and Mr. J. W. Johnson (Conservative member for West Hastings), to confer upon women the right to vote at elections for the Legislative Assembly. Mr. J. C. Elliott (Liberal member for West Middlesex) will also introduce a bill to extend the municipal franchise to married women. Mr. Johnson has also given notice to introduce a similar bill to that of Mr. Elliott.

Mr. William Proudfoot (Centre Huron) will introduce a bill allowing municipalities to adopt preferential voting.