

was then nearly six o'clock, and the two leaders, Sir William Hearst and the Liberal chieftain, will probably resume the discussion to-day. The Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by Mr. Charles Calder of South Ontario, and seconded by Mr. W. C. Chambers of West Wellington. Both delivered notable speeches and their remarks were frequently punctuated by hearty applause. Approval of their sentiments was also expressed by their colleagues after the House adjourned.

In his opening remarks Mr. Calder said, amid laughter and applause, that

Welcomes New Leader.

"I wish to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his elevation, and I hope he may be long spared to enjoy that office." Proceeding, he said that for four years the country has been under the war cloud. He reviewed politics in the Federal arena in the formation of a Union Government and its return to power. When Canada entered the war it was little known what part she would play, but her soldiers have placed her name high on the rolls of honor.

It became evident that Canada had a duty to perform to see that these soldiers had sufficient supplies. The Government, therefore, began to inquire as to how production might be increased. The Government undertook to school returned men in agriculture, and placed them on land in the north. Action like that was nothing more than what the soldiers needed and what was right. It was also a good act for the country because there is now a settlement of British subjects.

To assist agriculture the Government also provided 127 tractors last season. Now the farmers are at the parting of the ways. In many parts of the Province there is a lack of thrashing outfits. The district representatives have taken an active part in the Government's agricultural campaign. School fairs have also been instituted, "all of which points that the agricultural interests of this Province are being looked after at this time." In the same connection Mr. Calder said the Government had also taken up the drainage of farm lands.

Ontario is at present dependent on a foreign country for coal. While this country is giving Canada a fair show, the Government should take steps to protect the best interests of the people, and not allow speculators to interfere. Fuel of every kind is scarce and it should be conserved. There are a number of things that belong to the people, and the speculators should be kept out. He referred to the Government's Hydro policy.

Mr. Calder also touched on the work of the various Government Boards, and to the success with which the receipts cut off by prohibition had been replaced by the tax on amusements.

A Fine Family Record.

Mr. W. C. Chambers (West Wellington) ably seconded the motion. He paid fine tribute to the gallantry of the Canadians at the front, and went on to refer to the Government's plans for land settlement of soldiers and sailors after the war. He also spoke of the war work of the Government, and mentioned that five million dollars had been voted by the Ontario Legislature for comforts for the men in the trenches, for machine guns and other equipment, and for the care of the men when they returned home. He paid sincere tribute to the untiring work of Hon. W. D. McPherson, Provincial Secretary, as Chairman of the Soldiers' Aid Commission, and mentioned incidentally that five members of Mr. McPherson's family, including three sons and two daughters, are on active service overseas. The financial position of the Province was exceedingly satisfactory, Mr. Chambers said, and he believed that the revenue for the year just closed would exceed fifteen millions. He also prophesied that the surplus this year would be greater than the \$1,300,000 credit balance of last year. He was optimistic also with regard to the assets of the Province and ventured the prediction that they would be shown by the Budget speech to greatly exceed \$500,000,000. After

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1918.

CUSTOM THROWN TO THE WINDS

Urgent Business Gets Right of
Way in the Legis-
lature

REPLY TO THRONE SPEECH

Provincial Secretary Has Five Child-
ren With the Colors—Leaders
Speak To-day.

For the first time in the history of Ontario the Parliament of the Province yesterday passed legislation before disposing of the Address of reply to the Speech from the Throne, and his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Hendrie, was an accomplice. In the midst of the speeches on the motion in reply to the Speech from the Throne, while the Opposition Leader was waiting to go on with the debate, Sir John Hendrie entered the House yesterday afternoon for the purpose of giving assent to the Natural Gas Act, which was hurried through all its stages for the purpose of giving relief to the people in the natural gas belt, who are freezing through lack of fuel. Following this brief ceremony, Mr. Proudfoot moved the adjournment of the debate, as it