

ed, those reasons will be much more apparent and the situation will be much worse if the war continues for any length of time. Considering the work we have to do in this Legislature, we might very well extend the term until after the war. I had in mind an extension until six months after the war, but that might not be sufficient, because all the soldiers will probably not be home by that time. I have received resolutions passed by women's organizations in Toronto, Guelph and other parts of the Province protesting against a war-time election. If the Government can see its way clear to an extension of time, well and good. I know a request of this kind could not come very well from the Government, but I think I represent the sentiment of the vast majority of the people in urging that an election should not be held in Ontario during the current year."

Use Unoccupied Jails.

Mr. Proudfoot also referred to the fact that the jails of the Province are practically empty at the present time, thanks to prohibition and also to the fact that the people of the Province have got wiser in their day and generation, and he urged that it was unnecessary to keep jails going in every county of the Province. He thought one jail for every three or four counties would be sufficient, and the remainder could be remodelled and used as homes for the care of the feeble-minded or for some other purpose.

The Opposition Leader vigorously advocated the abolition of the patronage system. He also urged the adoption of progressive measures for the development of New Ontario, the appointment of a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture, and the establishment of a Department of Labor, whose chief would have the rank of a Cabinet Minister.

Praise for Mr. Rowell.

The new Opposition Leader opened his address with a fine tribute to his predecessor, Hon. Newton Rowell, President of the Privy Council in the Union Government, saying that Mr. Rowell's name would ever remain in the annals of the Province as a landmark of progress. The result of the recent Federal election showed that the people at home were prepared to back up the boys at the front. He trusted that the Union Government would be an unqualified success, and every true Canadian would rejoice if the recent election had severed the old party lines for a long time to come, and especially in the stress of war-time.

Must Aid Production.

Speaking of the food shortage problem, Mr. Proudfoot said the farmers of Ontario had worked to the utmost of their ability to increase production of foodstuffs so urgently needed in Europe by our allies at the present time. The Legislature, he said, must plan to help the farmers, as it was only by aiding them that they would be able to meet the situation. More tractors should be provided and every effort made to secure farm laborers. There were large tracts of vacant land in New Ontario, and he thought the Government might well consider using interned alien enemies under proper guards for the purpose of producing farm produce.

Everything possible should be done for the soldiers by the Ontario Government, and especially for those who were returning from the front disabled. Those men wishing to settle on the land should be given 100 acres and an advance of \$500 which should not have to be paid back provided the men made good. For the sick and wounded military homes and hospitals should be established in the military districts to which the men belonged. The men in khaki, upon their return from the front, should be made to feel that they are in the hands of friends. In this connection Mr. Proudfoot praised the work of Hon. W. D. McPherson, head of the Soldiers' Aid Commission, who has five members of his family with the colors. "We Liberals are prepared to vote every dollar of the Province's resources that is necessary for the purpose of backing up our brave men at the front," he said, amid applause.

Backs Up the Hydro.

The Opposition Leader referred to the need for extending the system of the Hydro-electric Commission, and

mentioned that while he had not been given credit by some newspapers, he had always been as strongly in favor of the Hydro movement as anyone could be, and he was anxious that the Province should go as far as it could with Hydro development. He understood it would be possible to develop two million horsepower on the Niagara River. He referred to what was known as the Thomson scheme. Of course, this would take years of time and millions of money to develop, but if they were to supply the farmers, manufacturers and other users in the Province it would be necessary to have an additional supply besides the Chippawa scheme. There were streams all over the Province which should be harnessed, and the Opposition was prepared to give the Hydro Commission every assistance in the task.

Great Need of Fuel.

The Opposition Leader also urged the development of any peat fields and coal areas there might be in the Province. There were thousands of cords of wood up north which could also be made use of in view of the fuel scarcity. The construction of good roads should be encouraged for better highways, and other improvements would help to make the farmers' lives more endurable.

Mr. Proudfoot referred to the unfortunate experience of the last few days in the failure of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company. He had nothing to say in reference to this particular company until the liquidator makes a report, but he suggested to the Government the propriety of so amending the law that a proper statement would be filed.

Premier Makes Promises.

Sir William Hearst, when he rose to reply, took occasion to congratulate Hon. Mr. Rowell, who, he believed, would render good service in his new field of service. He also welcomed Mr. Proudfoot as the new Opposition Leader.

The food situation had been described as critical, and failure on the part of Canada and the United States to export food this year might mean disaster to the allied cause. It was time for co-operation of all the forces in the country to secure greater production. Production is tied up with the question of labor, he said, and unless that problem is solved patriotism and higher prices will not avail of greater crops being harvested. Sir William announced his intention of attending a conference of Provincial Cabinet Ministers to be held at Ottawa next week to discuss the matter of increased production. The question of labor is a matter for the Federal Government because of the problem of distribution. He had no sympathy with the suggestion of bringing in Oriental labor, and he did not believe it was practicable. Nor did the Prime Minister think it was practicable to employ alien labor, although he was in sympathy with any proposal to force them to contribute to the country's finances. This year the returned soldiers will furnish a new source of labor, and many of them are now being trained to operate farm machinery. He announced that this year approximately 40,000 men, women, boys and girls will be required to assist the farmers.

Watching Loan Company Case.

"I have no quarrel at all with the manner in which my honorable friend dealt with that subject," said Sir William, in reference to the failure of the Dominion Permanent Loan Company. "It is a matter which the Government is considering, and one in which the Government is most anxious to do everything possible that can be done to prevent any such occurrence in the future." The Premier said the suggestion of Government inspection was worthy of consideration, but it is very difficult to carry it out.

With reference to good roads, Sir William said that after the war, when there will probably be a surplus of labor, an energetic policy will be entered upon.

Dealing with the fuel situation, Sir William said unfortunately Ontario has no commercial coal, although there are large quantities of peat, but this has not in the past compared favorably with the cheapness of coal. In the future it may become a matter of using any kind of