

building and construction work generally.

"In connection with the work of reconstruction my Government has entered into an arrangement with the lumbermen of the Province, under which a representative is being sent overseas with the object of securing for Ontario a share of the trade in lumber and forest products required for restoring the devastated countries. My Government will take every other step possible to secure markets abroad for the products of our farms, forests, fisheries and factories.

"With a view to co-operation between the Dominion and Provincial Governments in connection with reconstruction efforts an Interprovincial Conference was held at Ottawa last fall. The conference agreed upon the outline of a plan for the settlement of soldiers upon the land and for facilitating land settlement generally. Legislation necessary in this connection will be submitted to you. A project was considered and arrangements have since been made whereby the Dominion Government will advance money through Provincial Governments to municipalities for the construction of workmen's houses. The Federal Government has intimated its intention to aid financially the construction of highways, and, it is hoped, will also give assistance toward technical education.

"At your last session several bills relating to assessment and taxation were referred to a select committee with power to sit during the recess. This committee has given consideration to the various proposals submitted to it, and will present a report thereon at an early date. Legislation will be introduced to give effect to the findings of the committee.

"During the war valuable service was rendered by the Hydro-electric Power Commission in furnishing power for the manufacture of munitions and war materials. In this way the importance and the wisdom of the undertaking have been emphasized, and the country has received a notable return by reason of the investment made in this enterprise. Work on the Queenston-Chippewa development has progressed favorably, and will be hastened to completion. Another important extension in contemplation is the development at Nipigon to supply power to the cities of Port Arthur and Fort William, which will shortly be commenced.

Mothers' Pensions.

"My Government has had under consideration the paying of allowances to widowed mothers having dependent children. A full report on the operation of this policy elsewhere, including an estimate of the financial aspect of the matter, is being prepared in order that the Government may proceed on the best and wisest lines.

"It is a matter of satisfaction to observe the excellent returns obtained during the past year in connection with agricultural production. In spite of the shortage of labor a gratifying response was made by our farmers to the patriotic appeals for greater production, and a larger acreage was sown than in any other recent year. Providence favored the efforts of the husbandmen, and new records were made in the yields of several field crops.

"My Ministers have considered carefully how far the school system of the Province can be further developed to meet the growing needs of the time, in order that Ontario may offer additional opportunities for technical, industrial and vocational training. Changes brought about by displacements of population point to the wisdom of consolidating rural schools in certain districts. Measures will be submitted to you with these desirable ends in view.

Deputy Minister of Labor.

"Mining operations are now being conducted in this Province on a larger scale, and at greater depths than ever before. My Government considers that the time is opportune to provide for more detailed and effective regulations for the protection of miners and workmen, and will submit to this House amendments to the Mining Act along those lines.

"Among the measures that will be brought before you for your consideration are bills enabling wo-

men to become members of the Legislative Assembly and to fill municipal offices, enabling farmers' wives and daughters to serve as school trustees, amending the Ontario Temperance Act, relating to Loan Companies, making better provision for the administration of estates by the Crown, making provision for a Deputy Minister of Labor, extending the moratorium, and for other purposes.

"Notwithstanding unusual demands upon the Treasury, the financial position of the Province continues to be highly satisfactory. At an early date the public accounts will be submitted to you, as well as estimates of contemplated expenditures.

"In conclusion I commend to your earnest consideration the various matters that will engage your attention, and I trust that under the guidance of Providence your deliberations will advance the welfare of our Province and our people."

Liberals to be More Active in Criticism of Govern- ment Moves

QUESTIONS ARE READY

Indications are that this session of the Legislature will not be a sham battle between the two parties. The Liberals are active, and they are going to voice more criticism of the Government's works than was the case in 1918. The Opposition Leader, Mr. William Proudfoot, K.C.; Mrs. Sam Carter, Liberal member for South Wellington, and Mr. Hartley Dewart, Liberal member for Southwest Toronto, all filed notices of motion or inquiries of the Government at yesterday's formal session.

Last session the Government passed legislation permitting the appointment of a Purchasing Agent. The position has not been filled and Mr. Proudfoot will ask if the Government has an appointment under consideration and when the office will be filled. The Opposition Leader has also given notice that he will again introduce his bill entitled "An act allowing municipalities to adopt preferential voting."

Mr. Dewart has several questions he will ask the Prime Minister regarding the appointment of General Manley Sims as Acting Agent-General for Ontario in England. Mr. Dewart wants to know if he has been appointed as Agent-General, whether he is a native-born Canadian, if he is a British or Canadian officer, and if the former why a qualified Ontario or Canadian officer was not appointed. The member for Southwest Toronto also wants to know if any Canadian officers were applicants for the position, and if the appointment was made on the recommendation of the Civil Service Commissioner for Ontario.

Juvenile Court Probe.

Further, Mr. Dewart asks if the Government intends appointing a Commission to investigate the Toronto Juvenile Court, as requested by the City Council. He also seeks information as to the status of the W. J. Burns International Detective Agency in the Province. Another question he is asking is if the Government has taken any action on the reported statement of Superintendent Beelands of Burwash Industrial Farm, in which that official advocates the use of the strap on prisoners when other punishments failed. He is also asking for an order of the House for a return of correspondence between the Government and the British Canadian Nickel Company.

Mr. Carter is asking when the report of Mr. E. R. C. Clarkson on the accounts of the Hydro-electric Commission for Ontario will be laid before the House.