

SINS OF OMISSION SCORED BY LEADER OF OPPOSITION

Mr. Proudfoot Criticizes Government on Many Points — Party Leaders Agreed on Extension of Moratorium.

Several suggestions of a constructive nature were made by the Opposition Leader, Mr. Wm. Proudfoot, K. C., M.P.P., to the Government in the course of the debate on the Speech from the Throne in the Legislature yesterday. At the same time he mildly criticized the Government, more for what it had not done, and for legislation which had not been foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, than for acts which it had committed. Mr. Proudfoot spoke for one hour and fifty-five minutes. He was followed by the Prime Minister, who spoke for a little more than an hour, and had the floor when the debate was adjourned at 6 o'clock. Sir William will finish his address when the House meets on Tuesday. To-day the housing bill will be given its second reading, although it is unlikely it will reach the committee stage.

School Books Dearer.

Both the Leaders spent considerable time in discussing the war, the splendid showing made by the Canadian soldiers, and the problems which have arisen now that fighting has ceased. Mr. Proudfoot suggested that it might be well to place soldiers in communities. He urged the Government to appoint a Minister of Labor to handle the numerous problems having to do with the Labor movement and the betterment of social conditions. The Department of Education was discussed by the Opposition Leader, but he said he did not intend to criticize the department to any extent, as he was more interested in the future program. While the Government was taking credit to itself for cheaper school books since the Conservatives were in power, Mr. Proudfoot drew to the attention of the House the fact that there had been an increase in the last year. In dealing with this criticism, Sir William subsequently, in his address, said that public school text-books had not gone up in price, and that only the price of two high school books had been increased, and then only by 10 cents each.

The Liberal Leader declared that too much time was taken up with classical education in the schools, and he urged the introduction of a faculty of commerce into the universities. He commended the Government for adopting the Liberal policy of giving women seats in the House, and urged careful consideration of the request for the extension of the T. & N. O. to James Bay. Surprise was expressed by Mr. Proudfoot at the omission in the Speech of changes in the Election Act. In conclusion, he assured the Government of the Opposition's support on measures which were for the general good of the country.

Sir William pointed out that under the present system the Labor Branch of the Government was doing all the things the Opposition Leader suggested to be done by a Minister of the Crown, and he expressed confidence in the future of the Province.

An Important Session.

The present session, Mr. Proudfoot said, was one of considerable importance as a result of the war's termination. He made feeling reference to the late Dr. Jessop, and the late former Speaker, W. H. Hoyle, and in passing observed the fact that Hon. Dr. R. A. Pyne had retired as head of the Education De-

partment. Like some others, "he has gone to his reward, not his final reward, but a reward where we may have the pleasure of seeing him at any time we may be driven to the City Hall." The Opposition Leader paid a sincere compliment to the great services the late Dominion Liberal Chieftain had rendered to the country. "Sir Wilfrid Laurier was an outstanding figure in Canadian public life," he said. "An eminent lawyer and statesman, his principal object in life was to bring together the two races—French and English—and establish unity and make a great nation. His example will have a lasting effect and do much in the future to weld together the different nationalities which comprise our population."

Mr. Proudfoot spoke at length on the close of the war, the splendid part taken by Canadian men in the struggle, and the problems which have to be confronted in the reconstruction program and during the period of repatriation. "Our men have left an imperishable name in the annals of the world's history. They have done more to bring Canada to the forefront than any other force." It behooved the country to try and restore discharged soldiers to civil work with as little change as possible.

Provide Work Now.

If manufacturers adopt the policy of delaying constructive work because of high prices, many men will be kept out of work and there will be much unrest. As legislators and members of the community, Mr. Proudfoot said it rested with everyone to use his best endeavors to prevent anything of the kind happening.

"I think the men who made money out of the war have a bounden duty to carry on the work, and they should not let the mere fact that it is going to cost them something more to build to stand in the way," declared Mr. Proudfoot. "It is for that reason that I think it is the duty of every Government in the Dominion of Canada to continue the construction of public works, even if the cost is greater." He pointed out that it would be much cheaper to do that than to have a nationwide strike occur.

Care for Dependents.

Referring to the fact that there were many soldiers who will never return to Canada, the Opposition Leader said he felt that their dependents were entitled to greater consideration than if the soldiers had returned. "If we don't take the responsibility we should take, in the days to come we may find ourselves with that crime on our hearts; it would be a crime if any man returned to Canada and through neglect or want of assistance or care he became a hobo and finally ended up his days in the poorhouse."

In dealing with this phase of the subject, he said it might be advisable to place returned men in communities, not under a Government official, but perhaps under their Sergeants and officers. Soldiers were used to discipline, and while there was much grumbling overseas,

it always came out well in the end because of the organization. He emphasized the need of unity in the country, and he deplored the attitude of some people that present restless conditions should be allowed to right themselves. The man who is an alien in Canada, and who has refused to become a British subject, was entitled to no consideration, he said, but there was another class of men who were spoken of as aliens who had been naturalized, and they should have the rights of subjects of Britain as long as they obeyed the laws.

The Opposition Leader strongly urged that the Government should go farther than appointing a Deputy Minister of Labor, as foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne, and