

# BRILLIANT SCENES IN HOUSE CHAMBER AT FORMAL OPENING

Usual Pomp and Pageantry  
Marks Beginning of Six-  
teenth Legislature

## THOMPSON NEW SPEAKER

Amid all the pomp and pageantry which for decades has characterized Ontario Legislature openings, the first session of the Sixteenth Legislature of the Province was started on its eight or ten weeks' way at Queen's Park yesterday afternoon.

The throng which attended the ceremonies at the Parliament Buildings was exceptionally large. According to one of the old officials, it was surpassed in numbers only by one other opening—that of the first Legislature under Sir James Whitney's regime. As early as 1 o'clock women were waiting at the chamber doors to get first choice of floor seats, and the gallery entrances were lined up before 1.30 o'clock.

### Brilliant Scene in Chamber.

The newly decorated chamber was ablaze with the brilliance of the glistening white, crimson, soft black and silvery sheen of women's gowns. His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, appeared in cocked hat and uniform with a front of gold braid. Private members were rarely visible throughout the proceedings which lasted barely 30 minutes, and Cabinet Ministers hardly noticeable amid the splendor, as they attended in spick and span black and grey morning dress at the foot of the Speaker's Throne.

### His Honor Arrives.

His Honor arrived at the Parliament Buildings a few minutes before 3 o'clock, and, after a brief inspection of the guard of honor, composed of a platoon of the Royal Canadian Regiment, and of his escort of the Royal Canadian Dragoons, entered his office on the main floor. After formal reception by Premier Ferguson, he was escorted to the chamber, and entered flanked on either side by officers from various Toronto and Ontario regiments in parade uniform.

### Mr. Speaker Is Chosen.

The only variation from the ceremony of several sessions immediately preceding, was in the election of Mr. Speaker. His Honor, upon taking his seat on the dais, was supposed to discover that no Speaker for the Assembly had been elected and, after directing the selection of such an official, retired to the Speaker's Chamber. Premier Ferguson, in a few well-chosen words, then moved the election of Joseph E. Thompson, Conservative member for Northeast Toronto; W. E. N. Sinclair, K.C., Leader of the Opposition, concurred in the appointment, nicely complimenting Mr. Thompson in doing so, and then Hon. Mr. Thompson responded in a brief statement and took his seat on the Throne.

Provincial Secretary Lincoln Goldie handed the Speech from the Throne to his Honor's aide, who in turn handed it to the Governor, and, in tense stillness, his Honor read the comparatively brief document.

### Other Formal Proceedings.

Following the reading of the Speech, Premier Ferguson moved the customary first reading of a bill respecting oaths of office, which figuratively asserts the Legislature's right to go on with business other than the Speech; then the Premier moved the adjournment until "3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon," and the Legislature was off.

Among the dignitaries noticed on the floor were: Hon. Dr. H. J. Cody, Chief Justice Sir William Mulock, Archbishop McNeil, Bishop Sweeny, Sir Robert Falconer, Mr. Justice Rose, Mr. Justice Middleton, Mr. Justice Mowat and others.

Thursday, Feb. 7th.

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## Lieutenant-Governor's Speech At Opening of Ontario House

Nothing new that could be discerned to be of major importance was contained in his Honor's speech from the Throne, read at the Legislature opening yesterday. As forecasted in The Globe of Tuesday morning, there is specific intimation of an approaching referendum on O.T.A., of important reorganization of the Workmen's Compensation Board, and amendment to the University Act.

### Amendments to Various Acts.

The new items consist of amendment to the Companies Act, which is probably this Government's move toward a Blue Sky law; to amend the Mining Act, which may be of major importance; and to amend the Judicature Act and the Municipal Act. Much, however, may be covered by the words, "and for other purposes."

The Government's reference to an O.T.A. referendum is fairly definite. Among the measures to be submitted, it says, are bills "to make provision to enable the Government to secure an expression of opinion from the people with reference to Provincial liquor legislation."

Respecting the power situation, the speech said that the operations of the Chippawa development have been attended with the most satisfactory results, and the problem that now presents itself "is to make timely provision for the future requirements of the various districts."

### To Improve Schools.

"The Government intends to modify and improve the elementary schools so as to simplify courses of study and to bring them into more direct relation to the needs of the people," said the Speech. The question of providing better facilities for education in rural communities is to receive special consideration.

Better provision has been made for placing the advantages of Ontario before the British peoples, the speech continued, and it referred to arrangements made for placing directly with Ontario farmers a number of British boys "who will in due course become useful Canadian citizens."

On agricultural topics, his Honor said: "The improvement of the agricultural industry is a matter worthy of your most earnest and thorough consideration. My Government desires to bring your combined knowledge and experience, from both the rural and the urban standpoints, to bear upon the subject in order that a better understanding of the economic situation may be reached and a definite policy touching production, transportation, marketing and other conditions, may be evolved. You will be asked to appoint a committee of the House to study these questions with a view to devising useful measures."

In his speech, Mr. Cockshutt said that it

is desirable that greater results should be attained respecting the co-operative marketing of farm products, and that the Government would endeavor to advance the movement as rapidly as the response accorded by the farming community will permit.

The Speech touched briefly on the general reorganization of the Highways Department now being carried out, and added that "it is proposed by my Ministers to introduce legislation to give greater security to the public in the use of the highways. Special efforts will be directed toward encouraging the greater development of county and township road systems. With this object in view, provision will be made for the appointment from among the members of the Assembly of an Advisory Board, designed to bring about a closer association between the municipalities contributing toward highway construction."

### Northern Ontario.

Touching on Northern Ontario matters, Mr. Cockshutt said that it was expected that the systematic survey now being made will constitute the basis of a comprehensive scheme of development. The co-operation of the Dominion will be sought for the encouragement, by means of a bounty, of the mining of Canadian iron ores. Continuing, the Speech said: "Plans will be perfected for the reorganization of the fire-protection service. . . I trust that the assurance of stability to capital in mining and forest industries will lead to advantageous results."

### Ministry of Health.

Satisfaction was expressed in Mr. Cockshutt's speech in the operations of the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway. It is proposed also to ask the Legislature to make statutory provision for a Ministry of Health.

Continuing, Mr. Cockshutt said: "I am glad to observe the efforts my Ministers are making to bring about a solution of the fuel problem of this Province. There is reason to believe that under more favorable transportation conditions a supply of coal would be obtainable from Canadian sources."

In the formal language of the Speech, the following bills will be submitted to the Legislature for consideration:

"To provide for the appointment of a Legislative Secretary for Northern and Northwestern Ontario; respecting assistance to the iron ore industry; to make provision to enable the Government to secure an expression of opinion from the people with reference to Provincial liquor legislation; to amend the Companies Act; to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act; respecting the Board of Governors of University of Toronto; to amend the Department of Education Act; to amend the Mining Act; to amend the Judicature Act; to consolidate the insurance laws; to amend the Municipal Act; and for other purposes."

## New Legislation Forecast in Address

Legislation forecast in the Address yesterday to the Ontario Legislature of Lieutenant-Governor Henry Cockshutt includes: Alteration in courses of study for elementary schools; better school facilities for rural communities; appointment of House Committee to study agricultural conditions; further progress in co-operative marketing of farm products; more protection to public on highways; encouragement of county and township road systems development; Advisory Board to be formed from House members to further this plan; reorganization of fire protection service; statutory provisions for Ministry of Health; appointment of Legislative Secretary for Northern Ontario; aid of Dominion to be sought for iron ore bounty.

Legislation to make possible holding of referendum on Ontario Temperance Act, should such referendum be held.

Acts amending the Companies' Act, Workmen's Compensation Act; act respecting the Board of Governors of the University of Toronto; acts amending the Education Act, the Mining Act, the Judicature Act, the Municipal Act; act to consolidate the insurance laws.