

Thursday, Feb. 3rd.

PICTURE IS COLORFUL AS NEW LEGISLATURE BEGINS FIRST SESSION

Crowded Assembly Hears New Lieutenant-Governor Read Speech From Throne, Which Contains Only Brief Reference to Government Control Bill

BLACK IS CHOSEN AS NEW SPEAKER

Ontario turned from the sixteenth to the seventeenth page of her Legislative history yesterday. A new Lieutenant-Governor, a new Speaker and a new Clerk of the Assembly loomed large in the 3 o'clock ceremonies at the Parliament Buildings. Otherwise, the formal opening was the old, old story redone, with Premier G. Howard Ferguson inconspicuously, yet deftly, steering the ship of State over the shoals common to any inaugural, to a brilliant and successful conclusion.

The Legislative Chamber has never been as crowded as it was yesterday. It has never before presented so colorful a picture. Long before noon queues were forming at the entrances to the galleries. Before 2 o'clock the more favored guests, ladies in particular, were being seated in the Chamber proper, and were contributing wealth in hues of raiment to the kaleidoscopic spread of color before the throne.

Clamor for Admission.

There was a constant clamor for admission to the ceremonies, and a quarter of an hour after they were under way people were still milling in the corridors of the building, pleading at entrances with on-duty officers for a glimpse of the writing of a new leaf in Provincial Parliamentary history.

Chief interest of the guests centred in the first official appearance in the Chamber of his Honor Lieutenant-Governor W. D. Ross; in the much-heralded election to the Speaker's chair of William David Black, Conservative member for Addington; in the initial performance by Major Alexander C. Lewis of his duties as Clerk of the House; and in the Speech from the Throne, which, despite press advice to the contrary, was presumed by many present to have several "jokers" up its sleeve.

Speech Not Startling.

In the Speech itself they were perhaps disappointed, for it made only passing reference to the country's decision for a change in the present liquor laws, and carried really nothing of a startling nature. But they followed all the old and time-honored ritual leading up to the Address and beyond with unfeigned interest, and the movements

of the Lieutenant-Governor and party to and from the Legislative Chamber, were the cynosure of all eyes.

Preceded by a troop of Royal Canadian Dragoons, commanded by Captain M. H. A. Drury, his Honor motored to Queen's Park, and there, prior to entering the Chamber, inspected a guard of honor selected from the Royal Canadian Regiment and under the command of Captain W. S. Fenton. Blowing bugles; the booming of the salute from guns from the 53rd Battery, stationed in the rear of the buildings in charge of Lieutenant C. Q. Ardmore; the bark of command and the rattle of the guard's accoutrement lent to the scene a military touch, strictly in keeping with the attire of his Honor's party, and none the less pleasing to the hundreds of people clustering about for an unofficial "peek" at the ceremonies.

In the election of Mr. Black as Speaker the public had the opportunity several times of guessing as to "what would happen next." The Lieutenant-Governor conveyed to the House on his arrival that he could not meet the Legislature without a Speaker. He retired, and Premier Ferguson, seconded by Hon. George S. Henry, promptly essayed the task of moving Mr. Black's election. The Clerk put the motion. "Aye," said the House.

Tribute to New Speaker.

The new Speaker came from retirement in time to hear the Prime Minister pay a neat tribute to his "fair mind" and "keen judgment," and to the experience, gained from 16 years of Parliamentary life, that would make him a worthy follower of those that had gone before. "A model guardian of the liberties of this House," said Mr. Ferguson of Mr. Black.

The riddle ran on. Mr. Black graciously replied to the compliments. What next? asked the audience. The Lieutenant-Governor was summoned. He heard the news of Mr. Black's election. He ascended the throne, the Speech was given him and he read it. The inaugural was over.

Following the Address the Prime Minister introduced the bills necessary to place the business of the House officially in motion. Adjournment of the House until this afternoon, when Major T. Ashmore Kidd and Dr. Paul Poisson, respectively, will move and second the Address in reply, was then moved by the Prime Minister.

A further note of ceremony was the presence at the buildings of two-score of policemen under the direction of Chief Inspector Pogue and Inspector Majury. They kept the crowds jostling in the corridors in order, and they directed the stream of traffic toward the Legislative Chamber. Several detectives mingled with the throngs, but they did no business.