

# MENTION IS BUT BRIEF OF NEW LIQUOR LAW AT OPENING OF HOUSE

**Legislation to Give Effect to Vote, Is Promise—Announcement Made of Tax Cuts and Reference Is Contained to Imperial and Federal Affairs**

## PROJECTS OF POWER TO GET ATTENTION

In the Speech from the Throne delivered at the opening of the Legislature yesterday the Ontario Government gives but meagre details of the business that lies ahead, and strikes a new note with comment on Imperial and Federal affairs.

Mention of the liquor issue is brief and simple. "Legislation," says the Speech, four paragraphs from the end, "will be introduced to recognize and give effect to the expressed desire of the people of the Province for improvement in the method of control and administration of the sale of liquor."

### To Reduce Taxation.

The only other new measures definitely announced for consideration during the session are bills to increase municipal income exemption; to reduce the amusement tax; to amend the marriage laws so that any British clergyman may conduct marriage ceremonies in Ontario; to revise and consolidate a number of existing laws, a move recommended by the Statute Revision Commission; and to further agricultural affairs.

The comment on national and Imperial affairs comes as somewhat of an innovation, and if the debate on the Speech is a discussion of all the matters mentioned the Ontario legislators will deal with topics which involve all the Empire.

### Greeting From Governor.

At the outset of the Speech, a document of four pages, the new Lieutenant-Governor, W. D. Ross, extends his official greeting to the Province and expresses "concurrence in the impressive tribute of public respect and appreciation" tendered to his predecessor, Colonel Henry Cockshutt.

Next, mention is made of the departure from Canada of Viscount Byng of Vimy, of the widespread expressions of good-will toward that distinguished representative of the King, and of the welcome extended to Viscount Willingdon, his successor.

Then comes reference to the Confederation celebration. "As Canadians," it is stated, "we look forward with keen interest to the approaching commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation during the present year. The significance of the event is enhanced by the announcement that, circumstances permitting, his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will visit Canada on that occasion. I trust that the Jubilee celebration, in recalling many memorable events in our history, will tend to cement the bonds which unite all the Provinces of this great Dominion."

### Interprovincial Conference.

Continuing, the Speech refers to the Interprovincial Conference held in Ottawa last June, when "agreement was reached on a number of subjects as to which common action is desirable." It is noted that the Provinces are agreed that similar gatherings, held at regular intervals, would promote useful co-operation.

The Speech then mentions the completed monument of Sir James Whitney. "It is hoped," the Speech points out, "that this memorial will be unveiled on Empire Day, and that the occasion will afford an opportunity for a fitting public recognition of the services of that distinguished Prime Minister."

The balance of the Speech has to do with departmental affairs. Despite unusual weather conditions,

crops last year were close to the average. The inauguration of the grading of cream has improved the quality of the commercial make of butter. The Province has advanced in competitive dairy tests.

The project of placing British boys on Ontario farms has worked out so well that a material expansion of the system in the near future is warranted, the Speech says.

### Bilingual School Report.

It is hoped that the bilingual school inquiry will be concluded during the year. The travelling schools of New Ontario, and correspondence courses, have met with such success that the system will be extended to cover all districts not hitherto served. The Government is pursuing a policy of providing increased facilities for advanced education in local centres.

Contracts for purchase of power on the Gatineau and the Ottawa Rivers are referred to as arrangements necessitated until the St. Lawrence development is put through. In connection with this St. Lawrence waterways project "a measure of progress" is reported.

It is noted that Fort William has entered the Hydro family, and that, while now the output of the Nipigon is fully taxed, provision is being made for additional power. The extension of Hydro service in rural districts is progressing satisfactorily.

"The policy of perpetuating our timber wealth by segregating areas adapted to the natural reproduction of the forests," the Speech continues, "has received much consideration from my Ministers, and legislation may be introduced in that connection. During the past season the air protection service demonstrated its utility not only in the detection but in the suppression of fires and the prevention of loss to the public domain."

Mining activities are next referred to, it being emphasized that during the past year there had been promising discoveries of gold, copper, zinc and lead, and that the situation of mining in Ontario justifies the growing confidence of the public in the future of the industry.

The proposed extension of the T. & N.O. to James Bay is briefly mentioned. A similar brief reference is made to the construction of the new east block, now nearly completed, and then, while on this matter of lands and buildings, it is announced:

"Negotiations are in progress for acquiring additional lands in the vicinity of the Queen's Park from the University of Toronto, for the purpose of controlling property that will eventually be needed for the increasing legislative, departmental and educational requirements of the Province."

### Exhibition Buildings.

Ontario, having led the way with a new building at the Canadian National Exhibition, now expects that several other Provinces will be similarly represented there.

As for highway matters, the Government announces its proposal to take over some 500 miles of county roads and bring them up to Provincial standard.

The activity of the Department of Health, particularly the establishing of dental clinics, and the establishment of a standard for tourist camps, brings favorable comment.

Progress is noted in the work of the Boys' Training School at Bowmanville. Buildings necessary there are in the course of construction.

A reference to financial matters

concludes the Speech. The policy of retiring the public debt is touched on; financial administration continues to show improvement. The preparation of the Public Accounts is well advanced, it is stated, and the estimates will be before the House at an early date.