

SPEECH FROM THRONE PROVIDES MATERIAL FOR BRIGHT ORATORY

**Major Kidd, Kingston, and
Dr. Paul Poisson, North
Essex, Cover Wide Field
in Moving and Seconding
of Address, and Give
General Approval to
Legislation Forecast**

BRIEF REFERENCE TO LIQUOR CONTROL

The moving and seconding of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne by two outstanding members of the Provincial House was the chief action in the Legislature yesterday afternoon.

Major T. A. Kidd, who defeated Hon. W. F. Nickle in Kingston, led off as the mover. He was followed by Dr. Paul Poisson, North Essex, as the seconder.

While both speakers dealt in detail generally with the affairs of government referred to in the Speech, both touched on the liquor question almost as briefly as did the Speech.

Not Concerned With Details.

"With the details of the Government's plan," said Mr. Kidd of the liquor issue, "I am not concerned at the moment. We will have all the necessary information in good time. But with the broad principle of Ministerial responsibility for liquor legislation and for the administration and control of the liquor traffic I am heartily in accord. I am confident that the day of avoiding responsibility by resorting to plebiscites is past for good and all Governments have tried that plan and it has not been successful.

"It might be too much to assume that what the Government will enact this session into the form of law will be the last on this subject. Human institutions are not perfect. The right to initiate legislation involves the right and the duty to amend it from time to time to meet changing conditions and take advantage of experience.

"The whole thing, to my mind, is the placing of the whole system of liquor control and legislation under the guidance of responsible Ministers, so that the law will have the respect and support of the people, which have been so signally lacking during the past few years.

Other Matters Important.

"Important as the temperance question undoubtedly is, I feel that it would be a calamity if the time and energy of this Legislature and of the Government were devoted to the framing of liquor laws to the exclusion of proper consideration of other equally important matters."

Then later, said Dr. Poisson: "The mandate that this Government has received re the sale of liquor leaves no doubt in our mind that the legislation which will be brought down during this session will provide sufficient liberty to its citizens to stimulate a moral responsibility as to the use of liquor, and only when that moral responsibility is lacking or wilfully abused will restrictions and legal action be necessary to safeguard the best interests of temperance in this Province."

Speakers Well Received.

Both speakers were greeted with vociferous ovations. Major Kidd, Mr. Nickle's successor in the Kingston seat, received a particularly thunderous welcome. Government members prolonging the banging of desks for several minutes.

For some time at the outset of his remarks Mr. Kidd engaged in dispensing tributes. He commended the appointments of Speaker, Attorney-General, Minister of Lands and Forests, and Provincial Treasurer, made since last session. Then he referred to the change in the occupancy of the office of Lieutenant-Governor, expressing his regard for Col. Cockshutt and his successor, W. D. Ross.

Continuing, Mr. Kidd explained that he would touch on a topic of great importance to Ontario with which the Speech from the Throne does not deal directly because it is not customary for his Honor to offer any comments in that connection.

"I refer to the fact," said he, "that we have lately had a general election."

Immediately the Government benches were banging out a thunderous accompaniment to his statement. Slowly the noise died away.

"And there will be another one soon," interjected Hon. W. E. Raney, Progressive Leader, in a moment of silence. And then the Opposition started the desk-thumping.

Deals With Education.

Continuing, he dealt with educational matters. "We are," said he, "endeavoring to develop a high type of citizenship so that we may rely less and less on law for the elevation of morals, and more and more on character and knowledge. In this regard our educational institutions have the opportunity to render supreme service to the State. I think they occupy the foremost place in the responsibilities of the Government.

"The people of this Province are indebted to the Premier for the fact that he has carried on the Department of Education ever since he formed this Government in addition to discharging the arduous duties pertaining to the Premiership.

A Noteworthy Feature.

"A noteworthy feature of our educational progress has been the sympathetic and constructive spirit that has characterized the Administration during the past three years. The result of this is reflected in all branches of education and in every part of the Province.

"The revision of the course of study of the primary schools has been effected so as to correct the tendency to overcrowd the program and impose too much home work upon the children.

"The abolition of supplementary examinations, which added to the expense and the labor of the examination system, and served no good purpose, has been well justified.

"A wise step has been taken by the appointment of a Supervising Committee on Appeals to inquire into and, where necessary, to revise the results of the Provincial examinations for entrance to the professions and the universities."

Next he spoke of the improvement of the qualifications of teachers, the

work of travelling schools, and industrial and vocational schools, and the consistent development of the higher institutions of learning.

Referring to agricultural matters, he noted the improvement of products, advances made along fruit, dairy and live stock lines. Marked progress was also being made in the Province in industrial affairs.

Mr. Kidd, describing the high type of manhood produced in Ontario, went on to say: "I pay the highest tribute to the great achievement of George Young. But to the country that bred him, gave him strength and courage, and to the men who trained him so as to give him skill and confidence, I also pay very high tribute."

Touches Power Situation.

Dealing with Hydro matters, he spoke in detail of the work of the late Sir Adam Beck, and then gave figures on the present power situation in Ontario.

Referring to the last Hydro report, he noted that it showed that less than one-tenth of the advantages of the publicly owned system enjoyed by the portion of Ontario situated east of Toronto. "It has been our hope," he said, "that Eastern Ontario should share the full advantages of the principle which was personified by Sir Adam Beck."

"We have at our doors in the St. Lawrence River 1,300,000 horsepower belonging to Ontario running to waste," he pointed out. "As for the harnessing of this river," he said, "unfortunately there are international complications which serve to cause delay, but which, I believe, could be brushed aside by the determined effort on the part of all concerned."

He felt that the Provincial authorities had made wise arrangements for power pending the St. Lawrence development. The contract with the Gatineau Power Company would give Ontario next year the advantage of a block of 80,000 horsepower, "and," he added, "by 1931 we will derive from 230,000 to 260,000 horsepower from this source. The price agreed on is \$15 per horsepower at the Ottawa River, a figure which is reasonable, in the judgment of the Government and the Commission."

Pays Respects to Premier.

Speaking as a French-Canadian, Dr. Poisson took occasion to thank Premier Ferguson for showing his appreciation for those he (Dr. Poisson) represented. In the opinion of the speaker, the Prime Minister had gone a long way in fostering public confidence that his Government is anxious to do all in its power for the promotion of good understanding, mutual welfare, and justice to all the people in the Province.

Dr. Poisson reviewed at length the Government's financing scheme for the gradual retirement of the public debt; noted with "great satisfaction" the attention paid by the Ministry to Northern Ontario, and the intensive action taken in that portion of the Province; and especially commended the Government's proposal to continue the T. & N.O. to James Bay as a means of providing greater impetus to colonization of the farm belt, improving the Province's world position in annual gold output, and opening up further sources of hydro possibilities.

Refers to Good Roads.

Dr. Poisson spoke of the Government's efforts to induce settlers to take up fertile farm lands in the North. He referred to the "capable administration" of Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways, stating in this regard that Ontario stands pre-eminent in Canada, as far as roadways are concerned, and compared with the United States shows a most creditable position. But one State in the Union, Indiana, he said, had a higher per cent. mileage of surfaced roads than Ontario. It was his belief, he said, that the department was fully alive to the farmers' needs, and that the steady development of the township road idea would play an important part in the ever-expanding policy of the department.