

Friday, Feb. 10th

SPEECH FROM THRONE AT SESSION OPENING HAS FEW SURPRISES

Government to Establish Research Foundation, to Extend and Develop University Avenue and to Make Special Survey of Province on Old-Age Pensions

MINER PROTECTION TO BE INCREASED

As expected, there were no surprises in the Speech from the Throne to which the Ontario Legislature listened yesterday. Announcements of legislation to establish a Research Foundation, and to extend and develop University Avenue, Toronto, as a boulevard drive, and an intimation of the Government's first step toward old-age pensions arrangement, provided the sole "kick" in the Speech, but they have, to some extent been talked about before. The remainder of the Speech had been extensively forecast in recent weeks.

The Speech contained two references to matters of Dominion-wide scope. One dealt with the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation, "which demonstrated the essential unity of the Canadian people," and the other reiterated the attitude of Premier Ferguson and other Ontario Cabinet Ministers, as expressed at the recent Dominion-Provincial Conference at Ottawa, "that the compact of Confederation should be strictly observed in all respects, and that the future of Canada can be best assured by maintaining the status of the Provinces as established by the British North America Act."

Provincial Progress.

Beyond these references, the Speech hewed straight to the line of Provincial achievements and endeavor. The satisfactory agricultural production; progress made in securing power for Eastern and Central Ontario; extension of rural lines, and efforts to maintain the constitutional rights of the Province to water powers; favorable progress of the policy of transferring settlers from unsuitable locations to the clay belt of the North; rapid growth of

the T. & N.O. Railway; establishment of copper as an important mineral in Ontario; effective forest fire-fighting; the assured completion of a permanent highway from Windsor to the Quebec border, and the development of the correspondence course and travelling school policies of education in the interests of remote settlers, are matters of departmental accomplishment which the Speech notes "with pride."

The intimation regarding old-age pensions springs from the following notation: "One of the social problems which is engaging the earnest attention of my Ministers is the better care of our dependent aged population. Information on this subject is being gathered from various sources, and it is intended, in addition, to institute a special survey of the Province in this respect."

Liquor Law "Puff."

The Speech did not forget a "puff" for the new liquor law. That puff follows: "The legislation of your last session providing for the establishment of the Liquor Control Board was brought into operation by proclamation in June last. Since that time the board has devoted much attention and energy to the establishment of a strong and efficient administration. During the comparatively short period the act

has been in force, there have been many encouraging indications of public support and co-operation."

Great promise of beneficial results is foreseen in the administration of Provincial Mental Hospitals by reason of extensions in the field of occupational therapy, and further arrangements for dental treatment and social service work, and the re-organization and general strengthening of institutional staffs.

Completion of the revision of the Provincial Statutes; the balanced Budget as pre-sessionally forecast; advantageous Treasury borrowings, and need of "the fullest co-operation" between Provincial and Federal authorities in the matter of scientific industrial research, are other points stressed in the Speech.

To Register Brokers.

Forecast of sessional legislation was "short and snappy." "Legislation will be submitted for your consideration," said the Speech, "to make further provision for the development of Northern and North-western Ontario; the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Mining Act, for the purpose of increasing the protection of miners; respecting General Hospitals and charitable institutions; to provide for the establishment of a research foundation; respecting the registration of stock salesmen and brokers, with a view to the proper regulation and control of the sale of securities; to simplify the procedure for the incorporation of companies; respecting apprenticeship in certain trades; for the extension and development of University Avenue in the City of Toronto as a boulevard drive, and for other purposes."

BOY SCOUTS AS PAGES IS TOUCH OF NOVELTY AT SESSION OPENING

Hundreds Attend Legislature to Hear Speech From Throne

MEMBER IS INTRODUCED

The old-time pomp and pageantry was spiced with a touch or two of novelty when the second session of the Seventeenth Ontario Legislature was formally opened by his Honor Lieutenant-Governor William D. Ross yesterday afternoon.

There was, as usual, the gathering of the elect and the select on the floor of the House, the brilliant picture of multi-colored feminine raiment, the crowds of women in the galleries, the throngs milling about the doors to the Chamber, pressing for admission, the spectacular arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor and his uniformed and bemedalled aides.

And there was, for a change, an added note of color in the new green and red and bronze draperies on the walls, the innovation of Boy Scouts as ushers in place of pages, and then as a particular feature of this opening the introduction of Horace S. Colliver, member-elect for Prince Edward, and latest addition to the Government's strength in the House.

Rush of Spectators.

There was, as in past years, the rush of expectant spectators long before the hour of the official opening. In the morning, even, half a dozen women staked out their claims in the galleries, but with the noon hour came sessional attendants who ousted them from their positions,

conducted them out to the corridors and locked the gallery doors.

And there they waited, and were joined by others until there were a hundred in line by 1 o'clock, and the number was tripled half an hour later. Finally the doors swung open, and the ladies jammed their way in to fill the galleries to capacity, some to stand behind the seats out of sight and hearing of the happenings down below.

Meanwhile, the members' seats and rows of additional chairs down on the floor of the House were being filled. In filed members' wives, friends, Toronto celebrities, Churchmen, educationists, Consuls.

Mr. Justice Raney There.

In came a trio of Judges, one of them, Mr. Justice Raney, former Progressive Leader. They joined their gowned colleagues already seated.

By quarter to three all the galleries about the Chamber were packed, and outside crowds clamored for entrance. On the floor there was still a row of vacant chairs. Then at 2.47 p.m. in came Premier Ferguson and Mrs. Ferguson, followed by the Cabinet Ministers and their wives. The assemblage rose. The Ministers' ladies filled the empty row. The Ministers filed along to stand in the background. The assemblage was seated.

Outside Canadian artillery guns boomed and, their thunder muffled, sounded through the House.

Lieutenant-Governor Arrives.

At 2.50 His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, escorted by Royal Canadian Dragoons under Lieutenant W. E. Gillespie, arrived at the Buildings. The Guard of Honor, picked from the Royal Canadian Regiment, under Captain A. K. Hemming, snapped into the salute. A bugle blared. His Honor strode by the Guard in his march of inspection, then up the steps into the Buildings.

Again the assemblage in the House rose, the chatter of conversation hushed into solemn silence.

The doors of the Chamber swung open, and in walked a young woman, a late-comer, and was ushered to her place.

There was a flurry of conversation. Then another commotion at the door. Again the hush. Again the doors swung open. And in walked three women.

Again the conversation and some laughter. Another flurry of excitement at the doors. They swung open. In comes his Honor with his A.D.C.'s.

Then his Honor is seated in the Speaker's Throne. "Pray be seated," says he. And the people sit down again. He reads the Speech. The Speech is ended. His Honor and his aides are gone, out through a side door.

Mr. Colliver Arrives.

Speaker Black is in his place. He reads a statement about issuing a writ for the by-election in Prince Edward. Down the aisle comes Conservative Whip William H. Ireland. Alongside his bulk is a slight gentleman. They halt ten yards from the Speaker. They seem sad, slightly embarrassed by the gaze of all these beautiful women.

Premier Ferguson steps forward, puts an arm on the shoulder of the slight gentleman. "Mr. Speaker," says the Prime Minister. "I have the honor to present to you Horace Stanley Colliver. He has subscribed to the oath, signed the roll, and claims the right to take his seat."

Mr. Speaker—Let the honorable gentleman take his seat.

Apparently there's no seat for the honorable gentleman to take. There is a ripple of laughter. And Mr. Colliver disappears into the background.

Then the Premier moves the customary act "respecting the administration of oaths of office for persons appointed Justices of the Peace" and explains that this is the historic symbol of Commoners' business getting preference over the King's affairs.

And then he moves for appointment of standing committees, eleven in all, another bit of custom.

And finally, at 3.23 p.m., he concludes, "The business of the day being ended, I move we adjourn."

Yesterday's arrangements for the opening included the usual arrangement in corridors of red plush robes and the usual extra squad of policemen.