

Ontario Court Mourning Ordered for Two Weeks

Flags on Public Buildings to Be Flown Half-Mast on Day of King Albert's Funeral — Legislature Expresses Grief at Sovereign's Passing, Recalling Heroism During War

His Honor Dr. Herbert A. Bruce, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, was advised yesterday by the Secretary of State at Ottawa that his Majesty King George V. has directed that court mourning be observed for the late King of the Belgians for a period of two weeks from yesterday. The Royal command, which was telegraphed to Dr. Bruce, also directed that flags on public buildings be flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral.

Ontario's legislators yesterday added their expression of sorrow to the world-wide grief at the passing of the King of the Belgians. After prayers Premier Henry read a motion, seconded by Liberal House Leader McQuibban:

"That this House learns with deep regret of the untimely death of his Majesty King Albert I., King of the Belgians, and desires to place itself on record as extending its sincerest sympathy to the Royal family of Belgium in the loss of its beloved head, and to the people of Belgium as a whole, in the passing of a gracious and heroic monarch, after a reign of twenty-five years."

In further expression of regret, Mr. Henry said that never would be forgotten the part played by King Albert and his small but heroic people in the difficult position they occupied during the war. His Majesty had been recognized as a loyal ally, co-operating heartily in stemming the German tide. Even beyond the Allied countries, said the Premier, the shock would be felt at the untimely death of the comparatively young ruler. He was sure the people of Ontario sympathized deeply with the Belgians in their bereavement.

Dr. McQuibban said that news of the fatal and tragic accident had carried all minds back across the years to the days of 1914, when there was no more heroic figure than King Albert's. "His spirit was like a crusader's, like that of England's King Richard, a spirit of integrity and honor. It was fortunate, indeed, for the entire world that Belgium had such a King at such a time. It was the fine thread of the neutral zone of Belgium that barred the way to Paris."

Children's Aid Amendment Protested by G. Oakley

George Oakley (Conservative, Riverdale, Toronto) protested on behalf of the City of Toronto when the bill amending the Children's Protection Act reached the Committee of the Whole House during the legislative session yesterday. Toronto, Mr. Oakley pointed out, is paying \$366,000 under the present provisions of the act, and would under the proposed amendment, which will make municipalities responsible for children until they reach 21, be liable for a sum of \$1,750,000.

HIGHWAYS BURDEN URGED ON PROVINCE

Liberal Whip Brings Motion to Relieve Counties of Cost

Liberals' contention that the highway burden should rest only on Provincial shoulders reached the Legislature order paper today with filing of notice of motion by Charles A. Robertson, Party Whip and member for North Huron.

The claim that counties should be relieved of the onus has long been heard in Liberal platform speeches, and now the pros and cons will be argued in House debate.

Mr. Robertson's motion follows: "In view of the fact that the Province receives nearly \$20,000,000 from gas tax, license plates and drivers' permits, this House is in favor of relieving the counties of all cost of Provincial highways."

NORTHERN FINANCES TALLIED IN HOUSE

The finances of the North country were tallied during yesterday's session of the Legislature, when a lengthy question, asked by T. P. Murray (Liberal, Renfrew South), inquiring details of the ferry, highway construction and office expenses at Little Current and Blind River was answered by Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests.

Mr. Finlayson stated that the ferry Jacqueline at Little Current had cost \$12,400; that the cost of alterations to the LaOloche Island terminal in 1933 was \$2,387; and that the Little Current dock had been altered during the same year at a cost of \$1,892. The department owns the land on which the terminals are located, and it was purchased from Norman Trotter for \$1,264.

The right of way for the Little Current-Espanola Highway has been secured partly by the consent of the Department of Indian Affairs and a payment of \$330 to the Indians; partly from the 5 per cent. reservation made by certain townships, and, in cases where it runs through private property, the department has obtained title by expropriation and no claims have been received. In one case still hanging fire a claim was made for 50 cents an acre.

D. A. McIvor is Northern Development Resident Engineer at Blind River at an annual salary of 2,400. J. R. Carter, his assistant, receives \$125 a month. At Blind River the department rents office space for \$20 a month. The office was not operated during 1933.

Government Phoned "Fergy" Only Once in Three Years

"London! Hello, London! Toronto, Canada, wishes to speak with the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson."

But it only happened once—the telephone operator's remarks aren't guaranteed—or at least such a call was only made once by the Ontario Government in its official capacity. In a tense atmosphere that soon dissolved into humor, Premier Henry stated at the legislative session yesterday that the Ontario Government had telephoned Mr. Ferguson once in the past three years, and that in 1931. Seven cables were sent during the

same year; five at a cost of \$19.24 were sent in 1932, and five totalling \$12.02 went over in 1933. The total cost to the Province was \$92.68.

In reply to the second part of the question, which was asked by W. G. Medd (Progressive, Huron South), the Premier, commenting on the phrase "to or from the High Commissioner," implied that the High Commissioner would probably pay the charges if he called the Government.

"You never get any messages collected," Hon. Harry C. Nixon queried humorously as the House began to laugh.