

February 12

Legislature Opening Is Socially Sombre

Social brilliance was conspicuous by its absence yesterday at the opening of the second session of the Nineteenth Legislature of Ontario by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province. Due to the period of mourning which the Empire is observing out of respect to the late beloved Sovereign, the event was, socially, a very sombre affair, lacking the color and splendor of fashionable attire, and the glamor with which custom and tradition have surrounded the event. Absent also was the youthful Prime Minister of the Province, Mitchell F. Hepburn, who was represented by the Acting Premier, Hon. Harry Nixon.

With the Liberals occupying the place of honor at the right side of the House, members took their places in businesslike, workaday manner and attire—thus occupying the seats usually delegated to their wives for the opening ceremonies. The Throne was draped in purple and black, with a

strip of violet-hued carpet replacing the red on the Throne steps.

Mrs. Herbert A. Bruce, the charming wife of the Lieutenant-Governor, was the only woman to officially occupy a seat on the floor of the House. She was gowned in black crepe with cape richly trimmed with silver fox and wore a narrow black brimmed hat, also pearls. She accompanied Dr. Bruce into the Legislative Chamber. They were accompanied by aides and escorted by a guard of honor, whose uniforms furnished the only flash of color in the tout ensemble.

Mrs. Harry Nixon, wife of the Acting Premier; Mrs. George S. Henry, Mrs. N. O. Hipel, wife of the Speaker, all wearing black, and other Cabinet Ministers' wives, attired in varying degrees of mourning, were observed among those present in the galleries, which were crowded to capacity, although it was noticed that there were more men than women present in the large assemblage.