

February 24

Party Heads Pledge Ontario's Welfare

Pledges of co-operation in expediting legislation vital to Ontario's welfare were passed yesterday across the floor of the Legislature at the formal opening of the second session.

But in these pledges both Premier Hepburn and Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Conservative Opposition Leader, made reservations that allowed scope for critical disagreement, which the latter held was not a weakness, as claimed in dictatorships, but rather the strength of the democratic forms of government.

The Leaders' words fell upon a House that but a matter of minutes before had heard the outline of the legislative program from the lips of Hon. Albert Matthews, Lieutenant-Governor, in the Speech from the Throne.

In brilliant contrast to the "shirt-sleeve" opening of the emergency session last December, the ceremony yesterday was accomplished in the tradition of the Mother of Parliaments, although it was intimated earlier in the week by the

Premier that it would be the last occasion, while he was head of the Government, on which the opening would be attended by military escorts and the artillery salute.

The Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Matthews were escorted to the Parliament Buildings by a detail of Royal Canadian Dragoons. Arrival of the party was heralded to the House by the dull thud of the artillery salute, fired from the rear of the buildings. Before the entrance was a guard from the Royal Canadian Regiment. The King's representative was attended by five active aides, and as he entered the building he was greeted by a guard of twelve honorary aides, in full-dress uniform, representing the different services of his Majesty's armed Canadian forces.

Their presence squelched earlier stories that Premier Hepburn had "added another insult to the Crown"

by stripping the Lieutenant-Governor of his usual complement of honorary aides-de-camp. Premier Hepburn emphasized that the arrangements had been carried out fully by his personal arrangement with Hon. Mr. Matthews.

Wives of the honorary aides, it was observed by the arrangements, were seated in their accustomed places, slightly behind and immediately to the right of the Throne.

Members filed in slowly, and as the opening hour approached it was seen that there were a number of vacancies in the Government benches. Standing out among the empty chairs were the neighboring seats allotted to Hon. Arthur Roebuck, Bellwoods, and Hon. David Croll, Windsor-Walkerville, the two former Ministers who resigned from the Cabinet over the C.I.O. issue.

Members of the Cabinet wore morning coats, and all, with the

exception of the Premier, bore scarlet roses in their lapels. Sharply at 3 o'clock the Premier left the Chamber and a few minutes later the formal procession entered, led by the five active aides. The Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Matthews approached the Throne between the stiffly erect honorary aides, and after they had taken their seats the officers retired to their places beside the King's representative.

One large section of the gallery showed empty benches. Corridors leading to the main stairway were blocked by hundreds of people who strove to catch a glimpse of the official party.

His Honor finished reading the address by 3:18 o'clock, and as the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Matthews, and their attending officers, left the Chamber, Premier Hepburn rose and spoke in congratulatory terms of the elevation of W. F. Schwenger, former member for Centre Hamilton, to the Bench.

Tribute to Dead M.L.A.

Later he pointed to the crepe-draped seat of Milton McVicar, former member for East Lambton, who died recently, and paid tribute to the deceased man's qualities.

Mr. Macaulay joined in the tributes, and in answer to the Premier's plea for co-operation reminded the House, dryly, that the Conservatives, when in power, did not get a great deal of co-operation from the now Premier.

"But," he said, "even he is getting mellow."

"Old age," retorted Mr. Hepburn.

"I said mellow, not softer," Mr. Macaulay asserted.

Premier Hepburn, in moving adjournment, laid out in brief measure the physical program of the session, announcing that there would be night sittings on Tuesday and Thursday, "until it is necessary to have more night sessions"; that the debate would be opened today, and that the first bills would be introduced Friday.

Leaders' day in the debate would be on Tuesday, he said.