

NEW ARENA WELCOMES BIG TRAIN

Conacher, in Hepburn's
Team, Goes on
Offensive

DEBATE IS OPENED

Russell Liberal
Is Seconder in the
Legislature

Administrative records of the Hepburn Government were placed before the Ontario Legislature yesterday as Lionel Conacher (Lib., Bracondale) and Romeo Begin (Lib., Russell) opened the way to major debate by moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

The public galleries were crowded as Mr. Conacher, admittedly "accustomed to more strenuous exercise than is permitted in this Chamber," presented his motion.

Delight was expressed visibly by a section of school children, where rows of boys sat, wide-eyed, as they heard their hero of a hundred ice encounters. He asserted that the policies inaugurated by Premier Hepburn had not only proved of "tremendous value to Ontario but had been endorsed in striking manner in the October election."

Mr. Begin, in his maiden speech, drew from his municipal experiences grounds for lauding the Administration's policies in placing a necessary check upon municipal spending, and in improving the standards of accounting in municipalities.

Called Good Training.

The school in municipal affairs conducted by the Western University had been of invaluable aid to members of Councils and to officials, he said. In another branch of education, that of home economics, he saw direct benefit to the people. He termed it "common-sense training."

Mr. Begin emphasized the value of gold production to Ontario and asserted that the work of the Ontario Securities Commission had added greatly to the stability of the Province.

Brawny and towering over his seat mates, the Big Train faced his first trial in the Legislature arena with a sardonic reference, couched in terms of the playing field and fight ring, to his close decision in the October election over Russell Nesbitt, K.C., former Conservative member for Bracondale.

"In all the games in which I have participated," he said to the grinning Government benches, which but a moment before had roared out their welcome to the "rookie," "we always knew when the final

gong rang, or the whistle sounded, which side won or lost, but my election battle was the longest tussle of my career.

"When the final gong had sounded, I thought my opponent was down for the count, but when I turned around, he was up for the recount. It took the referees a long time to convince him that he had been counted out and must stay out."

Points to Surplus.

His address was held briefly to a survey of the Government's record. It lauded the Treasury Department's budget surplus of more than \$9,000,000 last year. The \$20,000,000 loan floated last fall at the lowest rates in the history of the Province gave a complete answer to charges that Ontario's credit had suffered under Liberal rule.

Deficits in the Department of Game and Fisheries have been turned into an operating profit of \$230,000. Expenditures in the prisons and reformatories branch have been reduced and efficiency promoted, he claimed.

"In this connection, the segregation of first offenders from repeat offenders has been a worth-while improvement, and one which may well lead to the reclamation of many delinquents," said Mr. Conacher.

In his opinion, appointment of Hon. Harold J. Kirby, K.C., Eglinton, a layman, to the health post, was a sound move. With competent medical advisers to deal with technical problems, it was important that the Minister of Health should be a man of proved business ability to handle a department whose expenditures ran close to \$9,000,000 annually.

His one reference to the problems of youth, which he had em-

phasized in his election campaign, was made in comment bearing upon relief.

"The joint Dominion-Provincial agreement for the training in various activities of young men and women will undoubtedly have a beneficial effect in the future, and it is encouraging to note how our young people are taking advantages of the opportunities thus afforded them for self-improvement," said Mr. Conacher.

Investigation of closed estates brought to the Treasury many millions of dollars which otherwise would have been withheld, said the speaker, and stricter enforcement of the Corporation Tax Act brought in millions more.

Lauds Financial Record.

"There is no question but that these vigorous measures helped materially to place the Province on the most favorable financial footing it has enjoyed for many years," he said. "The credit of Ontario today stands higher than it has ever done, because of a balanced Budget and sound financial policies and administration."

In the realm of labor, Mr. Con-

acher claimed, the setting up of the Industry and Labor Board was one of the many progressive steps taken by the Government. The Government, he said, was "facing courageously the task of establishing proper wages and working conditions that would be fair to both employer and employee." He held it was necessary to eliminate cut-throat competition among employers within the Province. Co-operation in these matters from the Province of Quebec was proving of tremendous value, claimed Mr. Conacher.

The debate was adjourned after Premier Hepburn again indicated cleared Friday for the introduction of bills, said to be non-contentious in character.