

February 23

Queen's Park Highlights

Highlights from the Speech from the Throne yesterday in the Ontario Legislature:

Inauguration of religious instruction in public and secondary schools.

A 48-hour limit on the work week with assurance of one week annual vacations with pay for commercial and industrial workers.

Establishment of a new Provincial Department of Planning and Development.

A postwar four-year highway building program providing 27,840,000 man-days of employment.

Expansion of the mining industry for postwar employment.

Establishment of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission to supervise Crown forests.

Adoption of one permit in place of three for purchases of liquor, beer and wine.

Expansion of postwar trade with Britain and other countries through the opening of Ontario House in London.

Development of fish and game resources.

Limiting of the cost of Hydro-Electric power to municipalities in Southern Ontario to \$39 a horsepower.

Expansion of public health services.

Amendment of the Active Service Election Act, which provided for proxy voting for members of the armed forces stationed outside Ontario.

PRESESSION NOTICE RAPPED

Contrary to all precedent in the Ontario Legislature, Opposition Leader E. B. Jolliffe at the opening session yesterday objected to Premier Drew's advance announcement of the choice of the Speaker, though he declared his C.C.F. Party would support the appointment of W. J. Stewart, M.P.P., Toronto-Parkdale, to the post.

Mr. Jolliffe said he was sure it would be Mr. Stewart's desire "to rule with even-handed justice." He quoted ex-Premier Arthur Meighen's criticism in 1922 of advance announcement of Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux's selection as Speaker of the Dominion House and also read Mr. Stewart a lecture on his duties.

Premier Drew explained and was supported by ex-Premier H. C. Nixon, Liberal Leader, who seconded the appointment motion, that the procedure followed precedent long-established here. Practice in the British Parliament left the appointment motion to private members because the Speaker there was chosen for life. He expressed the hope that Mr. Jolliffe would again find occasion to quote the former Conservative Prime Minister, and said he was sure the new Speaker would benefit from the Opposition Leader's instruction.

Mr. Nixon told the House that "a great deal of work to be done in preparation for the House session" falls to the Speaker who, in his 25 years' experience in the House, always had been chosen in advance.