

# Election Promised If Drew Program Not Acceptable

If Premier Drew's program is not acceptable to a majority of the Legislature, "then his stand will be referred to the electorate," Charles H. Martin (P.C., Haldimand-Norfolk) told the Ontario Legislature yesterday. Mr. Martin, returned in the by-election held during last session, made the pronouncement in opening the debate on the Speech from the Throne. In moving the Speech's adoption he was seconded by H. R. Scott (P.C., Peterborough).

The Drew Government, Mr. Martin said, had implemented the 22 points on which it was elected. Since it took office, he declared, "this Government has shown convincing proof of its ability to give sound, progressive administration. Its platform has been no mere list of idle promises. The Speech from the Throne was a record of real accomplishment and is a forerunner of an advanced legislative program. The Government has exploded the idea that a party platform is something to be forgotten after an election.

"If Premier Drew's program is unacceptable to a majority of this Legislature," he said, "then his stand will be referred to the electorate and in his position I heartily agree."

## Grey North Verdict

He need not refer, he said, to "the deficiencies of the Ottawa scene," but he believed "there is little doubt that the verdict of Grey North will be repeated across the country in the not-too-distant future."

Speaking of the war situation, Mr. Martin pointed out that 44.4 per cent of Ontario's potential military strength is in the armed forces as against 20.8 per cent in Quebec. He complimented the Government on its assistance to agriculture and was complimented "our taste of bureaucracy in Selective Service which gives an idea of what regimentation really means."

He warned that returning servicemen "will not fit into a ready-made bureaucratic plan that is not British."

Also, he said, a conference of the Provinces was necessary soon "if we are to avoid postwar chaos," because "Provincial Governments are the best guarantee of national unity since they reflect the views of our population."

## Lauds Labor Board

Mr. Martin paid special tribute to the work of Prof. Jacob Finkelman of the Labor Relations Board and its enviable record of prompt and reasoned judgments. He praised also the Government's health and highways program. The Highways Department had improved 226 miles of highway in 1944.

Commenting on "talk from Ottawa" of a national flag, a national anthem for Canada, and a Pan-American Union "with a view to weakening our British partnership," Mr. Martin concluded his address by declaring: "As long as our Union Jack shall wave over this great Province, we shall continue to sing 'God Save the King'—and mean it."

Politics should be forgotten in a united effort to plan for the post-war, Mr. Scott said, in seconding the motion for adoption of the Throne Speech. Planning could be carried out only if individual parties were forgotten.

"Forget this eternal sparring for political advantage," he urged, "and remember that the electors sent us here to legislate for the present and the immediate future. Let us make this Ontario of ours not a visionary Utopia, but a real one."

## Home Owners Helped

Reviewing Government policy, Mr. Scott said payment of 50 per cent of education costs would greatly aid home ownership in lessening the burden of real estate taxation. The scholarship plan had aided the move toward equality of educational opportunity. Since the tourist business was one of Peterborough County's biggest "cash crops," he asked that roads be constructed into inaccessible lakes to make them available to visitors. The Hydro expansion program, he said, would do much to keep the younger generation on the farm.

He suggested that study of the outdoor life be included in the school curriculum, interesting children especially in planting trees, possibly with a specialist lecturing from school to school.

Debate on the Speech from the Throne will be continued on Thursday afternoon by E. B. Jolliffe, C.C.F. Opposition Leader.