

Sidelights On Legislature

Debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne lasted over four weeks last session. There is every indication of a conclusion this year in eight or nine days. Standing committees have been appointed, the public accounts are ready to be brought down and the Government desires to get on with legislative business. The accounts were laid on the table on February 20 last year, almost a month after the opening. Col. Price will have a deficit to report, it is intimated, for which the present Government can hardly be expected to take the responsibility, having taken office between sessions.

The U. F. O. protest over Opposition status has furnished the spectacular features of the week, and further fireworks may be expected before the debate closes. The Government side finds some amusement in the fact that the United Farmers' argument for seniority in being presented by Hon. Manning Doherty, a bond broker, and Hon. W. E. Raney, a lawyer. The presentation was forceful, at least. One heated passage brought the first withdrawal of the session, the unparliamentary language complained of being directed by Mr. Raney toward the prime minister. Since it has been made clear that the salary phase of the Opposition dispute is settled by statute, viz. that a leader of any recognized group of 15 upwards gets it, the present standing of the affair is that a formal petition by 17 U. F. O. and two Labor members has been tabled, and Mr. Speaker has it under consideration. He declined to promise a decision for Monday.

Toronto, February 16, 1924. Not the least interesting side issue is the attitude of the Liberal party in the House. As vocalized by W. E. N. Sinclair, leader, and Sam Clarke, his lieutenant, they fully agree with Premier Ferguson that the people last June pronounced in favor of the two-party system. Anyway, as the member for West Northumberland puts it, a political infant of four years ought not to expect precedence over the great Liberal party, which, for 30 years, governed this province. And that's that. One year ago now, too, Mr. Sinclair was hammering the Drury Government for inadequate measures in aid of agriculture. Neither he nor Mr. Clarke had anything to say this week which could be described as severely critical of the new administration. Of course, allowances are made for all new governments, and the debate last year was vehicle for all manner of pre-election material, but the change is not without significance, all the same, especially in view of the sharp words which have passed between Manning Doherty and the Liberal spokesman over the seniority dispute.

In actual importance, of course, the event of the week has been the prime minister's announcements respecting highways, education, hydro, finances and child welfare. It was an interesting delineation of government policy, worded in general terms in some cases, but in others specific, as, for example, announcement of the acquisition of two farms at Bowmanville, which will serve as a much-needed reclamation home for delinquent boys. It is not a new idea, and was, in fact, put forward in some form by Capt. Thompson, now Speaker, in an address last session. But definite action is under way now, and the premier intimated that a similar institution for girls is planned in the future. Mr. Ferguson is hopeful of a satisfactory adjustment in regard to freight rates on Alberta coal to Ontario, and forecasts appointment of an advisory board to assist the minister of highways, and also a special committee of the House to study, during the next recess, economic conditions in the province, with a view to linking up marketing and transportation facilities to the advantage of agriculture.

Questions by members, not so numerous as last session, are being kept down also by prompt disposition of them. The ministers this week furnished information on subjects ranging from the salary of an emigration officer to the politics of hydro commissioners. To these questions of obviously political character, as distinguished from bona fide bids for information, the Government gave small encouragement. For example, Mr. Raney tabled queries about present O. T. A. enforcement as compared with that of the late attorney-general. Hon. Mr. Nickle replied that he had not been in the confidence of the late Government, but that the present one is enforcing the Act.

There is a growing feeling that the

Legislature should appoint a deputy Speaker. In the House of Commons this official is permanent, insofar as the life of a Parliament is concerned, and takes the place of Mr. Speaker at times, as well as almost invariably presiding over committee of the whole. In the Ontario House, Mr. Speaker calls upon any member he wishes, usually one of three or four known to be familiar with procedure. "Mac" Macvicar of East Egin, was the stand-by in Nelson Parliament's time. Of course, Capt. Thompson is fortunate in that two ex-Speakers are in the present assembly—Hon. Dr. Jamieson and Hon. Thomas Crawford.

Mention of Mr. Crawford calls attention to the fact that fewer beards than ever wag in the 16th Legislature. E. W. J. Owens (Con., Toronto, S.E. "B") is back with us. J. A. Sangster, new Liberal member for Glengarry, conceals his chin by nature's process, and Hon. W. E. Raney contributes the fourth brush. On the whole, it is an assembly of youthful-looking men.

A correspondent inquires as to whether all Cabinet ministers upon appointment must go back to their constituencies for re-election. The answer is that all who are to receive appointment thereby must do so. Ministers without portfolio do not. By-elections following upon selection of the present Cabinet attracted little attention, because the proceedings proved purely formal, all the ministers receiving acclamations.

BENTINGK COUNCIL

Council met February 11 pursuant to adjournment; members all present. Minutes of last meeting read and adopted.

Mather—Grierson—That Auditors' report as presented by Miss Mary McCallum be accepted and they be paid salary.—Carried.

Shewell—Bailey—That money derived from sale of timber in each division be spent on the roads of that division.—Carried.

Bailey—Shewell—That Mr. A.B. Curry, Solicitor for the Township, has removed from Durham, we hereby engage his successors, Middlebro' & Spereiman as Township Solicitor.—Carried.

Mather—Bailey—That the appropriation for each Commissioner be \$500, and that the Commissioner of Division No. 1 be authorized to spend \$75 on road from the County Highway (Con. 10), to the Garafraxa Road.—Carried.

Shewell—Bailey—That owing to the scarcity of gravel in Division No. 1, Mr. Grierson be authorized to spend \$100 extra in case he deems it necessary.—Carried.

Mather—Grierson—That this Council is of the opinion that a bridge should be built this year and we therefore authorize the Reeve to have plans and specifications drawn and advertise for tenders for bridge over Saugen at Lot 21, Cons. 4 and 5, tenders to be received until next meeting, March 17.—Carried.

Applications for Assessor were received from Harold Dodsworth and Charles Shewell.

Bailey—Grierson—That Harold Dodsworth be appointed Assessor of the Township and that a By-law be passed confirming the appointment.—Carried.

The following accounts were paid: Mary F. McCallum, Auditor, \$8.00; James Brunt, Auditor, \$6.00; N. McDonald, removing tree, 25c.; G. H. Mitchell, printing account, \$81.50; Municipal World, tags, \$14.79; W. J. Vollett, provisions re Cauldwell's, \$2.05; A. C. McDonald, school attendance officer, \$2.25; Dr. J. L. Smith, attending Board, 1923, \$25.00; John Gonder, Board of Health, \$10.00; Wm. Irwin, notices, \$3.00; One meeting of Council, \$13.75.

Shewell—Grierson—That we adjourn, to meet Monday, March 17, for opening bridge tenders and transaction of general business.—

—J. H. Chittick, Clerk.

PLACES RESTRICTIONS ON BOOTH FISHING COMPANY

The Booth Fishing Company of Chicago, which during the last few years has been conducting its operations in such a manner that they have become a political issue in the District of Algoma, has been placed under restriction by the Ontario Legislature.

WIFE NOT A CHATTEL

Lisle Woman Sustains Herself and Court Endorses Her Action.

No sooner was the evidence concluded in the suit of Walter Williams of Toronto, who claimed damages from Archibald Craig, of Lisle, for alienation of his wife's affections, than Mr. Justice Mowat, in the winter assizes at Toronto, Friday, took the jury and dismissed the action with costs.

In doing so, he remarked: "The time is past in Canada when a married man can say to his wife, 'You are my property, you are my squaw.' He declared that, in the end, the wife of the plaintiff would not only have to work to support herself, but to help support him. His Lordship thought she had the right to leave her husband, and announced that he would give time for an appeal. A. S. Hassard, counsel for the plaintiff, immediately announced that the case would be appealed.

According to the evidence, plaintiff, who had only one eye, was married in England during the war, and subsequently returned to Canada. In 1920, with his gratuity, he started to buy a twenty acre farm, but it was not a success. He came to Toronto to find work, leaving his wife with the defendant. After some time he succeeded in securing work in Toronto, and his wife rejoined him, but soon left him to spend a week-end with defendant. Ultimately she left him altogether and stayed away in spite of his letters pleading with her to return.

Something Working, Anyhow.
"Any employment in this part of the country?"
"Some," answered Farmer Cornloss. "The only thing that's working in on St. Simlin's place is a barrel of cider."

LEAP YEAR LASS WINS REBUFF

FROM LONDON, ONT., LANDLADY

It was a gay night this past Thursday evening, says The London Free Press, when the beauty of the University of Western Ontario that reverts above everything else being called "fair co-ed," called for the chivalry of the same institution and escorted them to the university Valentine and leap year dance.

Gather close, my hearties, and hear the sad story.

One of the belles of the university, it is reported, drew for her partner one of the most bashful of that institution's modest young men. Arrangements were made and she called, on the evening of the dance, for the young gentleman.

But Madame, the Boarding House Keeper, had not been informed of what was towards.

Miss B. rang and a grim and astonished face surmounting a buxom form, opened the door.

"Is Mr. W. at home?" she asked by way of starting the conversation.
"He is that!" was the reply.
"I have come to take him to the dance," said Miss B., casually.
"You have, have you?" the stern landlady replied. "And when did they let you out, if I may be so bold as to ask?"

And as the full enormity of the question dawned upon the lady dispenser of hash her wrath grew.

"You can take your hobbled hair somewhere else, Miss," she exclaimed, "for you'll not set foot in my house this night."
"The idea! Traipsing about after young men, and one as quiet and nice as Mr. W. Sure, I think the devil has the whole lot of ye!"
"I'd like to," said the fond father, "but I don't see any rocks handy."

VANDALS AT WINGHAM

There is evidently a bad man or two out in Ashfield Township as when Stuart Robertson and his man went to work at the barn on the MacIntyre farm, on the 11th concession of Ashfield Township the other morning they found that the gas engine they had been using the day before had been converted into a junk heap. The belting and some parts of the engine were carried

away and some screens belonging to the flax mill had been destroyed. Mr. Robertson has quite a large quantity of flax, which he was converting into tow, and it was the machine used in this work that was broken up.

It was evidently a piece of spite work and rumor has it that bootleggers are involved in the mean piece of business. The authorities are working on the case and it is hoped the miscreants will be found.

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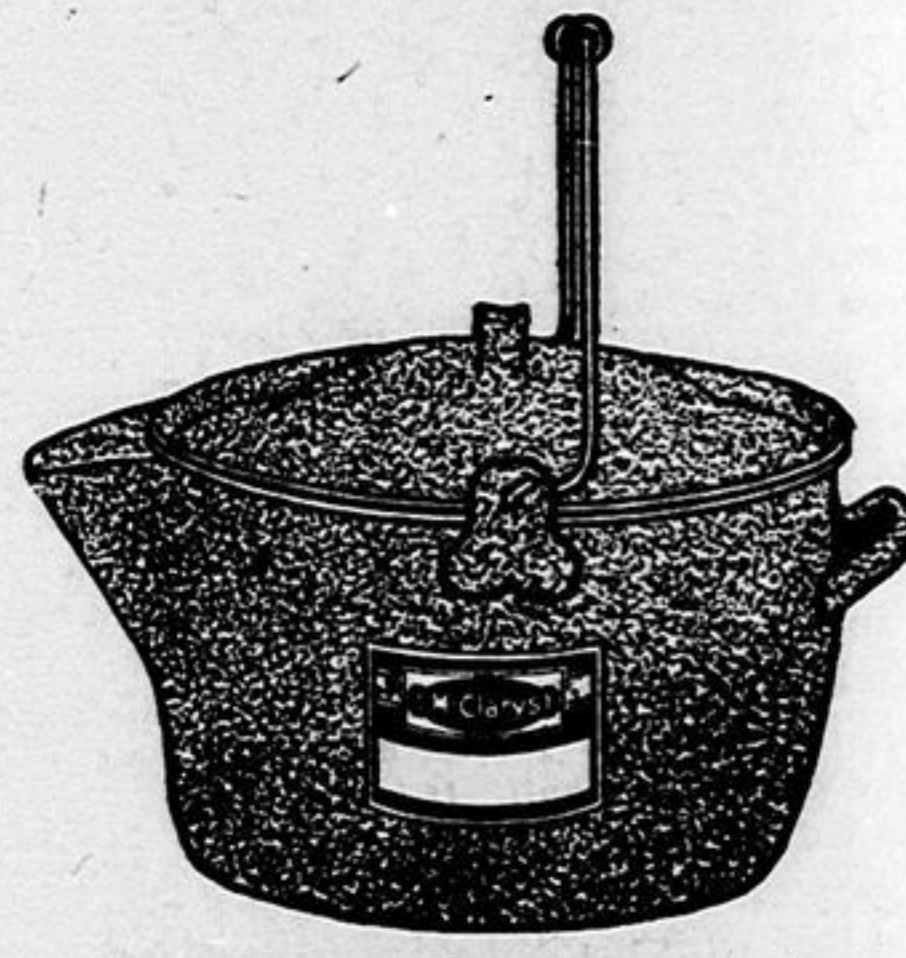
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LOT 7, CON. 21, EGREMONT, ONT.
Containing 100 acres; 85 acres under cultivation, balance hardwood bush convenient to school; on the premises are a frame barn 42x65 ft. with stone foundation; concrete stable also hay barn 30x50 with stone basement; hog pen 20x40; twelve-room brick house, furnace heated, all frame woodshed; drilled well close to house, with windmill; concrete water tanks; 30 acres seeded to hay; 10 acres to sweet clover; this farm is well fenced and in good state of cultivation. For information apply to Watson's Dairy, R.R. 4, Durham, Ontario. 10-25-23

NORTH PART LOTS 7 AND 8, CON. 22, EGREMONT, ONT.
Containing 60 acres; 55 acres under cultivation, balance hardwood bush; in good state of cultivation frame barn 44x50, stone basement concrete stable; drilled well and cement tank at barn. Also 1.5 and 7, Con. 4, S.D.R., Glenelg, containing 140 acres; 100 acres cleared and in good state of cultivation; the premises are a brick house containing seven rooms, with concrete frame woodshed attached; drilled well at door; never failing springs; this farm, making a choice site for a farm. This property will be sold right to quick purchaser. For particulars apply to Watson's Dairy, R.R. 4, Durham, Ont. 10-25-23

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prising 205 acres in 3 lots of 50 acres, 55 acres and 100 acres, in Township of Egremont, two miles east of Varney, five miles from Durham. For particulars apply to proprietress, Mrs. Robert McMeek, R.R. 1, Varney; phone 604r24. 10-25-23

FOR SALE OR RENT
FOR SALE OR RENT.—BEING 53, Concession 3, E.G.R., Glenelg, John Staples farm; 100 acres, acres cleared and in good state of cultivation; 45 acres fall ploughed. Apply on premises to Walter R.R. 1, Durham. 10-25-23

TRINITY CHURCH GUILD ARE PUTTING ON CONCERT
A concert under the auspices of Trinity Church Guild will be held at the Town Hall, Durham, on February 27th. Mr. J. Rainford has charge of the program, which assures concertgoers of a rare treat. Admission cents and 25 cents. Plan at McEwen's opens February 19.