

# The Ontario Legislature For the Week Ending Feb. 20

By Our Toronto Correspondent

Although devoted in large degree to debate on the Address, it has been an important week in the Legislature. A host of petitions presented, introduction of private bills, Hon. W. E. Mackenzie introduced a number of government measures arising out of recommendations from the Statute Revision Commission, for amendment and simplification of laws now on the books, and all three party leaders were heard in the debate itself. Public interest in the session has been indicated by crowded galleries and full attendance in the House.

A division so early in the session as to be perhaps without precedent, came on Tuesday, when Hon. W. E. Mackenzie, K. C., Progressive Leader, who followed W. E. N. Sinclair in the debate, moved for adjournment until Wednesday, and the government declined to accede to his demand that the members be polled, and the result was a vote of 57 to 15 against him. The vote, although a matter of procedure, was largely on party lines, except that J. F. Callan (Labor, Rainy River), and J. A. Pinard, (Liberal, East Ottawa) voted with the government, and the majority of 42 was the same as upon the last division in 1925.

On Monday, the Prime Minister announced, in connection with the presentation of petitions for certain private bills, on behalf of Essex urban municipalities in particular, that the government would not approve legislation enabling them to separate from their county. He said: "The obvious purpose is to escape contribution of their fair share toward maintenance of highways. The government does not look upon this legislation with favor, and will not be prepared to approve it. The towns that are seeking to separate from counties should contribute just the same as the rural parts of the province."

Much curiosity as to possible government action in regard to the Ontario Temperance Act was exhibited by Mr. Raney and Mr. Sinclair who spoke first after the mover and seconder of the Address. They occupied much time in reading quotations from public statements by the Prime Minister during the last few years. They appeared to be under the impression that they were putting a "poser" in demanding that the Premier re-state his attitude, and it is hard to say whether they were gratified or disappointed when Mr. Ferguson immediately after Mr. Raney sat down gave the House a statement on the subject. He came back at the Progressive Leader for carping criticism at all times, rather than constructive aid to the government, in connection with an important issue, and declared that the government had no intention of following other than constitutional methods. It's policy would be submitted to the people at a general election, and every supporter of the government would appeal upon it for approval.

The Prime Minister was given a great ovation by his followers in the House, and this was repeated when, in the course of his speech proper, on Thursday, he dealt at greater length with the O. T. A. issue. A feature was the quotation of many extracts from statements of speakers at the last convention of the Ontario Prohibition Union here, indicating conclusively to the premier's mind that the men who now have control of that organization are seeking, not so much to advance the cause of temperance as to defeat this government. Indeed, some of them are on record as favoring endorsement of Progressive candidates, and some Liberals as may be desirable, in order to defeat Conservatives or prohibitionists or otherwise, glancing across at Liberal benches, the Premier remarked that he could see his friends from East Ottawa (Pinard), Prescott (Proulx) and Russell (Belanger) rushing to take advantage of this offer. In view of the facts, however, the Prime Minister announced that he was ready to take up the challenge laid down.

"The Government," he said, "is prepared to make up its mind and submit its views when the proper time comes, to the public of the province. We believe and have every confidence in the broadness of view and fairness of mind of the citizens of this province that they will be prepared to accept the serious, honest endeavor of a government that is doing its utmost to better the conditions, material and moral.

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of the province of Ontario, rather than a narrow, prejudiced partisan organization seeking to destroy this government and which apparently has no other motive."

In an allusion to Progressive-Liberal relations, the Premier said: "It all points in the one direction, and everything that has transpired during the last few months leads one to the inevitable conclusion that the fusion of the two political organizations is almost at hand." The Premier alluded with some humor to rumors emanating from Ottawa that Mr. Sinclair was to be elevated to the Liberal Leader's speech on Tuesday was a sort of valedictory. Mr. Ferguson suggested that in event of a party fusion, there would not be room for two leaders, in any event, and he thought Mr. Raney would be willing to undertake the responsibilities. Neither of the gentlemen referred to offered a denial. Mr. Sinclair remarking that the Premier heard rumors before those who were concerned.

Mr. Raney, during his address, moved a long amendment all about carrying out the will of the people, etc., an amendment which, indeed, could scarcely be called controversial, and which the government might possibly have accepted, so far as the subject matter goes. However, it is evidently not taking dictation from the Opposition, and has already virtually disposed of the amendment by a means of a sub-amendment from Premier Ferguson which in due course will receive support of a majority in the House. After eliminating all the Raney amendments after the first word, it proceeds: "This House desires further to assure your honor that it is of the opinion that in the enactment of important public legislation the principle of responsible parliamentary government, on which our British democratic institutions rest, should be observed in order that such legislation should have the undoubted sanction and support of the people, as expressed through their representatives in the Legislature, to the end that all such legislation should possess the authority and support necessary to command the respect and observance of the community."

The main part of Mr. Ferguson's address was devoted to a brief narrative of government activities during the year. In reply to a criticism from the Opposition that the Throne Speech was not very "meaty," the Prime Minister commented that the condition was one in which the government took some pride. The province had been legislated to death, and the fact that proposed new laws were not numerous was a matter for satisfaction. He announced, however, that cream-grading legislation would be brought down in a few days, and that the Department of Agriculture's experiment in shipping overseas 25,000 barrels of Ontario apples would be repeated this year.



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## The Days Of Long Ago

Taken From Chronicle Files of Twenty and Twelve Years Ago.

March 4, 1926.

Premier Whitney has expressed himself as "delighted" to be present at the Odd Fellows' celebration to be held here in the early summer. The Sons of Scotland have again taken the 1st of July and purpose having a day of sports in Durham. The proceeds are to be devoted to the purchase of a park to be known as Sons of Scotland Park. We deeply regret to report the death on Friday last of Mr. John Mitchell, editor and proprietor of The Hanover Post. Death occurred after only a week's illness from pneumonia. A new dynamo for the electric light plant reached town Tuesday. We hope it will give good satisfaction and that lights from now on will be a certainty. Full changes have not yet been made in the cement plant here. Mr. Ehrhardt, secretary, is being replaced by Mr. Maitland of Owen Sound, and Mr. Ludlow, chemist, will finish out his term which expires in August. Mr. John Cliff was offered the superintendency, but we understand had decided to go West. Today, Wednesday, Miss Margaret Crawford joins heart and hand with Mr. John S. Mortimer of Winnipeg. Rev. C. P. Holmes of Holstein will occupy the Methodist pulpit next Sunday. A painful accident befell Mr. John Lunney while working in the mill. He was turning a heavy piece of timber when his foot slipped under a rapidly revolving shaft which tore his foot in such a manner that two of his toes had to be amputated. John is possessed of a wonderful amount of nerve which enabled him to stand the operation without chloroform.—Aberdeen correspondent.

In conversation with your correspondent on Friday, Hon. W. H. Price, provincial treasurer, cleared up some popular misapprehension respecting administration of the amusement tax. The fact is that it has worked out decidedly to the advantage of churches and charities. The regulation permitting exemption only where half the gross receipts of an entertainment go to religious, charitable, educational or community purposes has really had the effect of allowing something to be obtained for these objects. Where all or nearly all the receipts of an entertainment go to talent and for other expenses, the department considers it only fair to collect the tax. "Now that we have it running," the minister said, "the churches as a whole, and charitable and fraternal organizations are behind the department, because they realize that for the first time they are sure of getting something. When this government came in, one of the things we found all over the country was that there was no provision that enabled the charity to get an adequate amount from any entertainment. The ball owner, the talent employed, the business organizations got paid and the charity sometimes got nothing. At the same time, the government lost the tax."

It seems that the supply of good football coaches is not equal to the demand. The morning G. P. R. passenger train was late Monday morning caused by the coaches leaving the track near Maple Hill. No damage was done. The storm of Saturday night and Sunday blocked the roads considerably and made travelling rather slow and heavy for a few days. We are pleased to report that Mrs. John Davis of Glenelg, who was recently operated on for cataract, is recovering nicely. She will soon be in possession of her sight again. The hockey match in the rink here last Thursday night between Durham and Hanover resulted in a win for the visitors by four goals to two. A quiet wedding was solemnized

## Both Wrong

As Pat passed the lunatic asylum, he glanced up at the clock and was surprised to find that it had gone one o'clock, when he thought it wanted at least ten minutes to that hour.

He enquired of an attendant standing at the door if the clock were right.

"The clock wouldn't be here if it was right," said the attendant, sarcastically.

"Oh, I didn't think of that," said Pat. "I suppose that's the reason you're here."

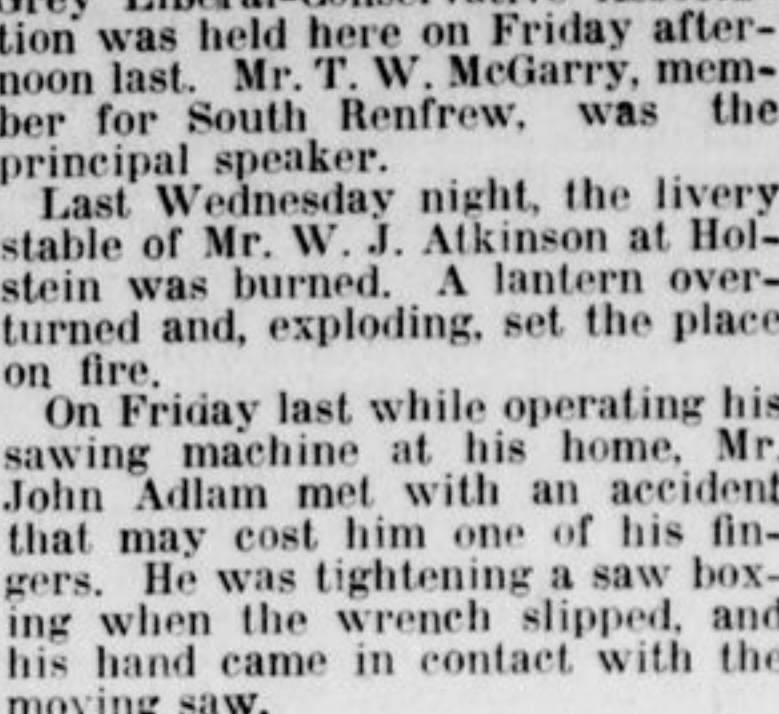
The annual meeting of the South Grey Liberal-Conservative Association was held here on Friday afternoon last. Mr. T. W. McGarry, member for South Renfrew, was the principal speaker. Last Wednesday night, the livery stable of Mr. W. J. Atkinson at Holstein was burned. A lantern overturned and, exploding, set the place on fire. On Friday last while operating his sawing machine at his home, Mr. John Adam met with an accident that may cost him one of his fingers. He was tightening a saw box when the wrench slipped, and his hand came in contact with the moving saw.

## The Man with Money

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Introduction of the improved Ford closed models in colors has substantially increased the demand for these popular cars. In line with the policy to give its customers the benefit of all reductions in production costs, the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited announces substantial reductions in all closed models except the coupe. These reductions effective as of February 11th.

	New Price	Old Price	Reduction
Fordor	\$755	\$895	\$140
Tudor	695	755	60
*Chassis	325	335	10

Added refinements in the new model runabout, touring car and light delivery have necessitated a slight price increase. These prices are now as follows:

	New Price
*Runabout	\$410
*Touring	440
*Light Delivery	435
The truck chassis and coupe remain unchanged.	
Coupe	\$665
*Truck	485

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