

# The Ontario Legislature For Week Ending March 27

There is now no visible reason why the Legislature should not wind up its business by Good Friday. The Public Accounts Committee, which always holds potentialities, is getting pretty flat from the viewpoint of the Opposition inquirers, and the House itself on Friday got down to a struggle. The Government decided to take the supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending next October. The first thing the treasurer, Hon. W. H. Price, did after reaching this stage was to introduce his borrowing bill for the year. For the first time, this contains a provision for commencing to retire the provincial debt.

The budget debate did not pass out without a struggle. The Government decided to take the supplementary estimates for the fiscal year ending next October. The first thing the treasurer, Hon. W. H. Price, did after reaching this stage was to introduce his borrowing bill for the year. For the first time, this contains a provision for commencing to retire the provincial debt.

Five Liberals supported the Brackin amendment. The Labor party of two was split in twain, with Karl Honulth for the amendment and J. F. Callan opposed. The government side was almost solid, the great majority even a government control plan refusing to be counted with anything resembling a non-confidence vote against the administration. Col. John A. Currie, long a vigorous exponent of sale by government control, could not bring himself to oppose the amendment, although making it clear that he was in accord with the policies of the government.

The debate was featured by a really able speech from Mr. Brackin, who declared that the province would be better off if the O. T. A. were rooted out entirely, and "something put in its place that would do what it is designed to do." He conceded that the act might be beneficial to many rural districts, but in view of the conditions in larger centres, it was time that something should be done. The force of the speech was heavily discounted a little later, when Premier Ferguson produced a copy of a campaign leaflet circulated by Mr. Brackin in the 1923 election, in which he as candidate declared that the O. T. A. must not be altered or interfered with until the people had so declared by a referendum. From this radical change of front, the prime minister drew the conclusion that the member was seeking through his amendment chiefly to embarrass the administration.

Mr. Brackin was candid enough to admit that he found no fault with the budget itself. He said: "If this amendment is lost, I shall vote for the main motion. It will show my good faith. I think the Treasurer has done a very good job. From the standpoint of party politics, I should probably say I disapprove of his budget. Well, I don't. If this amendment does not carry, I shall vote for his motion."

Premier Ferguson at close of the debate reiterated his policy in regard to the O. T. A. "Our policy on this question," he said, "has been to maintain the law upon the statute book, efficiently enforced, and when the Government makes up its mind that it can improve conditions by altering the law, the Government will say so to the public of the province and members of this House. That is my conception and a correct interpretation of the principle of responsible government. The Government will take the responsibility, after collecting the views of the province, and members of this House, gathering all the information with respect to this or any other question, with a view to deciding whether or not at any time any laws of the province should be amended in any way. My followers are entitled to their individual views, and I have always invited them to express their views. This is a challenge to the Government's existence, and I leave it to members of the House. Members may vote as they like, understanding what the position is, but they take the full responsibility for the vote they cast."

There were a couple of references by A. Belanger during his speech in the debate, to the possibility of an early election. When he said he saw no need of it, Premier Ferguson said, "Hear, hear!" and added, "We shall leave you here as long as possible." Later, Mr. Raney tried to draw out the prime minister further by professing to regard this as an announcement that there would be no appeal to the people until next year, and said that this coincided with his own expectation. The premier merely said that he would make an announcement in due course.

Tributes to the ministry are not uncommon during the Address and Budget debates, but some comment by Russell Nesbitt, Toronto N.W., on Tuesday indicated careful study of the work of the various departments. He referred specifically to the dental survey work and child hygiene branch of the health department, reorganization in the provincial secretary's department, and restitution in that connection of \$33,500. "In the department of public works," he said, "there have been many outstanding works this year, one item being the new east block at Whitney Block, here, a building at Bowmanville to take care of 40 boys; Ontario Hospital work at London and Whitby and new courthouses at Sudbury and Cochrane. The department has constructed 119 bridges and 40 miles of concrete without taking into consideration the work done on roads." Of Hon. W. F. Nickle, Mr. Nesbitt said: "I think anyone will agree that the attorney-general is impartial, and deals justice without fear or favor, and after all that is the proper way to administer a department such as his."

A word of praise for the special agricultural enquiry committee came on Thursday from A. P. McWhinney, (Liberal, West Bruce). "I think the committee has done good work," he said. "I believe the choice of the chairman was a wise one, for I think no man knows conditions of agriculture better than Hon. Dr. Jamieson, and I believe the farmers will reap benefit from the recommendations made by the committee."

In Public Accounts Committee, sitting two and three times a day during the week, there was an examination of Hon. James Lyons, late minister of Lands and Forests, as to the dealings of his fuel and supply company at Sault Ste. Marie; of the McNamara Bros., also of the Sault, regarding government contracts in re-employment of officials in re-employment Branch. The probing by Mr. Sinclair, Harold Fisher and W. E. Raney seems to have been almost entirely unproductive from their standpoint, but has served to show that administration is satisfactory in this department. Mr. Raney on Thursday, cheered up a little when he found that some road contracts involved larger payments than the original tenders, upon a unit basis, but was promptly reminded that under the Drury-Raney administration, it was common to find "overruns" as high as 400 per cent above the original tender, and specific instances were quoted to him. Incidentally, the prime minister in the House on Thursday moved for \$5,000,000 further expenditure on Northern Development.

The bill to amend the United Church of Canada Act reached the private bills committee on Thursday morning, and many prominent clergy and laymen attended the hearing. G. W. Mason and D. J. McCarthy, K.C., represented the United Church and non-concurrents respectively. The bill proposes to give to the church property commission, created last year, mandatory instead of merely advisory powers, and it was shown that few of its recommendations in the past year have been carried out by congregations concerned, in respect to providing church accommodation for substantial majorities. It is also proposed to permit before next October another vote by congregations where a vote taken has been voided through irregularities, rather than have them go automatically into Union. After two hours' discussion, the committee voted down the first clause of the bill, 22 to 21. There was a general impression that the measure was thereby thrown out, as far as this session is concerned, but later in the day, Hon. Mr. Nickle, chairman of the committee, explained that the remainder—and the first concerns the title only—may still be considered, and that the bill will be called again in committee next Tuesday.

The motion picture industry as it affects Ontario was debated in the House on Thursday afternoon, on a motion by Russell Nesbitt that the Legislature express the opinion that more British-made films should be shown in theatres of the province. He said it was compulsory in Australia to have 1,000 feet of British-made film in every show. Hon. W. H. Price approved the principle of the suggestion, but said the situation must be met in a practical way. The board of censors had reported that of pictures shown in Ontario during 1925, 99 1/2 per cent were of United States manufacture. The minister said that the British Government was considering subsidizing British-made pictures, and

## WINTER THIRTY YEARS AGO

Editor Graphically Describes Terrific Doings of March, 1896.

Turning to the files of yesterday, the editor of The Stratford Beacon-Herald shows what an old-time winter used to be like:

The Herald scribe of 1896 says: Saturday, March 21, succeeded in establishing a new record for herself and has tied up the Grand Trunk hereabouts as it has seldom been done before. Up to noon today, but one train had left the city, and that one on the Goderich line, and nearly an hour behind her scheduled time. A foot of snow fell on the level, and in the country, immense drifts have piled up. Soft snow, which was only safe for a while, tempered toward evening, when temperature dropped, and with high winds, put the snow into driftable shape. Then the blockade began.

And that is not all; passenger trains full of passengers dotted the surrounding landscapes, stalled in the midst of a white mantle of snow, feet high and of comparative thickness—freights loaded to the top, or whatever term they apply to loading scale on a freight, were stuck in snow banks, and lolled where they were in a nonchalant attitude, defying even the snow-ploughs to root them out. Train crews swore and declared that the 1896 brand of climate was the "worstest they had ever seen."

## IMPORTANCE OF SELECTING THE CORRECT VARIETIES OF APPLE TREES

The proper selection of varieties is probably the most important question confronting an orchardist. He must make a selection to suit not only his climatic conditions but the particular marketing situation he occupies as well. Business is a primary consideration in many parts of Canada. If catering to a foreign market, only varieties of good keeping and shipping qualities should be considered. Selection should be limited to not more than five varieties which will mature to perfection in the district in which they are to be grown. The Dominion Experimental Stations have accumulated a great deal of information as to the fitness of varieties for different districts, and in a bulletin on the cultivation of the apple in Canada, issued by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, lists of the varieties suitable for the various parts of the country are given.

**Curbed Enthusiasm**  
Aunt: "Did you like the book I sent you for a birthday present?"  
Nephew: "I haven't looked at it yet."  
Aunt: "Why, how is that?"  
Nephew: "Because mother said I'd have to wash my hands before

The belief that a pipe is less harmful than a cigarette merely signifies that the believer smokes a pipe.

that if British and Canadian films were made, he would be glad to see that they were shown. Colonel Price also referred to the work being done by the government in making films of Ontario life and mining activities, which had proved very popular in Great Britain.

## The Home Garden

SEEDS ARE ALWAYS BARGAINS

Seeds are always bargains. They are the cheapest things we can buy and we get more for the money in a seed packet than in anything else we can purchase. It pays to buy seeds liberally, because the hazards of infancy in plant-life are greater than in animals. A cold snap, a dash of rain may wipe out a whole crop of tiny seedlings carelessly left exposed. So it is always well to have a reserve packet to start at once if the first sowing comes to grief.

There is greater waste in seeds than in any other purchased commodity because of the dangers or loss when the tiny seedlings are



IT IS ECONOMY TO BUY GOOD SEEDS AND PLANT THEM.

not protected. The only safe way to secure a full crop is to grow seed under control so far as moisture and cold are concerned. Covered seed boxes, cold frames and hotbeds are the only reliable ways to be certain of bringing through a full crop from a seed packet.

Buy seeds from reliable firms. Bargain-counter seeds are seldom as good. Cheap seeds represent cheap labor or the lack of it in their gathering and preparation. The harvesting and cleaning of seeds is a matter of elaborate mechanical effort, but the result in freedom from weed seed and trueness to type makes it well worth while to the purchaser to pay the extra few cents to procure reliable stock.

It is best to order seed early, particularly of the more popular types, so that it will not be necessary to accept substitutes because of the selling out of stock. Later in the season, seed shopping is as bad as the Christmas rush. It is advisable always to order by mail early enough in the season to be prepared with a full line of seed before you start spading the garden. It is then an easy matter to plan the garden ad figure out just where all the seed is to go.

It is easiest to plant liberal quantities of seed and thin the rows than to transplant the tiny seedlings. The plants are likely to make better growth in the seed boxes under these conditions and become sturdier.

"None of your lip," said the cold-hearted woman to her over-affectionate escort.

## VETERAN STAGE AND SCREEN PLAYER IN PARAMOUNT FILM

Of the quintet of featured players who portray the leading roles in James Cruze's latest Paramount production, "The Goose Hangs High," which comes to the Veterans' Star Theatre Friday and Saturday evenings, April 2 and 3, particular interest attaches to George Irving, veteran stage and screen actor.

A native of New York where he was educated at the City College, Irving succumbed early in life to the lure of the footlights. He has been in the theatrical business continuously since 1897, although his screen career dates back only to 1913.

His stage repertoire included such sterling successes as "The Little Minister," "The Servant in the House," "Jimmie Valentine" and others. Like so many of his actor-brothers, Irving spent several years in stock where he acquired valuable experience and training.

His first Paramount appearance was in the Zane Grey production, "The Wanderer of the Wasteland," in which he scored a distinct personal triumph in a very difficult role. Paradoxical as it may sound, his early training motion pictures was obtained through directing, and in this capacity he served most of the large producing organizations.

In "The Goose Hangs High," Irving portrays a typical American father whose efforts to feed, clothe and educate a family on his meagre salary involve considerable sacrifice and self-denial. His role in this photoplay is a particularly congenial one, and Irving does some very effective work.

Other acting honors fall to the lot of Myrtle Stedman, Constance Bennett, Edward Pell, Jr., and Esther Ralston.

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# Announces

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The Landau reaches a new pinnacle of small car luxury, having a seal grain leather top, with distinctive Landau irons and smart D-shaped windows in the rear.

It is upholstered in rich velour, which harmonizes with the exterior finish, and is provided with a folding foot-rest and a robe rail. Pockets are built into the rear doors and the rear compartment is supplied with a smoking set.

Possessing the economy, ease of operation, quick acceleration and abundant power for which all Chevrolet models are famous, the new Landau represents a combination of value and quality never before presented in a car in its price class.

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