

Ottawa Letter

(By Jack Smith, M.P.)

The fifth session of the 20th Parliament opened last week with ceremonies a little more colourful than last year. The Speech from the Throne forecast legislation to reduce taxation, broaden family allowance payments and new steps in social security, a Royal Commission on television, radio, etc. The Speech dealt first and foremost with Canada's responsibility in world affairs and emphasized that this government's first concern is to ensure peace and security. To this end, Canada continues to support the principles of the united nations charter.

The Throne Speech forecast legislation to make the Supreme Court of Canada the last court of appeal in all legal cases. Other important legislation pending include ratification of the agreement making Newfoundland our tenth province, an agreement with the United States for development of the St. Lawrence and provision necessary to implement the sale of agricultural products to Britain.

Six new members were introduced to the House, 4 Liberals and 2 Conservatives. Hon. Louis St. Laurent took his seat as Prime Minister for the first time, there are three new Ministers, Pearson in External Affairs, Garson as Minister of Justice, and Winters in Reconstruction.

Former Prime Minister King, looking considerably older and somewhat tired, occupies a front row seat as the member for Gengarry, and John Bracken, former Leader of the Opposition has given place to Col. George Drew. Opening day sincere tributes were paid to Mr. King and Mr. Bracken from all sides of the House.

There have been no fireworks so far, and newspaper headlines of a clash on early procedure were greatly exaggerated in comparison to their real significance. Too often this is the practice of the daily press and readers are apt to pay undue heed to minor matters played up by the press and overlook many of the more really important news which doesn't get such big headlines.

A really important announcement was that the Prime Minister is going to Washington early next

month to confer with President Truman. This will be an important conference with possible far reaching results.

I hope in future letters to deal in more detail with many of these very important matters coming before your Parliament and to pass on to you the views and viewpoints of the government and other parties in the House.

Yes, there's some talk of a general election. The government elected in June 1945 would not need to have a vote until Sept. 1950, but a long period of election expectancy is not considered good for the country or business generally and I would expect one much sooner than the end of the five year period. In fact an appeal to the people as early as June is not a remote possibility in my opinion.

During the recess it was my pleasure and privilege to visit in many parts of Canada as well as in the constituency of North York and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the people of the riding for many courtesies and helpful co-operation.

During the session while I am at Ottawa, I trust every citizen of the Constituency of North York irrespective of political affiliation will feel very free to write me if I can be of any assistance in any way, and to say once more how much I appreciate hearing from the electorate and getting their suggestions and expressions of opinion on matters of national interest. The address is J. E. Smith, M.P., Parliament Bldgs., Ottawa. No stamp is required on the envelope.

SUPER PULLET LAYS WHOPPER, AMAZES ITSELF

A six months old pullet owned by a Lindsay woman has been overworking herself. She's worked so hard in fact that the results of her effort amaze even herself and have caused no amount of jealousy on the part of other birds in the flock.

The pullet, owned by Mrs. Spence, cackled proudly the other day to announce the arrival of an egg, an eight and one half inches long by six and three-quarters inches wide. Mrs. Spence's super-hen is a half breed, part Plymouth Rock and part Rhode Island Red.—Lindsay Post.

Mary Boyes Elected To Head Ontario County Jr. Farmers

The annual meeting of the Ontario County Junior Farmer Association was held in the Uxbridge High School on January 18th, with around 60 boys and girls in attendance. Comrie Ward, president of the Ontario County Junior Farmer Association, was in charge.

Francis Willson, who attended the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago the first week of December reported that there were around 1800 members of 4-H Clubs representing every state in the U.S.A., at this congress. There were 24 boys and girls in the Ontario Delegation.

Comrie Ward, who attended the Illinois Rural Youth Conference in November also gave a splendid report on his trip. There were 4 members from the various Junior Farmer Associations in the Province, making up the Canadian Delegation.

Janne Pearson, Jack Pearson and Don Cain entertained with a musical number. Bob Norton from the Brooklin group, also entertained with a piano solo.

Francis Willson was in charge of general discussion group on the subject, "How we can make our County Junior Farmer Programs more interesting." After 15 minutes in small discussion groups, all the groups came together and the various secretaries reported on the discussions of the various groups. A number of interesting suggestions were put forth by the various groups.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Hon. President, Comrie Ward, Uxbridge; President, Mary Boyes, Pickering; Vice President, Ted Croxall, Uxbridge; Secretary, Treasurer, Everson Norton, Locust Hill.

Miss Mary Boyes took charge of the remainder of the program. Jack Pearson introduced Mr. Norman Lindsay, Director of Community Programs, Department of Education, Toronto, to the meeting. Mr. Lindsay then took over the recreation period with the assistance of some of his staff brought from Toronto with him.

The Alaskan moose is the world's largest.

Second Markham Baptists Raised Nearly \$1500 for Missions

The members of Second Markham Baptist Church held their annual business meeting, Jan. 18th. The total amount received in 1948, as reported by treasurer Chas. Clubine, was \$3,451.22, of which \$1,491.44 went to missions. In addition, the W.M.S. contributed money and clothing valued at \$172.22.

Mr. Robt. Ratcliff, clerk, reported the number of active members on the revised roll to have been 63 at the beginning of the year. However, the addition of four by letter, nine by baptism, brings the present membership to 74. The loss, by death of their oldest member, Mr. Ezra Clubine, also Mrs. Esther Gray, occurred last year.

The Board of Deacons elected for 1949, are Messrs. Arthur Steckley, Bert Miller, Chas. Ratcliff, and Jack Clubine. Other officers are: Clerk, Robert Ratcliff; Treasurer and Financial Secretary, Chas. Clubine and David Ratcliff; Music Director, Mrs. Rowan; Pianist, Mrs. H. Ratcliff; Ushers, Earl Brillinger, Neil Conner, David Ratcliff and Keith Clarke.

Fenelon Falls Throws Gauntlet to All Province

Fenelon Falls, Jan. 6—The Fenelon Falls Hockey Association has challenged any club in Ontario to hockey games on a "winner-take-all" basis in the Fenelon Falls modern ice arena.

M. G. Brandon, association president, said the challenge revived those thrown back in the late 30's and early 40's by the town's Brandon Waterloo team. The war saw the end of the Waterloos, every member seeing active service in some branch of the forces.

In some years gone by, the challenge brought many of the best of Toronto and Hamilton mercantile league teams here. It gave them practice while awaiting ice or opening of a schedule.

Plan Salary Boost At Queens' Park

Government legislation is reported in the offing whereby Ontario Cabinet Ministers will have their salaries increased substantially when the budget is brought down.

Premier Hepburn cut them down to their present level.

The proposed boost is \$2,000. This would increase cabinet ministers from \$8,000 a year to \$10,000. On top of this they draw their \$2,000 sessional indemnity, plus \$1,000 a year for expenses. Total for each minister \$13,000. If the increase is allowed and it most certainly will Premier Kennedy will draw as premier \$17,000 a year plus his sessional indemnity and expense account. No doubt the increase will extend to the leader of the opposition.



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