

290

# Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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## S P E E C H

....DELIVERED BY....

J. W. JOHNSON, F.C.A., M.P.P.,

In seconding the Address in Reply to the Speech from  
the Throne at

### Opening of the Ontario Legislature,

February 17th, 1909.

*From the Belleville, Ontario, Intelligencer, February 19th, 1909.*

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Following is the full text of the maiden speech of Mr. J. W. Johnson, M.P.P. for West Hastings, made on Wednesday afternoon in the Ontario Legislature, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the Speech from the Throne:

MR. SPEAKER,—

It may be permitted to express on behalf of the members of the House our pleasure and satisfaction at the appointment of Col. Gibson to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Province. By this appointment the many years of service rendered to the country by Col. Gibson are fittingly recognized. Throughout his public and private life the Governor has realized and has acted upon the principle that every man owes military service to the state, that he should be willing to give as well as receive protection. The Governor

may not be a policeman, as he declared on a famous occasion, but he is a representative Canadian soldier whom soldiers delight to honor.

This is not the time for vituperation or recrimination, for trying our good friends, the enemy, and hanging them again. We all need forgiveness for lapses more or less serious. They are fellow-Canadians, let us hope for the best and expect that their present state of probation, with this Government's good example constantly before them, and the awful exposure at Ottawa to contemplate, will prove salutary and beneficial to them and to us.

I must pay a personal tribute to the honored leader of the House, the party that is now entrusted with the administration of the affairs of this Province floundered in the wilderness of opposition, like the Israel-