

## Favors Manitoba Plan On Liquor Question

Col. John A. Currie, in Debate On Budget in Legislature, Suggests That Ontario Government Follow Method Adopted By Sister Province in Regard To Referendum

By W. E. ELLIOTT.  
Free Press Staff Correspondent.  
TORONTO, Feb. 28.—Col. John A. Currie, who in the Legislature yesterday declared that if he had his way he would remove the O. T. A. from the statutes, resumed the debate on the budget this afternoon and made further reference to liquor legislation, commencing in particular the methods followed in Manitoba.

The Toronto member, whose long experience in two parliaments, has made him well informed on provincial and federal issues, discussed a range of topics. House and galleries were much entertained by his review of the post-election activities of former Drury ministers. He noted that Mr. Biggs is manufacturing beer, that Mr. Doherty has become a bond broker, and that Mr. Smith, secretary-treasurer of a firm making heavy glass, Col. Currie suggested here that repeal of the O. T. A. might help the glass business.

The member extolled the natural beauties of Manitoulin Island, represented by Beniah Bowman, and noted that ex-minister saw fit to spend the cold weather in Florida, where he had said tribute to the scenic beauties of the district as the finest he had ever seen.

### RESULT OF DRURY REGIME

Col. Currie said provincial affairs had not received due attention in the past four years and had reached a state from which it would take a long time to recover. He paid his compliments also to the Liberal Opposition in the last Legislature, which he said, if it had had backbone enough to stand with the Conservatives could have "stopped the nonsense" on the Government side at any time.

A feature of Col. Currie's address.

### SULPHUR CLEARS ROUGH, RED SKIN

Face, Neck and Arms Easily Made Smooth, Says Specialist.

Any breaking out of the skin, even fiery, itching eczema, can be quickly overcome by applying a little Mentho-Sulphur, declares a noted skin specialist. Because of its germ-destroying properties this sulphur preparation begins at once to soothe irritated skin and heal eruptions such as rash, pimples and ringworm.

It seldom fails to remove the torment and disfigurement, and you do not have to wait for relief from embarrassment. Improvement quickly shows. Sufferers from skin trouble should obtain a small jar of Rowles Mentho-Sulphur from any good drugstore and use it like cold cream.—Advt.

the measure the United States was not at war, and I don't think there was a town or village on the border that did not have an export house prepared to send liquor into Canada, and not withstanding anything that may be said, they continued to do so until they adopted a temperance measure after going into the war.

"As far as the people of Canada are concerned, I do not think it is necessary for us to spend thousands of dollars in order to enforce the law in respect to the United States. I think we should divert our minds of this in view of the form of legislation which the United States passes and sends our men armed with pistols to enforce.

"This is a British country and British law is altogether different from the American conception of law. It is law that can be carried on in a wide and sensible way.

"In reference to the O. T. A. there are two ways to have a referendum. One is to pass a law similar to the Manitoba law, which passed there for government control. They also passed a law in the province of Ontario, which would sell wine and beer at the table. I do not think 5 per cent. of the people would buy back. All parties in the House joined to make a referendum. The Conservative party had always been a party of moderate temperance, not trying to get too far ahead of the people of Northern Ontario, and under the influence of the war the people carried that measure. I have heard many say 'we had to vote four times or nothing'.

"If we are going to have a referendum we should submit a referendum to the people and pass a bill now and ask the people to vote on one or two or three measures, and whichever they vote in favor of should become law as soon as the Lieutenant-Governor signs it. The debate was adjourned by Hon. H. F. Nixon, who will speak on Monday, when night sessions will elect.

### ARTILLERYMEN ELECT.

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.—At today's session of the Canadian Artillery Association, officers for the year were elected. Brig.-Gen. W. O. H. Dods, D. S. O., Montreal, was chosen president. Col. G. S. Rennie, C. M. G., Hamilton, is one of the vice-presidents, and Major L. S. Kelly, M. C., Hamilton, is a member of the executive committee.

### REAL WINTER WEATHER IN FRANCE AND SPAIN

PARIS, Feb. 28.—All of France is mantled in snow, the storm having extended to such regions as the Riviera and Lower Brittany. The weather bureau to-night forecasts a continuance of the snowfall.

Two earth shocks were reported to-day from the Saint Gaudens region in the Pyrenees, the first as is known little damage was done.

Madrid, Spain, is cut off from the north of Spain and from Barcelona owing to a heavy snowfall.

"At the time the O. T. A. was passed," Col. Currie said, "this country was in the throes of a war. Virtually that was a war measure. We all remember, with all due regard to our friends across the line, that when we passed

## Gretna Green Weddings Still Legal



Recently British courts were asked to decide upon the legality of a wedding which had been performed by the blacksmith at Gretna Green, the little Scottish border town, in accordance with tradition. The marriage was sustained. The picture shows a ceremony being performed by the blacksmith, who had inherited the unique right from the days of the posthorses, when spirited couples from England dashed over the border and called upon him for his services. According to Scottish laws and customs, marriage can be very simply performed by a declaration before witnesses.

## ALLEGED MURDOCK KNEW OF IMPENDING BANK FAILURE

Action of Labor Minister in Withdrawing \$4,000 Two Days Before Crash Is Embarrassing To Government

By C. L. BISHOP  
Free Press Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.—The session of Parliament, which began its labors to-day, opened with an atmosphere that is not pleasant for the Government. To start with, two of the ministers are involved in the Home Bank case, and while there is no disposition to exaggerate their situation it is admittedly very embarrassing. Mr. McMurray is involved in partnership through which the bank liquidator says it lost some \$70,000. He is the Cabinet sitting in judgment upon a case that is of pressing concern to himself. To-day it developed that Mr. Murdoch is also involved. He had a deposit of \$4,000 in the Home Bank—his seasonal indemnity it appears—and just a day or so before the collapse he pulled it out. The allegation is that he did so on the strength of information that came to him as a Cabinet minister as the critical condition of the bank. Mr. Murdoch admits that he drew out the money as part payment for a house. The crux of this case will hinge upon the date of the withdrawal and whether it was just on the eve of the collapse. This is what is alleged.

### DEFENDS POSITION

In an interview the Minister of Labor declares there was nothing creditable in what he did, while the Conservative will charge that he acted in the light of inside information and took an advantage which other depositors did not enjoy. Certain papers and documents have been gathered up to support the charge and altogether Mr. Murdoch's position is unhappy. A couple of other ministers may be affected by charges that are talked about and the atmosphere of scandal of which there has been little in past years seems to be developing. It will probably develop to a head early next week in the debate on the address.

When asked if he intended to resign Mr. Murdoch laughed and said he was not all on the job, but on both the Liberal and Conservative sides the voids were marked. "There has been a big Everybody is expecting a session full of spice and ginger.

In the speech from the throne the Government in traveling a wide field is obviously endeavoring to encompass the support of the Progressive party, which, by the way, they have never seriously lacked. The old rumor revolves of free implements and the like and there is no reason to minimize its probability. The Government is the protectionist Liberals in caucus have sufficient intestinal stamina to buck it. The reference in the matter in the throne speech is so framed that any course may be taken. There is a hint of balancing the budget and reducing taxation and effecting economies, all of which induced persistent demands from the outside.

The response is considered to be belated and much will depend upon performance when the proper stage for it is finally reached. This will be on the budget. Meanwhile the Government is evidently endeavoring to trim its sails to the wind and overcome the adversity which by-elections and popular clamor impressively indicate.

What progress will be made in taking the farmers into camp is only conjecture. Some of them expressed to-day pleasure with the speech from the throne, but so far as the Government is concerned, it is a suspicion that is deep that there is more of platitudes than reality in the professions. They can be relied upon to see the Government through in any event, but before there is any "merger" they want to know where is to be their landing place.

Conservative members propose to be unparrying in the attack on the Government. The recess has accumulated much matter—for example, the Home Bank disclosures, while in the financial and economic situation of the country and in many other respects the Government's position is not very happy, under an immense crowd of national probabilities of an election being forced appear to be slim.

## CATTLE BRING FAIR PRICES AT WINGHAM

Large Consignment of Animals and Many Bulls and Hens at Auction

WINGHAM, Feb. 28.—The cattle sale conducted by the Huron County Breeders' Association here to-day attracted an immense crowd of buyers from many sections of the province. The barn at the hotel at the corner of Joseph and Victoria streets, where the sale was held, which is one of the largest in the province, being 250 by 60 feet, was crowded with cattle and men, and the scene presented an unusual scene of bustle.

The cattle, comprising a large number of Aberdeen-Angus, Herefords and Shorthorns, the latter predominating, were for the most part high-class stock and brought fairly good prices.

Some of the young stock which went under the hammer of R. T. Amos, of Moffat, brought prices slightly in excess of \$200, while a large number brought prices ranging from \$150 to \$180.

On the conservative side of the House W. A. Black, of Halifax, and J. D. Deane, of Kent, N. B., took their seats. Mr. Black represents the seat formerly held by Hon. A. K. McLean, now president of the exchequer court, while Mr. Deane succeeds A. T. Leger, former Liberal member for Kent, who died last summer. The speaker further announced the vacancy in the County of Richelieu, caused by the appointment of Hon. H. J. A. Cardin as minister of marine and fisheries in succession to Hon. Ernest Lapointe, who took the place of Sir Lomer Gouin in the department of justice.

Before the Commons adjourned references were made by the premier and the Conservative and Progressive leaders to the loss the House had sustained by the death of Mr. Leger and the absence from the House at present of Rt. Hon. W. S. Fielding and Sir Lomer Gouin on account of illness. The premier stated that Mr. Fielding was most anxious to be able to continue to play his part; that he retained his old seat, but that his strength was insufficient. He could only hope that the breakdown the Minister of Finance had suffered would not be as serious as was threatened and that he would be able to resume his health and honor which his distinguished career deserved. Mr. King announced that Sir Lomer Gouin would very presently take his seat in the House as a private member.

Mr. Meighen paid a tribute to the honorable disposition of Mr. Leger and to his fidelity to the interests of his constituents. He associated himself with the premier in expressing regret at the indisposition which caused the absence of Sir Lomer and Mr. Fielding. Mr. Forke joined in the expression of sympathy with the family of Mr. Leger and paid a tribute to "the ability and honesty of purpose" of Mr. Fielding, "whose absence he described as a distinct loss to the House."

On motion of the premier the House then adjourned until Monday.

In the Senate following the speech from the throne Hon. J. A. Côté, Edmonton, successor to the late Senator Forget, was introduced. The Senate then adjourned till Tuesday.

## TAXATION PROBE FOR THE DOMINION

Government Announces Aim To Reduce Burden.

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.—(Canadian Press Dispatch)—A reduction of taxation aimed "primarily at reducing the cost of instruments of production," and the appointment of a board to investigate and study the various modes of taxation, were the two chief items in the Government program announced at the opening of the third session of the 14th Parliament of Canada to-day.

The opening was favored by sunny weather without, while within the Parliament buildings there was a brilliant display of uniform and attire, to which the canopy of gold and maroon lent an added touch of color in the Senate Chamber, where the governor-general, Baron Byng of Vimy, read the speech from the throne and declared Parliament open. There was a new reminiscence of other parliaments in the wearing of the Speakers of both Houses of the commonsense, silk stockings and buckled shoes, although the wig worn by the Speaker in the British House was absent. Another alteration noticed from the uniforms of other years was the dress of the pages in the Commons in a businesslike suit of black edged with green, in place of the red and blue of former years. The Senate pages, however, appeared in their customary uniform.

### BUDGET BALANCED.

In addition to the announcements indicated above, the speech from the throne laid emphasis upon the efforts already put forth by the Government to secure strict economy and retrenchment, and the belief was expressed that the first time since 1912-13 the national budget has been balanced. The consolidation of the various tax branches under one head was announced, and in regard to the St. Lawrence waterways, the speaker expressed that further inquiry was necessary before a final decision could be reached. While the speaker was saying it in so many words, the paragraph referring to the action on taxation aimed "primarily at reducing the cost of the instruments of production" is interpreted as making a reduction in the tariff on agricultural implements. The paragraph says:

"In the opinion of the Government, such reduction of such taxation as it may be possible to effect should aim primarily at reducing the cost of the instruments of production in the industries based on the natural resources of the Dominion, thereby adding materially in the development of our natural resources, and through cheapened production, effecting a diminution also in the cost of living."

Other points from the speech are: "The opinion of the Government is that reduction in taxation is of first importance. Efforts towards economy in public expenditure should be furthered. The consolidation of the various tax branches under one head."

Stabilization and control of freight rates on grain from the head of the Great Lakes to Canadian ocean ports and thence to Liverpool.

Further development of inland water transportation routes of vital importance.

### PROBE WATERWAY SCHEME.

Further inquiry should be instituted before final decision reached on St. Lawrence waterways.

Features of the speech are that the Government is giving attention to marine insurance rates and discriminations in ocean rates on Canadian products.

That every effort will be made to promote Canadian trade via Canadian ports.

Legislation will be introduced to encourage production of Canadian fuel.

The redistribution bill will be introduced.

There will be an amendment to the Dominion Elections Act providing for the transferable vote in the single member constituencies.

It is announced that there will be a bill for C. N. R. branch lines, with bills to amend the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act and on race track gambling.

There will be an amendment to the Government Annuities Act to promote thrift and amendments to the Militia Act in regard to calling out troops in aid of the civil power.

After listening to the speech from the throne the Commons held a short session in their own chamber and then adjourned until Monday, when the debate on the address will be commenced. During the brief session in the Commons chamber three ministers were introduced to the House, Hon. T. A. Low, minister of trade and commerce; Hon. E. M. McDonald, minister of national defense, and Hon. E. J. McMurray, solicitor-general. The re-election of these members to Parliament was rendered necessary by their acceptance of portfolios during the recess. E. L. Kelly, Liberal member for Cape Breton North, in succession to Hon. D. D. McKenzie who was elevated to the Supreme Court bench of Nova Scotia, was also introduced.

## TWO NEW CONSERVATIVES

On the conservative side of the House W. A. Black, of Halifax, and J. D. Deane, of Kent, N. B., took their seats. Mr. Black represents the seat formerly held by Hon. A. K. McLean, now president of the exchequer court, while Mr. Deane succeeds A. T. Leger, former Liberal member for Kent, who died last summer. The speaker further announced the vacancy in the County of Richelieu, caused by the appointment of Hon. H. J. A. Cardin as minister of marine and fisheries in succession to Hon. Ernest Lapointe, who took the place of Sir Lomer Gouin in the department of justice.

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## GOVERNMENT PLANS TO IMPROVE ROADS IN THE TOWNSHIPS

Premier Fergusson Makes Announcement, Adding That Work On Other Roads Held Up Pending Survey of Ontario's Finances

### ADDRESSES DELEGATES TO GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

Intimates Tax On Gasoline Is Possible; Canadian Association President Says Urban Centers Should Pay Share

TORONTO, Feb. 28.—(Canadian Press Dispatch).—According to the definite pronouncement of Premier Howard Fergusson, the highway program of the Ontario Government, as made to-night at the banquet of the Ontario Good Roads Association, there will not be the construction of a single mile of roadway under the provincial highway development scheme until the Government has had an opportunity to make a complete financial survey of the affairs of the province and learn exactly where Ontario stands with relation to highways expenditures. But, at the same time, there will be highway work confined for the most part to the townships, in order that the people who live in the country and who contribute largely towards the cost of highways construction, may get some adequate returns for their taxation in this regard. Mr. Fergusson spoke in the absence of Hon. George S. Henry, minister of public works.

"The province has spent great sums in attempting to create better transportation facilities," the premier remarked. "There has been developed a huge system which leads into many communities, and there have been considerable appeals to the Government to extend the provincial system. The Government has been urged in many ways and from many sources, and to those who are asking for the extension of the provincial system I may say that they might as well save their postage and not write."

### WILL NOT BEAR ALL COST.

In another feature of highway construction Hon. Mr. Fergusson made the announcement that the Government will not take over the provincial highway system until the cost of the system has been reduced to a point where the Government can bear the cost. Hon. Mr. Fergusson pointed out that a great many resolutions had been received by the Government from various municipalities asking them to take over the provincial highways. There were cheers for the premier when he made his announcement that the Government would continue the policy of attempting to see that all those who use the highways pay their share of the cost, and that there would also be a guarantee that the rural communities on the back concessions got some returns for their highway taxation.

"You people who live in the back townships are the ones who make the greatest use of these roads, so we are going to continue the system of letting you pay 80 per cent. of the cost," Hon. Mr. Fergusson declared. "When it comes to the cost of the highways, the Government will continue to pay 20 per cent. towards their construction; and when it comes to the provincial highway it may be argued that the greater part of their use is by tourists and long-distance motorists, but at the same time the people living in their vicinity also make use of them, so the Government will continue to pay 20 per cent. of their costs to the districts interested and will pay the balance of 80 per cent."

Explaining the system by which the Government purposes to develop the highways, Hon. Mr. Fergusson announced the appointment of an advisory committee of three members of the Legislature, whose duty it will be to keep in touch with the local townships and work out some system of development with those officials.

The premier also had some announcements to make with regard to maintenance.

"The time has come," he declared, "when the heavy load will have to be paid. The man who travels too fast is also going to pay more. He will be penalized, and if he does it too often he will lose his license. Things like that must be introduced if the people who pay for the highways are going to get a fair deal. The tourist trade must also be encouraged, and we hope by judicious advertising, to get our fair share. In our highway policy we will not be swayed by special interests, motor clubs or good roads associations, but we will listen to all they have to say and then call out the things we want."

As to the tax on gasoline the premier declared that it looked as though the time had come when the fairest way to keep the cost of the highways down was by the amount of gasoline he buys. He assured that in this respect, as in all others, the aim would be to see that those who use the roads help to pay for them.

STOP BONUSING. Another announcement of the premier was that he purposes to pass legislation in the present session to prohibit municipalities bonusing industries. He did not approve the competition among towns and cities for industry, for that competition only resulted in loading financial responsibilities on the taxpayers of the future. As to fixed assessment he would stop that.

Short addresses were made by W. E. N. Sinclair, president of the Ontario Liberals, and F. C. Biggs, former minister of public works. Hon. Mr. Biggs congratulated the premier on his frankness in declaring that he would have many followers in the House outside his own members if he extended the highway work in the townships.

A strong appeal to the urban municipalities to live up to their obligations and pay for the improved roadways for which they asked, and not to attempt to dodge the issue by saddling the responsibility upon the Government, came during the afternoon session of the convention from R. T. Kelly, of Hamilton, president of the Canadian Good Roads Association. There had been a certain amount of complaint on the part of the urban municipalities lying along the Niagara Falls to Windsor road and yet Mr. Kelly recalled that there had been early propaganda meetings, which boosted the highway, and he declared that every urban district affected had put in its bid for the highway. Now it was their duty to pay.

In dealing with the advantages of improved highways from the strictly urban standpoint Mr. Kelly found that they increased business, extended the trading zone and generally improved the conditions of the people.

Touching upon the tourist advantages Mr. Kelly pointed out that the Ontario Motor League had estimated that during 1922 tourists left \$50,000,000 in Ontario; in 1923 they left \$50,000,000, and the estimate for 1924 was \$75,000,000.

KEEPS DOWN CAR REPAIRS. A further advantage of improved highways was the lowering of the cost of upkeep on cars. Tests had been made to show that cars using unimproved roads, had an actual depreciation of \$240, and as soon as the highways were improved the depreciation dropped to \$80 yearly.

George Hogarth, chief engineer for Ontario, dealt with co-operation in road signing. His advice was that this important work should no longer be forced upon private motor organizations, but that all municipalities interested, including the province, should take over the financial responsibility and work out a uniformity of road signing.

Charles Talbot, of Middlesex County, advised against the use of oil on gravel roads. The result, he felt, would be costly in the end. Speaking as to the needs for the future, F. N. Rutherford, of St. Catharines, suggested that there should be developed over-riding plans, that construction should be spread over a number of years, instead of being done all at once, and there should be adequate drainage and that highway work should be financed on the budget system. Also the highways should be controlled by a commission which would be independent of politics.

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