ONTARIO LEGISLATURE OPENS 17TH SESSION ON SECOND OF FEBRUARY

Toronto.—The first session of Ontario's Seventeenth Legislature will open on Wednesday, Feb. 2. An announcement to this effect was made by Premier Ferguson following a two-hour Council with his Cabinet.

The February opening will mark one of the first official appearances of the new Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, W. D. Ross, who will succeed his Honor Col. Harry Cockshutt, in office early next month. Mr. Ross, on this occasion, will execute the time-honored formality of delivering the Speech from the Throne. The identity of the House members who are to move and second the Address in reply will not be made known, it was learned from the Prime Minister, until after the first of the new year.

While the House opens a full week earlier this year than it did last, there is little doubt but that the inaugural ceremonies would have been held still earlier had not some necessary alterations to the Assembly chamber interfered. These alterations take the form of strengthening certain girder supports, and will not be completed until Jan. 15 at the earliest. The coming session, it is confidently felt, will run considerably longer than did the last, which occupied less than eight weeks.

Besides the Government control policy, various important taxation reductions have been promised by the Government for the session which is now announced. A reduction of $5 per year in motor license fees has already been effected by order-in-Council, but the Legislature will also have to pass the increased municipal income tax exemptions, which the Government has pledged itself to effect, and will also have to approve the cut in the amusement taxes, which has been announced.

The new Parliament when it convenes will be the first one based upon redistributed Ontario. In place of the 111 members representing the old constituencies, there will be 112 members representing the new alignment of the ridings.

NEW OCCUPANTS OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Mr. W. D. Ross, who has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario in succession to Col. Henry Cockshutt, and Mrs. Ross. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ross are natives of Nova Scotia, but have lived in Toronto for several years.

THREE FIREMEN KILLED, NINE INJURED WHEN WINNIPEG THEATRE COLLAPSES

Winnipeg.—Tragedy has overtaken the homes of twelve Winnipeg families, whose plans for a gay Christmastide have given way to mourning and grief.

In the most disastrous fire, from the standpoint of human casualties, experienced here, three lives were lost and nine persons injured when the Winnipeg Theatre, at Notre Dame and Adelaide Streets, was destroyed early on Dec. 23. The building, which was one of the landmarks of the city, is a total loss. The damage is estimated at $125,000.

The victims, all firemen, were buried beneath tons of debris when two of the walls and the ceiling collapsed under the force of several streams of water.

The dead: Donald Melville, Robert Stewart, and R. S. Shearer.

The injured: A. Smith, R. C. Kirk (both seriously), Alex. Brown, J. G. Brass, David Williamson, R. Turner, G. H. Gilmour, Arthur Stewart and J. Budge.

The bodies of the three victims were recovered from the ruins after several hours of search. Shearer and Stewart had been badly burned, while Melville was crushed beneath beams and masonry.

Rescue workers fought frantically to gain entrance to the building and several firemen and volunteers narrowly escaped death as a second wall crumpled from the opposite side. The injured were rushed to hospital and searchers were forced to abandon their hunt for the three men who failed to answer the roll call.

It is not yet definitely known how the fire originated. The building has been vacant for the past five weeks but a watchman was kept on the premises. It was during the watchman's temporary absence that the outbreak occurred.

CANADA CONSIDERING AN AIR MAIL SYSTEM

Postmaster-General to Make Definite Announcement in Near Future.

Saint John, N.B.—Proposals looking to the establishment of an air mail system in Canada are under consideration by the post-office department, Hon. P. J. Veniot, Postmaster-General, said at Bathurst, in an interview over long distance telephone.

"The matter," he added, "is only in the tentative stage as yet and a definite policy has not been adopted but we have it in hand and expect to make a definite announcement in the near future.

A fair trial, he said, would likely be given the carrying of mails by airplane, probably on a small basis at first, but if conditions and results warranted it, the system likely would be increased.

Canada Included on Beam Wireless Communication

Sydney, N.S.W.—Experiments having proved the feasibility of beam wireless communication between Great Britain and Australia, the Marconi Co. expects to inaugurate service on a commercial scale between the two [illegible] beginning in March. [illegible]ation with Canada will [illegible] opened some six or eight [illegible]fterwards.

[illegible]enmark Returns to Gold Standard

Copenhagen, Denmark.—Denmark has formally returned to the gold standard, at all events in her dealings with foreign countries. The Danish Parliament adopted a measure permitting the conversion of Danish notes into gold at a fixed rate, beginning January 1. This step by Denmark was only a question of time as the krone reached par a few months ago, but a Cabinet crisis intervened early in December.

Canada's Leather Output Largest in Five Years

Ottawa.—Canada's leather industry continues to show improvement according to reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The value of the output by Canadian tanneries during 1925 was $26,141,217, an increase over the preceding year of $485,542 or two per cent. Prices for all kinds of leather averaged about the same in 1925 as in 1924. There were 104 tanneries aperating in Canada last year.

Veteran Author-Engineer Passes Away in Ottawa

Ottawa.—J. H. E. Secretan, veteran civil engineer, noted author and raconteur, died suddenly here on Dec. 22nd, aged 72. He was for many years on the surveying staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway under Sir William Van Horne and was associated with the construction of the railway. Disabled by rheumatism in the late 90's, he visited the Yukon and later wrote a number of books which are considered authoritative of the period.

World War Pigeon Hero Dies; Helped Save Battle

Paris.—One of the feathered heroes of the great war—a carrier pigeon, which helped save Verdun—has just died of old age. The bird had a wound stripe on its leg band and was one of the government's pensioners, having been given a home by a grateful nation.

Through a barrage of shrapnel the pigeon in 1916 carried a message that kept Froideterre Hill from being captured. In an order of the day the army cited the pigeon for "having maintained communication with the front line when all human means failed." In its flight through the barrage the pigeon was hit by a shell splinter that carried away its claws. The pigeon will be mounted and placed in the Verdun war museum.

English Conservative Party to Canvass New Women Voters.

The new register of voters to be published shortly will show a further increase of 350,000 in the number of women voters. This will bring their total to about 10,000,000, as against 13,000,000 men voters.

The Conservative party has made plans to canvass this increased number of women voters through women speakers and workers. These will be coached in a special series of political correspondence courses. The courses will include such subjects as empire development, socialism, trade unionism, economics and the British constitution.

Roast Beef of England Bows to Modern Stove.

The famous roast beef of old England threatens to join the other traditions of this country's more spacious past which are unable to survive the more restricted postwar days. The recent fat stock show in London has brought out the complaint that the modern cooking stove is ruining the market for large joints. The pre-war full-size joint and full-size oven would leave no room for a medium sized cook in most modern kitchens, so the scale of the magnificent beasts must be reduced by the breeders in obedience to the builder.

King Loses Half Share in Girl's Pet Rabbit.

King George has lost half a rabbit. Wilfred gained international fame in August when the King, while staying at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire, bought half a share of a little girl's pet in order to save the complete animal from being sold over her head. The rabbit was playing on the lawn in front of Bolton Abbey rectory, where the other part owner lived, when he was attacked by a treasonable stray dog and killed.

Canada's birth rate leads all the white races of the world, according to a close study made at Victoria, B.C., of comparative figures. Canada's birth rate is 23.4 to the thousand, and Australia comes next with 23.2. England and Wales fall slightly below France with 18.8.

CANADA USES NEW TREATY-MAKING POWERS IN PACT WITH CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

Ottawa, Ont.—A commercial trade treaty between Canada and Czecho-Slovakia has been negotiated and approved by the Cabinet, according to an announcement from the Dept. of Finance. The statement, issued by the department, points out that it is the first commercial agreement to be concluded since Canada obtained new treaty-making powers at the recent Imperial Conference. Negotiations were conducted by James A. Russell, Tariff Commissioner, who is now in Europe. The Dept. of Finance states that Canada obtains the lowest rates of duty given any country by Czecho-Slovakia on a list of some 71 commodities which comprise all the important Canadian exports to that country. In return Canada grants Czecho-Slovakian goods the benefits of the Canadian intermediate tariff.

The new rates became effective on January 1. The agreement is of a temporary character continuing for a period of 15 months, or until three months notice of denunciation has been given by either party. It is stated that before the expiration of the agreement negotiations will be begun for a more general and definite convention for the regulation of commercial relations between the two countries.

Canadian goods that are given most favored national treatment on importation into Czecho-Slovakia are flour, wheat, hosiery, wrapping paper, barley, oats, rye, buckwheat, malt, peas, fresh and dried apples, all kinds of fish, including canned fish, lard, butter, honey, cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, condensed milk, agricultural implements and agricultural tools, rubber footwear, rubber tires, lead, zinc, engines and motors, adding machines, automobiles and various other items.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS RADIO PIRATING IN UNITED STATES

Ottawa.—Pirating of Canadian radio channels by United States broadcasting stations is driving the radio listeners of the Dominion to desperation and bringing a flood of complaints to the Radio Branch of the Dept. of Marine and Fisheries. According to Lieutenant-Commander C. P. Edwards, Director of Radio for the Dominion of Canada, the situation is steadily going from bad to worse.

Under arrangement with the United States Dept. of Commerce, Canada is supposed to have the use of seventeen waves, six exclusive and eleven jointly with the United States stations, but since the Zenith Radio Corporation of Chicago flouted the order of the United States Dept. of Commerce to keep off the exclusive Canadian wave of 329.5 metres, and was vindicated by a United States court, Canadian broadcasting stations no longer enjoy freedom from interference.

Broadcasts from London, Ont., are almost completely spoiled by heterodyning from the Zenith station at Chicago, and stations throughout Canada are similarly affected by rivals in the United States broadcasting on the same wave-length.

The Canadian Government Radio Dept. is taking the matter up in a friendly way with Hon. Herbert Hoover at Washington, with a view to remedying this very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and it is hoped that an amicable settlement which will be fair to all concerned may be reached within the next month.

Able to Take X-Ray Films of Human Body

New York.—A radiologist of University College, London, working with two motion-picture experts, has discovered a method of taking X-ray cinematograph films of the human body, according to an official British despatch. The problem of producing sufficiently strong illumination for moving pictures without injuring the skin of the subject has, it is said, been overcome.

People are hungering for the great truths taught by the Bible.—Dr. Campbell Morgan.

NORWICH COUPLE KILLED BY TRAIN

Christmas Journey Brought to Fatal Termination by Level-Crossing Accident.

Woodstock.—Mrs. W. E. Maedel of Norwich was instantly killed and her husband, W. E. Maedel, received injuries from which he died several hours later, when their automobile was struck by a Canadian National Railway passenger train at the level-crossing on the provincial highway between Eastwood and Gobles, six miles east of Woodstock, about 2 p.m. on December 22nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Maedel left their home in Norwich shortly after noon and were proceeding east to spend the Christmas holidays with friends and relatives when the accident occurred. They had just got onto the crossing according to members of the crew, when the passenger express came up behind them, the engine striking the rear of the car. Both occupants were thrown out of the automobile, which landed in the ditch a mass of wreckage. Mrs. Maedel's head struck a heavy fence and she was dead when picked up by the train crew. Mr. Maedel landed alongside the fence and his head was also seriously injured. He was taken to the Woodstock General Hospital, where he died about 5 o'clock without regaining consciousness.

Mr. Maedel was a well-known business man in the Village of Norwich, having lived there practically all his life. He was also for several years a member of the Norwich Town Council. He was between 55 and 60 years of age and Mrs. Maedel was about the same age. They are survived by four sons.

World's Oldest Legislator on Duty at Ottawa.

Canada has what she believes to be the oldest legislator in the world. He is on the verge of one hundred years of age. He is Hon. George Casimir Dessaulles, who was born in 1827 in Quebec Province. And he turned up for the Senate sitting, walking in [illegible] aided.

Ice Cream is Sold at 40 Below Zero

Circle, Alaska.—With the thermometer at 40 below, ice cream sold rapidly at $1.75 a quart here to-day. It was said to be the first shipment of that delicacy from Seattle to any point within the Arctic Circle.

THE WEEK'S MARKETS

TORONTO.

Man. wheat—No. 1 North., $1.47½; No. 2 North., $1.44; No. 3 North., $1.39.

Man. oats—No. 2 CW, nominal; No. 3, not quoted; No. 1 feed, 63c; No. 2 feed, nominal: Western grain quotations in c.i.f. ports.

Am. corn, track, Toronto—No. 2 yellow, 91c; No. 3 yellow, 90c.

Millfeed—Del. Montreal freights, bags included. Bran, per ton, $31.25; shorts, per ton, $33.25; middlings, $40.25; good feed flour, per bag, $2.30.

Ontario oats, 50c, f.o.b. shipping points.

Ont. good milling wheat—$1.28 f.o.b. shipping points, according to freights.

Barley—Malting, 60 to 64c.

Buckwheat—75c, nominal.

Rye—No. 2, 90c.

Man. flour—First pat., $8, Toronto; do, second pat., $7.50.

Ont. flour—Toronto, 99 per cent. patent, per barrel, in carlots, Toronto $5.55; seaboard in bulk, $5.55.

Cheese—New, large, 20 to 20½c; twins, 20½ to 21c; triplets, 22c. Stiltons, 23c. Old, large, 25c; twins, 26c; triplets, 27c. Old Stiltons, 28c.

Butter—Finest creamery prints, 44 to 45c; No. 1 creamery, 43 to 44c; No. 2, 42 to 43c. Dairy prints, 34 [illegible]

Eggs—Fresh extras, in cartons, [illegible] to 75c; fresh extras, loose, 70c; fresh firsts 63 to 65c; fresh seconds, 38 to 39c; fresh pullets, 52 to 53c. Storage extras, 45c; do, firsts, 42c; do, seconds, 36 to 37c.

Poultry, dressed—Chickens, spring squabs, 1 to 1½ lbs., 32 to 38c; do, spring, over 4 lbs., 30 to 35c; do spring, 3 to 4 lbs., 32 to 35c; do, spring, 2½ to 3½ lbs., 30 to 33c; do, spring, 2 to 2½ lbs., 30c; hens, over 5 lbs., 28c; do, 4 to 5 lbs., 26c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 24c; roosters, 22c; turkeys, 47c; geese, 28c; ducklings, 5 lbs. and up., 32c.

Beans—Can. hand-picked, $3.60 to $3.90 bushel; primes, $3.45 to $3.60.

Maple products—Syrup, per Imp. gal., $2.25 to $2.30; per 5-gal., $2.15 to $2.25 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25 to 26c.

Honey—60-lb. tins, 12½ to 13c; 10-lb. tins, 12½ to 13c; 5-lb. tins, 13 to 13½c; 2½-lb. tins, 15c.

Comb honey—$3.40 to $4.50 per doz.

Smoked meats—Hams, med., 28 to 30c; cooked hams, 42c; smoked rolls, 25c; breakfast bacon, 32 to 35c; backs, boneless, 33 to 40c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., $23; 70 to 90 lbs., $21.50; 20½ lbs. and up, $22.34; lightweight rolls, in barrels, $42.50; heavyweight rolls, $39.50 per bbl.

Lard—Pure tierces, 14½ to 15½c; tubs, 16 to 16½c; pails, 16½ to 17c; prints, 17½ to 18c; shortening tierces, 11½ to 12c; tubs, 13¼ to 13¾; pails, 12¾ to 13¼c; blocks, 14¼ to 14¾c.

Heavy export steers, $6.65 to $7.50; heavy steers, good, $6.25 to $6.50; butcher steers, choice, $6.50 to $7.35; do, fair to good, $5.25 to $6.25; do, com., $4 to $5; butcher heifers, choice, $6.25 to $7; do, fair to good, $5.50 to $6; do, com., $4 to $5; butcher cows, good to choice, $5 to $5.25; do, com. to med., $3 to $4; do, canners and cutters, $2.25 to $2.75; butcher bulls, good to choice, $4.25 to $5; do, med., $3.50 to $4; do, bologuas, $3.50 to $3.85; baby beef, $10 to $11; feeders, choice, $5.50 to $5.80; do, fair, $5 to $5.25; stockers, choice, $4.75 to $5; do, fair to med., $4 to $4.50; milch cows, $70 to $85; springers, $90 to $120; plain to med. cows, $45 to $65; calves, choice, $11.50 to $12.50; do, med., $7 to $10; do, com., and grassers, $4 to $5; lambs, choice, $10.50 to $11.50; bucks, $7.50 to $8.50; sheep, choice, $6 to $6.50; do, heavies, $4.50 to $5; do, culls, $2.50; hogs, thick smooth, fed and watered, $10.75; do, f.o.b., $10.25; do, country points, $10; do, off cars, $11.15; select premium, per hog, $2.10.

MONTREAL.

Oats—Can. west., No. 2, 77½c; No. 3, 69c. Flour, Man. spring wheat pats., firsts, $8; seconds, $7.50; strong bakers', $7.30; winter pats., choice, $6.20 to $6.30. Rolled oats—Bags, 90 lbs., $3.65. Bran, $31.25. Shorts, $33.25. Middlings, $40.25. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $14.50.

Cheese—Finest westa., 18¼ to 18¾c. Butter—No. 1, pasteurized, 40¼ to 40¾c. Eggs—Storage extras, 47c; storage firsts, 44c; storage seconds, 39 to 40c fresh specials, 75c; fresh extras, 65c.

Veal calves, $10 to $11; grassers, $5.

Greatest of British Airmen Visits Toronto

SIR ALAN COBHAM AND LADY COBHAM

A recruit to aviation during the great war, Sir Alan Cobham has become the most famous of British aviators. His flights, which have linked by air routes far corners of the empire with the motherland, have brought him a reputation for skill and daring that has caused him to be called "the Sir Francis Drake of the air." Sir Alan's knighthood was bestowed for his accomplishments in the air.

BRITISH NAVY WITHOUT RESERVE FORCE OF SHIPS OF THE LINE

London.—Britain's navy, for the first time in two centuries, finds herself without a reserve force of ships of the line. The pre-war fleet, save for four ships of the Iron Duke class, has disappeared.

According to the naval correspondent of the Westminster Gazette, four of the craft that constituted the backbone of the Grand Fleet at Jutland, and which were built at a cost of nearly $8,000,000, are to be thrown into the discard in the near future. These ships are the Centurion, King George V., Thunderer and Ajax, and they are far superior to many vessels now in navies of foreign powers. They have, however, been outclassed by the "post-Jutland" type, which will replace them. They will be discarded in accordance with the naval pact signed at Washington five years ago.

The super-dreadnoughts, Nelson and Rodney, which have been built to replace these ships, will be ready to join the British fleet during the summer of 1927. They carry 16-inch guns in three turrets, being the first British fighting craft to have their guns disposed in this way.