

# Provincial Parliament

## THE OPENING.

The fourth session of first Ontario Parliament was opened at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The doors were thrown open at 2 o'clock, and a few minutes later all the galleries were thronged. The Ladies' and the Speaker's galleries were occupied exclusively by ladies, of whom a large number were present. A large number of ladies and gentlemen in full dress, among whom were the following, occupied seats on the floor of the house:—

### LADIES.

Mrs. and Miss Muloch, Mrs. Edward H. Rutherford and Miss Rutherford, Mrs. F. W. Cumberland, Mrs. Beresford, Mrs. T. C. Patterson, Mrs. Vickers, Miss Emily Morrison, Mrs. J. G. Scott, and Miss Elliott, Mrs. John H. Cameron, Mrs. Chisholm, and Miss Romaine, Mrs. Kenneth Mackenzie, Mrs. S. M. Jarvis, Miss Jarvis, Mrs. D. L. Macpherson, Miss Macpherson, Mrs. George Duggan, Mrs. John Duggan, Mrs. Howland, Miss Howland, Lady Macdonald, Mrs. Wragge, Mrs. Hagarty, Mrs. and Miss Grassett, Mrs. and Miss Strong, the Misses Skae, Miss Elliott (London), Mrs. Ferguson, Miss Ferguson (London), Mrs. and Miss Mortimer, Mrs. Hawke, Miss Redcliffe, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Walker (London), Mrs. John Stevenson, Mrs. Stevenson (Napance), Miss Gordon, Mrs. John Draper, Mrs. and Miss Carling, Mrs. Stephen Richards, Miss Cameron, Mrs. Lauder, Miss Spragge, Mrs. G. W. Allan, Mrs. David Wilson and Miss Wilson, Mrs. F. W. Jarvis and Miss Jarvis, Mrs. and Miss Rutherford, and Mrs. John Duggan.

### GENTLEMEN.

Hon. D. L. Macpherson, Chief Justice Draper, Chief Justice Richards, Chief Justice Hagarty, Chancellor Spragge, Vice-Chancellor Mowat, Vice-Chancellor Strong, the Bishop of Toronto, Archbishop Lynch, Sir John A. Macdonald, Mr. Justice Wilson, Mr. Justice Gwynne, Mr. Justice Morrison, Rev. Mr. Jamot, Rev. Dr. Ryerson, His Worship the Mayor, Judge Duggan, Sheriff Jarvis, Rev. Mr. Marling, Mr. E. H. Rutherford, Rev. Provost Whittaker, Mr. A. Mackenzie, M.P., Hon. G. W. Allan, Colonel Shaw, American Consul, Hon. J. H. Cameron, Q.C., Rev. Alfred Taylor (New York), Rev. Dean Grassett, Mr. Hawke, Mr. John Stevenson, Mr. R. A. Harrison, Q.C., and Professor Wilson.

Shortly after three o'clock His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, escorted by Col. Denison's troop of cavalry, and accompanied by Mrs. and Miss Howland, Sir John A. and Lady Macdonald, and Captain Curtis, arrived in front of the Parliament buildings, where he was received with a general salute by a guard of honour furnished by the 10th Royals, and a royal salute by the Toronto Garrison Battery.

### THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

His Excellency proceeded to the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly and being seated on the Throne, delivered the following speech:—

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—*

I am happy again to meet you, and to congratulate you upon the greatly increased prosperity of the Province.

Since we last met, the Arbitrators appointed under the provisions of the British North America Act of 1867, "for the division and adjustment of the debts, credits, liabilities and assets of Upper Canada and Lower Canada," have prosecuted with commendable assiduity their arduous labours, which were lately terminated by the publication of their award, a copy of which will be laid before you. Without offering an opinion as to whether the judgment of the Arbitrators on the various points submitted to them realizes the general expectation of the people of this Province or not, I venture, nevertheless, to express the great satisfaction which the result has afforded me, and which, apart from the fact of the award being final and conclusive, establishes for ever the share of the public debt which this Province was bound to assume, as also the proportion of the general assets intended to become exclusively our own property.

My predecessor, at the opening of the first session of this Legislature, intimated that you began your labours with resources at your disposal large enough to justify the hope that they would prove adequate not only for the actual requirements of the Government, but also to satisfy the wants of this rapidly improving country. The opinion then so confidently expressed, the experience of the past three years has established to have been well founded, as is strikingly evidenced in the large surplus remaining unused in the Provincial Treasury, and that, too, after satisfying not only the ordinary outlays required for the public service and charities, but also providing for various public works of great utility, and the erection of public institutions which are no less creditable to your liberality than productive of lasting benefit to suffering humanity and to the general interests of the Province at large.

How best to apply this surplus, or, at all events, a considerable portion thereof, in developing the resources of the Province, by advancing the commercial and agricultural interests of the people, it will be for you to determine. In furtherance of this view, a measure will be submitted, recommending a grant of money to stimulate the initiation of well considered and bona fide Railway undertakings, which are specially designed to penetrate the heart of our Free Grant Territory, and also to encourage similar enterprises pointing in the same direction, or to our Inland Lakes, which, when completed, will secure to certain other sections of country the luxury of speedy travel and the advantages of cheap transport, hitherto enjoyed only by those within reasonable distances of existing thoroughfares, to which the now unprovided localities have long contributed.

While perfecting our system of public instruction, so as to render common school education accessible and free to every child in the land, and to provide more effectually for giving a higher English and commercial education in the superior schools, your attention will be invited to the expediency of making that education more practical, and directly instrumental in promoting the interests of agriculture and manufactures. The life of our country's wealth and progress depends upon its agriculture and manufactures, and the development of its mineral resources, and our system of public instruction should provide a suitable preparation for agricultural, mechanical, manufacturing and mining pursuits, and is now enjoyed by those who make choice of the professions of law and medicine, and thus be promotive of the highest material, no less than of the intellectual and moral interests of the people.

Statistics furnished by the Department of Immigration exhibit a gratifying proof of a considerable addition to our resident population during the present year over that of the previous season, and from all quarters, in which the new-comers have taken up their abodes, I continue to receive assurances that they generally appreciate the happy change which they begin to realize in this the land of their adoption.

The conjoint action of the Dominion and Ontario Governments will again be energetically directed to give a further impetus to the scheme for promoting immigration, which it is the anxious desire of both Governments to render perfect and effectual, so far as a liberal outlay of money and active agencies can accomplish the object.

A Bill will be laid before you having for its object the substitution of a new mode of trying controverted elections.

The report of a survey, by competent persons, which I recently caused to be made of a portion of the large area north of Lake Superior, and lying between Lakes Nespigon and Nipissing, will shortly be laid before you. I have reason to believe that in that hitherto unexplored territory will be found large tracts of land well fitted for agricultural purposes, interspersed with lakes abounding in fish, and with a climate similar to our own, well calculated to invite the emigrant to look for a happy home in that now apparently remote region.

The financial accounts of the Province, with the estimates for the coming year, will be laid before you, and I rely on your readiness to grant the necessary supplies.

The sad condition of the idiotic class of our people would seem to require your attention, with a view to provide for their better care.

I also commend that provision be made for the establishment of one or more Central Prisons, the importance of which I, on a former occasion, felt myself compelled to bring under your notice.

The state of the Province is hopeful in the extreme. With a rapid advance in trade, agriculture and manufactures, more conspicuously displayed since the boon of local self-government has been freely conceded to us, and cherishing, as we do, our hearty preference for British institutions, affording an evidence of our desire to foster and maintain at all hazards our connection with the mother country, we have no cause to envy the condition of our neighbours. Let us hope that this flattering prospect may not be marred by injurious dissensions among ourselves, and that Providence may guide your councils and give direction to your efforts in promoting the happiness and contentment of our people at large.

The SPEAKER took the chair at 3:40.

### BILLS INTRODUCED.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD introduced a Bill to provide for the administration of oaths of office to persons appointed Justices of the Peace.

### THE SPEECH.

The SPEAKER announced that in order to avoid mistakes he had procured a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's Address. The reading of it was dispensed with.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. CARLING, that his Excellency's Speech be taken into consideration to-morrow. Carried.

### MOTIONS.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD made the usual motion respecting the printing of the recess and proceedings of the House. Carried.

Hon. J. S. MACDONALD moved the appointment of the usual Select Standing Committees, namely: on Privileges and Elections, Railways, Miscellaneous Private Bills, Standing Orders and Public Accounts. Carried.

The usual motion respecting bribery and intimidation at elections was made by Hon. J. S. MACDONALD and adopted.

### NEW MEMBER.

Mr. WM. ANDERSON, the member elected for Prince Edward during the recess, was introduced by Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Dr. Baxter, and took his seat.

### PETITION.

Mr. COYNE presented a petition for leave to introduce a Bill for the construction of a railway from Port Credit to the village of Streetsville.

On motion of Hon. J. S. MACDONALD the House then adjourned.

THURSDAY, Dec 8, 1870.

The SPEAKER took the chair at half-past three o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

Petitions were presented:—

Mr. Craig (Glengarry)—From the Agricultural Society of the county of Glengarry, praying for certain lands to be vested in them. Also from the trustees of the Presbyterian church of Kenyon, praying for an Act to enable them to sell certain lands.

Mr. Fitzsimmons—From Hiram Baker of Wolford, praying for an Act to make valid certain By-laws of Wolford, and a conveyance made thereunder.

Mr. Cumberland—From the Toronto, Simcoe and Muskoka Junction Railway Company, for an act to amend their charter.

Mr. Scott (Grey)—From C. R. Sing and others of St. Vincent, praying for an Act to incorporate the North Grey Railway Company.

Mr. Carnegie—From the Provisional Directors of the Peterboro' and Haliburton Railway, praying for certain amendments on their charter.

Mr. Williams (Durham)—From the Midland Railway of Canada, praying for an Act to authorize the consolidation of its bonded debts, and the issue of new bonds in substitution therefor.

### NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Blake—On Friday—Address to His Excellency for copies of all correspondence not already brought down, between His Excellency and the Canadian Government, and between the Governments of Ontario and of Canada, touching any addresses of this House, or touching immigration, or touching the public debt and assets.

Also—Address for a statement of the names of all persons, members of this House, or of either branch of the Legislature of Canada, who have been appointed by the Government of Ontario to any office, commission or em-