

LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

Second Parliament—First Session.

FRIDAY, Dec. 8.

The Assembly Chamber was packed this afternoon long before the hour appointed for the arrival of His Excellency. The upper gallery was jammed to such an extent as to render its safety seemingly problematical, and the ladies' and Speaker's galleries were filled to repletion with gaily dressed ladies. On the floor of the House were seated in arm chairs the Judges of the Superior Courts, clergymen and other celebrities. Almost every member's seat was occupied by a lady in full dress, and altogether the Chamber presented a very brilliant appearance. Among those present were Chief Justices Richards, Wilson, Haggarty, Morrison, Gwynne and Galt and Vice-Chancellors Mowatt and Strong, and Judge Duggan, Col. Shaw, U.S. Consul; Mr. Simmers, German Consul; Mr. Homer Dixon, Consul of the Netherlands; Bishop Bethune, Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Very Rev. Vicar General Jamot, Rev. J. McCann, Very Rev. J. R. Northgraves (His Grace Archbishop Lynch was detained by illness), Rev. Drs. McCall and Topp, Vincent (New York), and Nelles (Cobourg). Archdeacon Fuller, Rev. Messrs. Dixon, Pughon, Griffin, Hutchinson and Marling, Hon. D. L. Macpherson, Principal Cockburn, Mr. Gzowski, Mrs. Howland, Miss Howland, Mrs. McMaster, Miss Pantton, Mrs. Cockburn, Mrs. Hodgins, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Stovell, Mrs. Cummings, Miss Cottle, Mrs. Fulton, Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Elmsley, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Farnoon, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. McNabb, Mrs. Coyne, Misses Morrison, Mrs. Marling, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Mulloch, Miss Mullock, Mrs. Cattanach, and many others whose names it was impossible to obtain.

At a quarter-past three His Excellency arrived at the House, accompanied by Col. Denison, Lieut.-Col. Durie, Lieut.-Col. Denison, B. M., Major Macdonald, Major Alger and Lieut.-Col. Boxall, and his body-guard, and was received by a squad of the Queen's Own and Tenth Royals. He immediately entered the Chamber and having taken the chair, and the mace having been laid upon the table,

Mr. SPEAKER SCOTT made the usual formal statement of his election by the House to act as its Speaker, praying that any fault which might be committed by the House in its deliberations should be imparted to him and not to the hon. members, and asking that the Assembly might at all proper times have access to the person of His Excellency.

Hon. Mr. RICHARDS replied that he had been commanded by His Excellency to promise the granting of the prayers of the Assembly.

His Excellency then read the following speech amidst the silence of those present.

The Speech from the Throne.

The Lieut.-Governor came down to the House at three o'clock yesterday afternoon with the usual ceremonies. A very large attendance was present. His Excellency then delivered the Speech, of which the following is a copy:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

During no period in the history of Her Majesty's North American possessions can there be found recorded of any one of them a condition of prosperity which can at all approach that now almost everywhere exhibited in this Province, and it therefore affords me great pleasure to congratulate you on so favorable an aspect of our country's stride in the path of material advancement.

I regret to have to announce to you that in consequence of a protest by the Government of Quebec, the Dominion Cabinet declines to give effect to the award made in the matter of the division and adjustment of the debts, credits, liabilities and assets of Upper and Lower Canada, until a decision with regard to its validity shall be given by the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. I ventured in this Chamber last year, without admitting the judgment of the Arbitrators on the points submitted to them had realized the general expectations of the people of this Province, nevertheless to express the satisfaction which the result had afforded me, and also that I regarded it as final and conclusive, and that it had established forever 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. In this satisfaction I was glad to observe that the Legislative Assembly, then in session, signified its concurrence. The delay which will arise before effect is given to the terms of the award necessarily postpones measures and arrangements of immense importance as well to the future of particular sections as to the Province at large, and which were based on the assumption of the award being final, is a matter which must cause general disappointment, inasmuch as such measures are for the present rendered impracticable. That the objection to the award should be urged on mainly technical grounds, is a consideration that intensifies the feeling of regret which a long interval of inaction will be certain to create. The people of Ontario, regarding the award as rendering them no more than bare justice in relation to the matters in dispute, had hoped that all questions between them and the sister Province of Quebec had been definitely adjusted; and I apprehend that they not only will be unable to view the present state of the case with indifference, but that they will not fail to see in it well grounded cause for alarm, lest the re-opening of the questions involved

in the arbitration should revive those political and sectional strifes which for years prior to Confederation had endangered the peace and quiet of our common country.

It is a matter of history that the general acquiescence by Upper Canada in the scheme of Confederation was in a great measure brought about in the hope that these strifes would be thereby allayed and for ever settled. If in this respect the people of Ontario are doomed to be disappointed, it will be owing to no act of theirs, but the responsibility of the consequences likely to arise from the revival of the old sectional questions and disputes of past years must rest upon others.

The liberal measures which the Legislature adopted at its last Session to improve our system of National Education by making the Public Schools free by law, by providing for the more efficient inspection, by giving stability to and elevating the profession of teachers, and by rendering practically symmetrical and coherent the Public and High Schools have been brought into operation, and they are likely to fulfil the most sanguine expectations of the friends of thorough and universal education.

The demand for regularly trained teachers has augmented from year to year, and the number of young persons desirous of properly qualifying themselves for the profession of teaching by a regular course of training is so largely increasing that it may be worthy of your consideration whether additional facilities should not be provided for that purpose.

Nor less useful do I think will prove the measures of the same Session for providing, by a new School of Technology now shortly to be opened for preparatory education of skilled men as engineers, managers and operators in the various mechanical and manufacturing establishments, and in the steamboat and railroad systems of the country. When we find these establishments are springing up and dotting our country on every side, and a network of railways is covering its surface, we should be wanting in wisdom and common prudence not to provide, as every progressive people is providing, for the scientific and practical education of classes of men to conduct these vast and important operations, and thus develop the latent and unmeasured resources of our favored land. No maxim of civil government is more sound than that each country should provide, as far as possible by its own culture and skill, for the supply of its own wants, and the development of its own resources—and it is unquestionable that money expended to educate men for these purposes is a most profitable public investment.

The returns from the Immigration Department will shew that, as in the two previous years, the wise expenditure made for the promotion of Immigration has again secured a large and desirable accession to our industrial population; and as a greater proportion than usual of the immigrants have come from the rural districts of Great Britain and Ireland, they are the better adapted to meet the requirements of our agriculturists, and of public works and other industries, and eventually to furnish a good class of settlers for our Free Grant and other lands.

Every exertion, as heretofore, will be made to induce a continued healthy immigration, as well as to organize facilities for the employment of the immigrants immediately on their arrival, and the subsequent settlement of such as may desire it upon our Free Grant Lands.

I am to inform you that arrangements are in active progress for the establishment of a School of Agriculture. A suitable site comprising 600 acres of land, of varied soil and easy of access to the public, has been purchased; and no time will be lost in bringing this important scheme into operation; whereby those of our youth who desire to follow agricultural pursuits may obtain the education specially adapted to their wants.

The highly beneficial results certain to follow the construction of main drains in and through certain swamp lands, for which a liberal appropriation was made by the Legislature, prompts me to recommend to your consideration the expediency of providing means by which individuals may borrow money at a low rate of interest, to improve their farms by tile or other draining.

I have lately appointed Commissioners, composed of eminent Judges and Counsel, to enquire into the operation and effect of the present constitution and jurisdiction of the several Courts of Law and Equity of this Province, with the view of ascertaining whether and what changes and improvements may be advantageously made so as to provide for the more speedy, economical and satisfactory dispatch of the business now transacted in the said courts.

A measure to provide for the payment of witnesses attending the trial of criminals, will be submitted for your consideration.

The financial accounts of the Province for the larger portion of the current year will be immediately laid before you. The estimates, likewise, will be submitted at an early period.

In the discharge of the important duties that will engage your attention, I humbly trust that the Almighty may help your endeavors to promote the public good.

He Excellency and suite then retired. After the Chamber had been cleared of its fair occupants hon. members took their seats and

The SPEAKER said that he had had handed to him the reports of the learned Judges on the election trials in several electoral divisions, and called on the Clerk to read the same.

The Clerk therefore read the verdicts of the several Judges in the election trials which took place in Carleton, Prince Edward, Stormont, North Simcoe and South Grey in all of which cases the elections were declared void, and in Glengarry North York, East and West Toronto and Welland by which the returned members, Messrs. Craig, Boulton, Cameron, Crooks, and Currie, were declared duly elected, and copies were ordered to be entered upon the journals of the House.