

# LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO.

## SECOND PARLIAMENT—THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, Jan. 9.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

### PETITIONS.

Mr. RYKERT presented a petition from Rev. R. Morton *et al.* of St. Catharines, praying for an Act to incorporate the Homoeopathic College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.

Dr. OLARKE presented a petition praying for a similar Act.

Mr. MONTEITH presented a petition from Henry Anderson and others for an Act to prevent the opening of certain streets running through the grounds of the Agricultural Fair at London. Also from the County Council of Middlesex, praying for the same. Also from the County Council of Middlesex, asking for amendments to the License Law. Also from the same body, asking for the removal of the registry office from Glencoe to Strathroy.

### THE ADDRESS.

Mr. HARDY, in moving the adoption of the Address, trusted the customary indulgence and forbearance would be extended to him upon this occasion. After paying a tribute to the political standing of the hon. gentleman who formerly represented the constituency for which he had been returned, he said that during the past years laws relating to almost every subject, and requiring undivided attention, had been placed upon the Statute book, and, therefore, it struck him that the programme would be somewhat meagre; but, on the contrary, measures were indicated which would, no doubt, involve a good deal of discussion and severe criticism, and some measures in the passage of which the whole House could unite. At all events, he felt satisfied that whatever measure would be introduced it would receive the serious consideration of both sides of the House. The first measure referred to in the Speech related to the School Laws of the Province. He was not aware whether these Bills related exclusively to the amendment of the law, or whether they also involved consolidation of the law as it stood. Probably the clause referred to both amendment and consolidation, but whichever it might be, it was one of those measures upon which all parties in the House could unite. It was a measure of the most vital importance to the welfare and well being of the country at large, and would, he was sure, receive the kindest consideration from every member of the House. One of the complaints against the laws as they stand to-day was, that they were almost unintelligible to the trustees elected to administer the affairs of the locality and to the professional men. There had also been a complaint that there was a tendency to centralise and absorb the powers of the Local Boards. He would not express his opinions on these points, but would simply say that, whether the object of the Government was consolidation or amendment, he hoped simplification might accompany codification. (Hear, hear.) They were next informed in the Speech that a Ballot Bill would be introduced during the present session. That law had been in force in England for some time, not through any general election, but in the number of elections that had occurred there since its adoption. He believed all parties concurred that it worked admirably. The law was for a long time battled and defeated on the ground that it was un-British, but that argument was no longer available. The Bill was adopted probably by three classes of men—firstly, by honest men; secondly, by employers of labour, who could control a large number of votes; and thirdly, by the professional briber, who thought it would be impossible, under this system of voting, to bring to light his latest purchases with absolute certainty. In Australia the law worked well, and they were told it answered three excellent purposes: the prevention of bribery, the securing peace and quietness at elections, and it enabled every man, no matter what pressure might be brought to bear upon him, to vote according to the dictates of his conviction. In his opinion, it would be ne