

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

FIRST SESSION — THIRD PARLIAMENT.

Yesterday, at three o'clock p.m., his Honour the Lieutenant Governor proceeded to the Chamber of the Legislative Assembly, and formally opened the first session of the third Parliament of Ontario. His Honour was escorted by the Governor-General's Body Guard, commanded by Captain Denison, the 10th Royals forming the guard of honour. On the arrival of his Honour at the Parliament house, a salute was fired by the Garrison Artillery.

The floor and galleries of the House were crowded. Among those who had seats on the floor were Hon Alex Mackenzie, the Lord Bishop of Toronto, Chancellor Spragge, Chief Justice Harrison, Mr Justice Patterson, Mr. Justice Morrison, Mr. Justice Gwynne, Judge Duggan, Hon A Campbell, Sheriff McKellar, Rev. Dr. Topp, Rev Canon Baldwin, Rev Dr Ryerson, Rev D Scadding, Messrs J A Simmers, German Consul, Col Shaw, U S Consul, J Homer Dixon, Consul-General of the Netherlands, W J Macdonald, French Consul, A E Irving M P, H C Wood, M P, A H Dymond, M P, W A Thomson, M P, Col Gzowski, S J Vankoughnet, Stephen Richards Q C, and Meedames Wm McMaster, D L Macpherson, C S Gzowski, W Macdougall, Ryerson, Kenneth Mackenzie, C R W Biggar, Mowat, Gordon Brown, Cumberland, A McNabb, Miss Beatty, Miss Mowat, Miss Brown, Miss Frazer, Miss Bransford and others.

His Honour having taken his seat on the throne,

The SPEAKER-ELECT then spoke to the following effect:—

May it Please Your Honour:

The Legislative Assembly have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me and not to the Assembly whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, hereby humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from your Excellency the most favourable consideration.

Mr. WOOD, Provincial Secretary, then said—Mr Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the Assembly to Her Majesty's person and government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow, their Constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

THE SPEECH.

His Honour opened the session with the following speech:—

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

The melancholy event which occurred since the dissolution of the late House cannot but be in the memory of all on the present occasion, and I but give utterance to the common sentiment when I express profound regret that a more lengthened career of usefulness had not fallen to my esteemed predecessor. In consequence of his lamented death, the duty of discharging the high and responsible functions of Lieutenant Governor of my native Province has unexpectedly been imposed upon me. I hope so to discharge them as becomes a faithful constitutional Governor under the British system, which we have the happiness of possessing, and as may best promote the true interest of the country.

The reforms which have from time to time been made in the election laws of the Province resulted in that order and decorum at the late general and other elections which had been anticipated. In view of the ex-