

perience gained of the operation of these laws, it may be proper to consider whether some of them may not be so improved that, without foregoing or diminishing the advantages which they secure, you may free constituencies and candidates from some undue hardships to which occasionally they are now exposed. Bills with this object, and for the further improvement of the law as to voters' lists, will probably be submitted to you.

The system of voting by ballot being now in force with respect to all Parliamentary and Municipal Elections, a Bill will be laid before you for the extension of the system to by-laws requiring the assent of the rate-payers.

It is a matter for congratulation that, while so many countries are suffering from a depressed state of trade and other industries, our Province has been blessed with an abundant harvest, and has thereby been relieved to a considerable extent from an equally suffering condition. The Province having been comparatively free from the effects of over-speculation, I have every confidence that the period will not be long before the country will enter upon a fresh career of activity and prosperity.

You will probably think it right to consider with earnestness and caution how far it may be wise, and of general benefit for the Province, out of its accumulated funds to afford aid to projected railways which have not hitherto been assisted, or to supplement the aid already granted to any of the railways which are in progress. Your special attention will probably be invited to the question of the best mode and time of affording encouragement to railway enterprises which have for their object the opening up, settling, and improving the more remote areas of the Province.

It is satisfactory to know that the expenditure of the Province for the promotion of Immigration continues to bear good fruit; a large number of immigrants belonging to the classes most needed have settled in our Province during the past year, notwithstanding the inducements and temptations held out by other countries. I am glad also to have it in my power to state that the improved system which was adopted last year by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, has enabled the work to be carried on with increased efficiency as well as greater economy.

There will be submitted to you a considerable portion of the work performed by the Commissioners to whom was assigned the task of classifying and consolidating the Statute Law affecting Ontario. The Commissioners have, during the last year, been continuing their important labours, and in the course of their work they have had their attention called to desirable amendments in various Statutes. One or more Bills embodying their recommendations will probably be submitted to you for consideration.

The Chief Superintendent, who has ably managed the Educational Department for more than thirty years, being desirous of retiring from office, you will probably be called upon to consider whether the time has not arrived when the efficiency of the system would be promoted by placing the work of the Department in the hands of a responsible Minister of the Crown.

I have taken the opportunity, during the summer, of visiting most of the public institutions of the Province which are under Government management, and I have been much gratified by what I saw of their condition. One class of these—the Asylums for Lunatics and Idiots—have become insufficient for the accommodation of the unhappy persons for whom they are designed, and the number of whom is increasing as the population of the Province advances. I am sure that you will not hesitate to make such further provision for their keeping and treatment as may be necessary.

A measure will be submitted to you having for its object the securing of a complete system of vital statistics.

I invite your attention to the desirability of some legislation for making fuller provision than hitherto for the payment of witnesses on criminal prosecutions.

The question of the Eastern Boundary of Ontario has, so far as relates to Provincial action, been finally determined agreeably to the Act passed at the last Session of the Legislature. I regret that the other matters in difference between Ontario and Quebec remain unsettled. There has been correspondence on the subject, and the Quebec Government has intimated

its intention of uniting with us in taking up the matter vigorously after the prorogation of the Legislatures now in Session. Meanwhile we continue in the enjoyment of most of the assets assigned to this Province by the arbitrators, as well as of Quebec's share of the money realized since Confederation from the sales of school lands.

Since the dissolution of the last House, the question of the northerly and westerly boundaries of the Province has continued to receive the attention of the Government. Informal negotiations have taken place with respect to both a compromise line and the arbitration which the Legislature authorized, but no final result has been arrived at; meanwhile, steps have been taken for obtaining some additional evidence expected to be of value.

The accounts of the Province will be submitted to you without delay, and I have the satisfaction of assuring you that, notwithstanding drafts made on account of appropriations which preceding Legislatures authorized to be made out of our surplus in encouraging railways and for other Public Works, and after distributing three millions of dollars amongst the Municipalities, there yet remained on the 30th of September last a large aggregate amount of Provincial resources available in cash.

The estimates for the coming year have been prepared, and will be laid before you. The endeavour has been to frame them with a due regard to economy, and at the same time to consider and secure the efficiency of the public service.

In leaving you now to your deliberations, my prayer is that the Great Ruler of the Universe may so influence them that they may redound to your credit and may promote the welfare of the community.

His Honour, attended by Capt. Grant, A.D.C., then left the House.

The Speaker took the chair at 4:15 p. m.

ELECTION PETITIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the judges elected for the trial of election petitions pursuant to the Controverted Elections Acts of 1871 and 1874, certificates and reports relating to the elections for the electoral districts of the counties of Monck, Welland, Russell; the town of Cornwall, with the township of Cornwall thereto attached; the counties of Dundas, Halton, the North Riding of the county of Wellington; counties of Peel, Oxford, Essex, Peterboro', Wentworth, Victoria, Ontario, Grey, Peterboro', Northumberland.

Mr. SPEAKER also informed the House that the Clerk had received from the judges selected for the trial of election petitions, pursuant to the Controverted Elections Acts of 1871 and 1874, certificates and reports relating to the elections for East Toronto, the East Riding of the County of Simcoe, the West Riding of the County of Simcoe, West Toronto, the West Riding of the County of Hastings, the South Riding of the County of Grey, the City of London, and the County of Cardwell.

NEW ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that since the general election vacancies had occurred in the representation of South Simcoe, East Kent, and South Victoria; and that in conformity with the Act 32 Victoria, chapter 4, section 13, warrants had been issued to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to make out new writs for the election of members to serve in this present Parliament for the said Electoral Districts.

Mr. SPEAKER reported that to prevent mistakes he had obtained a copy of his Honour's speech.

BILL INTRODUCED.

On the motion of Mr. MOWAT, seconded by Mr. PARDEE, the following Bill was introduced and read the first time:—

“An Act to provide for the Administration of Oaths of Office to persons appointed as Justices of the Peace.”

THE SPEECH.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the speech of his Honour be taken into consideration to-morrow.

Mr. CAMERON observed that it was usual to supply hon. members with printed copies of the speech of his Honour before asking the House to consider it, so that they might be able to judge whether they would be prepared to consider it to-morrow as pro-