

FRIDAY, Nov. 26.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

THE ADDRESS.

On the order of the day for the consideration of his Honour's speech being called,

Mr. MOWAT said the resolutions were not yet distributed but would be in a short time.

Mr. CAMERON said in that case, and seeing that many members who desired to speak were absent, it might be well to postpone the debate until half past seven.

Mr. MOWAT said it would not do to lose time, and nothing would be lost by the gentlemen referred to, as the debate could hardly be expected to get through by six o'clock.

Mr. CAMERON said he only desired that the debate should not close without those gentlemen being here.

Mr. MOWAT said he would take care that it should not.

A delay of some duration ensued.

Mr. WIDDIFIELD, in moving the address in reply to the Lieut.-Governor's speech, said he trusted that the forbearance usually shown new members by the House would be extended to him. He supposed that of the members of the House he was not only the youngest in political and Parliamentary experience, but also the youngest in years, and in case these reasons might not be sufficient to claim the indulgence of the House, he intended to make his remarks as brief as possible so as not to exhaust its patience. He should avail himself of the earliest opportunities of mastering the rules and regulations that governed Parliamentary procedure, and he hoped to discharge the duties that belonged to the position he occupied in such a manner that when the time came for him to relegate his trust to the people he would have gained the esteem and good-will of hon. members on both sides of the House—irrespective of party or political bias. (Hear, hear.) He had accepted the responsibility of moving the address with pleasure, because he desired to avail himself of the earliest opportunity of expressing thus publicly his full and complete confidence in the hon. gentlemen who occupy the Treasury benches, and for the time held the destinies of the Province of Ontario in their hands, and more particularly to express his high opinion of the ability and patriotism of the hon. gentleman at the head of the Government. During the last ten years, with the exception of a brief period, that gentleman had taken an active part in public life, and there were few who had to so large an extent retained the esteem, the confidence, and the approbation of their fellow-countrymen. He thought that the legislation the Government had initiated during the past four years, though possessing some defects and requiring some amendments, was on the whole such as commended itself to the intelligence and approval of the country. In his own constituency of North York this feeling of confidence was so wide-spread, that though in the last Parliament it was represented by an opponent of the Government, yet at the last election no Opposition candidate ventured to present himself. He had been returned as a supporter of the Government, but he had reserved to himself the right of according them an intelligent and independent support. In making this statement, and defining his position, he desired to add that if the policy of the Government in the future continued in the direction it had progressed in the past, as the country expected it would, he would feel it his duty to make his support a hearty and a generous one. He believed, however, at the same time, that under our system of British Constitutional Government the functions of the Opposition—an able, vigilant, and well organized Opposition—were second only in importance to those of the Government. He should feel it his duty at all times to assist hon. gentlemen opposite in getting that fair play and justice essential to their office of criticism. They had come back to the House, after a contest, well prepared and ready to fulfil the duties that pertained to them. He sincerely trusted that they might long be permitted to fill their accustomed role in this respect. (Hear, hear.) In the few remarks he intended to make he did not propose to, take up the various paragraphs of the Speech, but