

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT---SECOND SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
Toronto, 3rd Jan., 1877.

The second session of the third Parliament of the Legislature of Ontario was opened yesterday by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, who left Government House at about 3 o'clock, escorted by the Governor-General's Body-guard. A company of the Tenth Royals formed a guard of honour at the Parliament Buildings, and the usual salute was fired by a battery of the Garrison Artillery.

Among those on the floor of the Chamber were Chief Justice Harrison, Chancellor Spragge, Mr Justice Patterson, Mr Justice Burton, Mr Justice Moss, Mr Justice Morrison, the Mayor of Toronto, the Archbishop of Toronto, the Very Rev Vicar-General Roorey, the Very Rev Principal Snodgrass, the Rev Dr Topp, the Rev D J Macdonnell, Rev Jas Smith, Rev Father Conway, Rev Father Morris, Rev Father Delaney, Hon David Christie, Hon Wm McMaster, Hon G W Allan, Judge Mackenzie, Judge Boyd, Mr B Homer Dixon, Sheriff McKellar, Dr J George Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education, and Mr Joseph Lussile. The Misses Macdonald were accommodated with seats near the chair. A large number of other ladies were present. The attendance of members was unusually small.

His Honour entered at seven minutes after three, attended by Col R L Denison, B M, Col Goodwin, Capt Grant, and Sheriff Jarvis. His Honour was then pleased to open the session with the following speech:—

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly.

I have much pleasure in welcoming you again to your annual duties in connection with the legislation and government of the Province.

I rejoice to have it in my power to announce that the learned Commissioners for the Consolidation of the Statutes have completed their important and laborious undertaking, and that the result is ready to be submitted to you. I hope that it will be found practicable to give to the people of the Province at your present session the benefit of this work, with such amendments in the existing laws as your wisdom may suggest or approve. Bills embodying various amendments which have the recommendation of the Commissioners will be laid before you.

A measure giving votes to the sons of farmers in certain cases will be submitted for your consideration. Also, a Bill for extending the Voters' Lists Act, with necessary modifications, to Municipal elections.

Further progress and improvement may be looked for in the great cause of education, now that it has reached another stage of development under the Act of last Session, which assigned the administration of educational affairs to a responsible Department. It is proposed to ask your assistance towards improving the qualifications of teachers, and in securing, to all the schools, teachers properly trained in the best method of teaching.

Reports will be laid before you as to the working of the law respecting the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors under the Act of last Session. It will be seen that the Act has already had a beneficial effect in diminishing the evils against which it was directed. A Bill will be offered for your consideration embodying some amendments which have been suggested by experience as calculated to advance the efficient working of the law.

An agreement has been arrived at with the Government of the Dominion for the purchase of the Rockwood Lunatic Asylum, subject to your approval and the approval of the Parliament of the Dominion. Should this agreement go into effect, the criminal lunatics now confined in this asylum will be removed, and room will thereby be obtained for other patients; but I regret to say that it seems that still further

provision must be made, at this session, for the accommodation of the insane, if our means of receiving and caring for these afflicted persons are to keep pace with the annual requirements which unhappily are to be anticipated.

I regret to find also that there is a necessity for increased accommodation for the blind and for deaf mutes. The propriety of an appropriation for additions to the existing establishment for the instruction of these unfortunate classes will therefore demand your humane consideration.

Notwithstanding the large sums hitherto applied in aid of important railway enterprises, urgent applications are made on behalf of some of the unfinished as well as of the other projected railways, for fresh grants. I commend to your prudent attention any of these applications which may be brought before you.

The safety of the Records in the Crown Lands Department being of great importance to the whole community, I invite you to consider whether there is any sufficient reason for further delay in erecting such a fire-proof building as may afford the needed security in future.

It is with satisfaction I note that, while the laborious and prudent character of our people has saved us from much of the depression which still prevails in so many countries, their energy and intelligence are opening up new markets for the produce of the Province.

I rejoice to be able from a personal visit to give my testimony to the success which attended the exhibition of Canadian resources at Philadelphia. Too much credit cannot be given to the great zeal and the intelligent efforts which were displayed in every department by the people of Ontario, and which largely contributed to Canada's gaining a proud position in its rivalry with older and larger communities.

Since the last Session the differences between Ontario and Quebec have continued to receive the attention of my Government. Besides some correspondence on the subject, members of my Government met at Ottawa, by appointment, a Committee of the Government of Quebec; and, after discussion, a course of action, to obtain without further loss of time an authoritative decision as to the award of 1870, was mutually arranged; such a decision being found to be essential to either an acceptance of the award, or any settlement of the important matters embraced in it.

For the determination of the Provincial Boundaries by the agreed method of an arbitration, the appointment of a new arbitrator on behalf of the Province recently became necessary; the distinguished judge who was to occupy that position having requested to be relieved from it. Meanwhile, a provisional line had been mutually determined upon, in terms of the resolution of the Legislative Assembly at a former session; a considerable amount of additional materials for the ascertainment of the ultimate boundaries had been collected; a new and an exhaustive statement of the case of Ontario had been prepared; and a considerable part of the documentary and other evidence affecting the questions at issue had been printed. Almost everything is now ready for the final decision, within a few months, by able and competent referees, of questions which for two centuries have given occasion to keen controversy, and often to fierce conflicts, between the nations, as well as the great public bodies, who have from time to time claimed portions of the disputed territory.

I have given directions that the public accounts for 1876 shall be laid before you.

The estimates for the various branches of the public service for the present year have been prepared, and will be submitted to you. You will find that they have been framed with every regard to economy as well as efficiency.

I trust that your deliberations will receive the Divine blessing, and will result in advancing the prosperity and happiness of all classes of the people.

His Honour then left the Chamber.

After some interval,

The Speaker took the chair.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received the return of the judges appointed to try the controverted election for the county of Prince Edward.

SOUTH WELLINGTON.

Mr. SPEAKER also informed the House