

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

THIRD PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
January 20.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.  
Prayers were read by Rev. Father Bergen.

## PETITIONS.

The following petitions were presented:—

By Mr. Morris—From the City Council of Toronto, for an Act to enable them to sell or lease certain lands, and for amendments to the Municipal, Assessment, and School Acts.

Also—From the same, for an Act to re-consolidate the city debt.

By Mr. Bell—From Angus Morrison and others, for an Act to incorporate the Industrial Exhibition Association of Toronto.

Also—From the trustees of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, for an Act to consolidate their debt.

By Mr. Sinclair—From J. O. McEwen and others, of Tiverton, for an Act to confirm a certain by-law relating to the village of Tiverton.

Also—From Joseph Jeffrey and others, of London, for an Act to extend the time for the completion of the London Junction Railway.

By Mr. Scott—From the Town Council of Peterborough, for an Act to vest certain lands in the town and county of Peterborough.

By Mr. Grant—From John Daly and others, of Clifton, for an Act so incorporate the village of the Falls of Niagara.

By Mr. Boulter—From John Clarke and others, of Milbridge, that pine timber may be assured to settlers.

By Mr. Wood—From M. Boyd and others, of Harvey, for an Act to detach certain lands from Harvey, and to annex the same to Verulam.

Also—From the Whitby and Bobcaygeon Extension Railway Company, for an Act to amend their Act of incorporation.

Also—From Adelaide Macaulay, of Lindsay, for an Act to empower the trustees under a certain deed of trust to sell the land therein mentioned.

By Mr. Ferris—From the Village Council of Hastings, praying for amendments to the municipal law.

Also—The petition of Allan Gillmour and others, praying for an Act to empower them to maintain certain dams.

By Mr. Meredith—The petition of E. Brophy and others, of Brantford, praying that an Act may pass to empower them to construct a street railway in the city of Brantford and county of Brant.

## CORRECTION.

Mr. MILLER desired to correct an error in the report of his speech in the newspapers. He had not stated that the hon. member for East Toronto had ever acted with the Reform party, as the contrary was the case. What he did say was that the hon. gentleman's uncle was connected with that party, and that his father had worked with it in the secularization of the Clergy Reserves.

## THE ADDRESS.

Mr. GIBSON, resuming the debate, said the objections urged by the Opposition, like the addresses themselves, were of the usual stereotyped character; but he thought, on the whole, the Government had done well. The statements with reference to the depression in trade were undoubtedly true. One gentleman had said that no country would be great unless it was a manufacturing country. But we could not manufacture if nature denied us the materials. No country could be a great manufacturing country unless it had coal and iron in close proximity, plenty of capital, and a suitable climate. If we had none of these things we could not help it. He expressed satisfaction with the extension of the trade in agricultural products, remarking that hon. gentlemen might talk about the farmers now as they pleased, but when the time of voting came the same gentlemen would call the farmers the backbone and sinew of the

country. (Hear, hear.) He gave the Government credit for the settlement of the Provincial award question. With respect to education, he advocated the placing of a check in the hands of Municipal Councils upon the expenditure of School Boards. The tax exemption question was referred to by one or two hon. gentlemen opposite as an old question, but nothing was heard of it in the country. It was solely a city question, and the agitation with regard to it was owing to the extravagant expenditure in cities and towns. Of the debt of the city of Toronto, amounting to about six millions, about four millions was expended on bonuses to railways and the water-works, and should Provincial and Dominion property be taxed for the building of railways throughout the Province which the people could build for themselves? He thought that if charters were given to the cities with a few limitations, that would be the means of correcting the difficulty. He was glad an additional amount was to be set apart for drainage purposes, and he thought it would be well for provision to be made for drainage with other material besides tile. He next alluded to the question of the surplus, pointing out the inconsistency of hon. gentlemen opposite in the way they had dealt with it. Whatever our surplus might be, our financial condition was different from that of the Province of Quebec, where the Joly Government found a debt of thirteen or fourteen million dollars, built up by the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the motion of the hon. member for South Simcoe, he thought he could perceive the voice of Jacob behind the hand of Esau. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) There must have been something like mutiny in the ranks when the hon. member for London was obliged to strike a tragic attitude the other night, and turn to his friends saying, "Stand by me or I die." (Cheers and laughter.) He believed this was not a movement of the rank and file, but emanated from the leaders themselves. It was a very unfair motion. He had always taken the stand that one side was responsible for the increase in the indemnity as well as the other, and he was perfectly willing to share the blame for it, if there was any. The compact among the members was still in force. What was the history of the matter? The first attempt to make political capital out of it was made by the organ of the hon. member for London.

Mr. MEREDITH—I have no organ.

Mr. GIBSON said it was the organ of the Conservative party in London, and the hon. member for London should have vetoed such a publication, which every member of this House knew to be thoroughly untrue. (Hear, hear.) Instead of that, however, it was allowed to be copied into the *Mail* without any attempt at correction. The hon. member for London, moreover, had, at a meeting in his own city, taken the position that the indemnity should be reduced, and that he would move the motion for the reduction. He (Mr. Gibson) would not be the man to take such a stand if he had written the letter that was read in the House the other night. If Mr. Cameron had been still in his place in the House, they would have been spared the sorry spectacle of members debating for six days over their own indemnity.

Mr. LAUDER—Why do you speak about it then?

Mr. GIBSON said that the topic had been one of general discussion, and he had as much right to discuss it as the hon. member for East Grey. (Hear, hear.) In 1877 Mr. Crooks brought down a motion in Committee to have the indemnity reduced, and the result of the vote was to keep it at the same figure. Who was it that gave the *Mail* the names of those who had voted, and the way in which they had voted? If it were a member on that side of the House, let hon. gentlemen opposite name him. (Hear, hear.) Dying testimonies and death-bed confessions were always suspicious. He would relate a little story for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite. A poor negro in his last moments was asked by the clergyman whether he had forgiven one who had done him a grievous injury. The negro replied, "If I die, I do; if I live, let that nigger take care." (Laughter.) In regard to the duration of Parliament, he was perfectly willing to leave the constitutional aspect of the question to the Attorney-General and the hon. member for Stormont.