

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

FIFTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

THURSDAY, Feb. 7th.

The Speaker took the chair at three o'clock.

PETITIONS.

Mr. BADGEROW—Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church of Canada, for an Act of Incorporation.

Mr. SILLS—Messrs. Gilmour & Co., of Trenton, to pass an Act to legalize a certain by-law in their favour.

Mr. FERRIS—Township Council of Draper, to incorporate Midland Junction Railway.

Mr. DRYDEN—J. T. Burke *et al.*, of Gravenhurst, for the same purpose.

Mr. MOWAT—Wm. Feurter *et al.*, of North Oxford, that a writ may issue to fill the seat of the Hon. Adam Crooks in Oxford.

Mr. CLARKE—His Grace Archbishop Lynch and others, of Toronto, that a Committee of the House be appointed with a view to receive evidence on the subject of the prevailing modes of treating disease, and the working of the Acts relating thereto.

Mr. FRENCH—Town of Prescott, for a return of correspondence in regard to the appointment of the Police Magistrate of Prescott.

Mr. DRURY—Agricultural and Arts Association, for amendments to the Canada Thistle Act.

Mr. McMAHON—County Council of Wentworth, for extension of franchise to women.

Mr. GOULD—Village of Port Perry, for amendments to the Municipal Act.

Mr. NEELON—City of St. Catharines, for amendments to Municipal Act respecting appointment of police officers.

CHANGES IN THE CABINET.

Mr. MOWAT said that in accordance with a promise to the hon. gentlemen opposite he would make a statement to the House showing the principles upon which the Government as newly constituted would be carried on. This information had already been obtained from speeches of the hon. members who were now his colleagues for the first time, and from their addresses to their constituents. There had been various other elections in which these hon. members had taken part, at some of which they had been met by hon. gentlemen opposite, and in this way all public questions had become thoroughly known. With regard to the principles on which the Government was to be conducted in the future, he had only to say that the Government as now constituted was of the same policy as the Government of this Province during the last twelve years. (Applause.) They purposed to continue their policy and give the country the very best possible laws—(Hear, hear),—the very best possible administration of public affairs, and make the best possible use of public moneys in the public interest. (Hear, hear.) The Government would continue to do their best to maintain the rights of the Province wherever these rights were attacked, and procure as liberal a construction of the British North America Act as was possible to procure, more particularly on questions which might arise involving the rights of the Province. Their policy would be to use every means to secure the territorial rights of the Province. They had had the confidence of the Province during the last twelve years in their policy, and he hoped they would have that confidence for the future. With reference to the length of time during which the present Government had held power under his leadership, he showed the House how different had been the experience of other colonies. It would be interesting to the House to be reminded of one or two facts in connection with them. In South Australia from 1856 to 1876 there were no less than twenty-one successive administrations, and the average duration of each administration appeared to have been a little more than one year. In New Zealand there were seventy administrations from 1855 to 1876. In 1873 there were five distinct administrations in that colony. In Victoria there had been eighteen administrations from 1855 to 1877. In Tasmania there were twelve successive administrations in twenty-one years. In New South Wales from 1856 to 1877 there were seven administrations.

Mr. MORRIS asked how it was with old Canada and the Dominion.

Mr. MOWAT had no doubt but there were changes. With regard to the Treasurership, Mr. Wood had announced last session his intention of not continuing political life. There had been two appointments to that office. The first was that of his hon. friend Mr. Young, who in consequence of ill health was obliged to resign the office, when the hon. member for South Huron, the present Treasurer, was appointed. The House was well acquainted with both these gentlemen. They knew they were just the gentlemen for the office, and they all knew their ability to state to the House the views which they might entertain on various questions connected with the department which they would be called upon from time to

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. White—On Friday next—Order of the House for a return of all correspondence, lease, and papers connected with the leasing of a part of Rondeau Point to the Messieurs Weldon.

Also—On Friday next—Bill to amend "An Act respecting short forms of mortgages."

Mr. Morris—On Friday next—Resolution that the adoption of such a change in the financial year as will enable a complete statement of expenditure, carried down to as late a date as may be practicable, to be submitted early in each session, is in the highest degree desirable, and would, moreover, enable the public accounts to be properly examined and investigated by the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. Gibson (Hamilton)—On Friday next—Enquiry of Ministry, whether it is the intention of the Government to amend the "Married Woman's Property Act" in the direction of extending the liability of married women in their contracts.

Mr. Chisholm—On Friday next—Bill to amend the Municipal Act.