

highest judicial tribunal in the Empire.

I read with satisfaction your bill for the further improvement of the election laws. As the main object of the bill is to secure the purity of the franchise and the unbiassed expression of public opinion, I trust the effect of the provisions which you have adopted will be to lessen, if not exclude, those corrupt practices which the existing laws had failed to prevent and which the Election Courts have disclosed.

I heartily accede to your request for the issuing of a Commission of Enquiry into the nature and extent of recent attempts which you discovered to have been made, but happily without success, to corrupt the integrity of members of this Legislative Assembly.

The Act for the Preservation of the Public Health will do much, I trust, to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, as well as to mitigate the sufferings of many who, from poverty or indifference, disregard obvious sanitary precautions.

By the Act relating to Factories, additional security will be given to a large class of our population engaged in industrial pursuits. The regulations adopted for their personal safety, and for the protection of their morals and their health, will, I trust, not only lighten their burdens, but also sweeten their labours, and promote their happiness. I rejoice no less at the wisdom of the provisions of the Act than at the generous motive by which you were actuated in framing them.

By the confirmation of Provincial jurisdiction over the liquor traffic, to which I referred at the opening of the House, the way was laid for further legislation on the subject; and I was glad to find that by the bill to which I have assented, you have done all that seems at present practicable for further mitigating the evils of intemperance by imposing greater restrictions on the sale of liquor, and severer penalties for the violation of our license laws.

The proposal to spread over a longer period of years the payment of the money heretofore voted in aid of railways has my hearty approval. By this means the funds of the Province are less heavily taxed, and our resources are preserved for the other wants of the Province.

The amendments made to the School Laws, and the University Act will tend, I trust, to the advancement of education.

The measures which you have adopted to save farmers, fruit-growers, and others from injury, by checking the spread of noxious weeds, and of diseases affecting fruit trees, and for preventing the spread of contagious diseases among horses and other domestic animals, will, I trust, be effective for securing these objects, so important to the community, and of such special interest to our agricultural population.

I have given my hearty assent to the various measures which you have passed for further securing the administration of justice, and the perfecting of our municipal and other laws. Your private bill legislation has been varied and important.

I thank you for the liberality which you have displayed in making the necessary appropriations for the public service, and I assure you that the supplies you have voted will be expended as economically as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

In bringing to a close this first session of a new Parliament, I cheerfully bear testimony to its high capacity for the discharge of its arduous legislative duties, and to its zeal in guarding its important privileges as a legislative body.

The Provincial Secretary then said:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

It is His Honour's will and pleasure that this Legislative Assembly be prorogued; and this Legislative Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

THE LOCAL SESSION.

The business of the Local House is practically over, as almost all which remains to be done is connected with the formalities of prorogation.

The work of the Session has not been very varied, important, and interesting; and such as it was, it has been entirely overshadowed by and all but lost sight of in the startling occurrences with which that Session has closed, and which will make the St. Patrick's Day of '84 memorable in the history, not only of Ontario, but of the whole Dominion.

The improvements introduced in the Crooks Act have all been in the direction of increased stringency in the regulation of the liquor traffic. The license fee has been considerably raised, while the penalties for selling to minors and confirmed drunkards have been made greatly more stringent. The total separation also of the grocery business from that in intoxicating liquors has been made statutory, so that it will after a fairly lengthened period be illegal all over the Province to combine such occupations. The provision in the Municipal Act to give widows and unmarried women who have property the same right to vote as men is also right and reasonable.

The Streams Bill was re-enacted, as it ought to be. More stringent regulations were passed for the prevention and punishment of corruption in electoral contests. The great thing, however, for which this Session will be remarkable, as we have said, is the systematic and persistent endeavour which has been made for months to buy up certain members of the House, and in this way to turn out the MOWAT Ministry. Enough is already known of the conspiracy to make it evident that it was one of the most unprincipled and unblushing attempts to secure political power which ever was attempted in any age or country, among English-speaking people at least. The more the enquiry is pressed, and the fuller the details which are given, the more it is evident that honour and honesty were thrown to the winds by those engaged in the work, and that there was no lie too gross, no corruption too offensive, and no trickery too base for the conscience or the honour both of the moving spirits and the willing tools in the nefarious enterprise. We have from day to day kept our readers fully abreast of every varying feature and every noticeable infamy in the whole transaction. The subordinates have as yet chiefly come to the front. When the Royal Commission has been fully organized and put into working order, as it speedily will be, we should hope that those who have pulled the strings, as well as those who have acted more or less as marionettes, will be fully brought into the sunlight, and characterized and punished as they deserve.