

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

## Opening of the Second Session of the Fifth Parliament.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

#### Unusual Interest Manifested on the Occasion.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

The second session of the Fifth Parliament of Ontario was opened yesterday afternoon amid the pomp and ceremony which usually accompany the occasion. Shortly before three o'clock a detachment of the Queen's Own Rifles, numbering one hundred men, under command of Captain MacDonald, and Lieutenants Anderson and Gunther, drew up in front of the Parliament Buildings as a guard of honour. On the arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the detachment presented arms, and the band played "God Save the Queen." The right half of the Toronto Field Battery occupied a position on Wellington-street, and signaled the event by firing a royal salute. This corps was commanded by Capt. Mead. As usual a mounted escort of twenty men was formed in the Governor-General's Body Guard, who were commanded by Major Dunn. The afternoon being pleasant, a large number of people lined the sidewalks and crowded about the Parliament Buildings during the progress of the ceremonies.

#### THE HOUSE.

The scene in the House was of the usual gay character, and it is possible the crowd was greater than on the last occasion. As early as two o'clock the spectators commenced to fill the galleries, and by the arrival of the Governor the House was filled in every part. Among those present were:—

The Hon. O. Mowat, A. M. Ross, G. W. Ross, A. S. Hardy, T. B. Pardee, Justices Rose, Patterson, Hagarty, and Burton, Mayor Manning, J. E. Kerr, Q. C., Sheriff Jarvis, Hon. R. M. Wells, M.P., Provost Body, D. M. Cameron, M.P., Bishop Sweetman, Mrs. Sweetman, E. Bendelari, Italian Consul, E. J. Musson, Consul for Hayti, H. W. Darling, President Board of Trade, James Innes, M.P., Mrs. Innes, Vice-General Laurent, Bishop O'Mahoney, Mrs. Lieutenant-Governor Robinson, Mrs. O. Mowat, Baron Von Heimrod, German Consul; J. J. Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education; Rev. Dr. Dewart, Speaker Clarke, M.P.P., and Mrs. Clarke, Col. Denison, Capt. Geddes, A.D.C.; Major Smith, Infantry School Corps; Col. Denison, D.A.G.; Col. Milson, B.M.; Lieut. Sears, Infantry School Corps; Mrs. Ermatinger, Miss Morris, James Beaty, Miss Beaty, Mrs. C. R. W. Biggar, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. A. M. Ross and Miss Ross, John Hallam, Mrs. Neelon, A. Nairn, Mrs. Nairn, George E. Casey, M.P., Principal Buchan, Rev. A. Wilson, Mrs. E. Todd, Mr. A. T. Todd, Miss Ida Perry, Miss Palmer, Toronto; Miss Palmer, Detroit; Mrs. Van Leek, New York; Miss Massey.

#### THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

His Honour entered the Chamber, accompanied by his A.D.C., and proceeded to open the session with the following speech from the Throne:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

It is with much pleasure that I meet you again as a legislative Assembly for the discharge of those important duties which devolve upon you under our Constitution.

In pursuance of the agreement between this Province and the Province of Manitoba, which last session received your approval, the question of our Provincial Boundaries has been submitted to the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council. I am happy to have it in my power to congratulate you that, so far as their Lordships dealt with the question, they have adjudged our true boundaries to be those which were awarded by the Arbitrators, and have ever since been insisted on by this Province in opposition to the Dominion authorities and to the claim of Manitoba.

My Government was anxious that there should be submitted at the same time to the same tribunal the question of our whole northern boundary, and also the question of title to certain lands to which the Federal Government has set up a claim on other grounds. The correspondence on these subjects, and some other correspondence which has taken place on matters affecting the territory, will be laid before you.

#### A NEW DISTRICT.

After the decision of the Privy Council, I issued a proclamation bringing into force the Act passed at your last session for establishing the provisional district of Thunder Bay. By another proclamation, authorized by the same

statute, the part of the Province which lies west of the international line from Interiors Island, has been divided into territorial districts under the name of "The Territory of the District of Rainy River." Legislation will now be necessary for the more effectual administration of justice, and the establishment of Registry and surrogate offices, in this territory; and a Bill for those purposes will be submitted for your consideration. I commend to your attention also, the propriety of encouraging settlers and settlement by free grants in specified portions of the territory.

#### THE STREAMS BILL.

I have to congratulate you that since your last session Her Majesty's Privy Council has pronounced a judgment in regard to the legal rights of the public in the rivers and streams of the Province, affirming the views so strenuously maintained by the Provincial Legislature.

#### THE LICENSE ACTS.

I have to express my satisfaction that the questions submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada touching the validity of the License Acts passed by the Federal Parliament, in 1883 and 1884, have been answered by the Supreme Court to the effect, that (with certain inconsiderable exceptions) these enactments exceeded the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament. The confusion which those Acts created has thus been removed.

#### A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.

The Province has been favoured with a bountiful harvest of farm products, and the official returns of the Department of Agriculture again show that in staple cereals the average yield is larger than obtains in any other section of country of equal area on the continent. It is, however, a matter for serious regret that, owing to the low market prices which have prevailed for some time, the full commercial benefit of the harvest has not been realized to any such extent as in former years.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE.

It is to be regretted also that the lumber trade of the Province, from which a large portion of our revenue is derived, has not escaped the depression which has affected other industries here and elsewhere during the past year; but our lumber producers will participate in any improvement occurring in the trade of Great Britain and the United States which are the principal markets for the products of our forests.

#### THE FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The work of agricultural education and experiment at the Agricultural College and Model Farm continues to be carried on with success. The Professors of the college, in addition to their ordinary work, have conducted institutes in different parts of the Province for the purpose of discussing with our farmers improved methods of agriculture and other matters of special importance to the farming community. These institutes have excited much interest, have been largely attended, and appear likely to prove of considerable service to the great industry for the benefit of which they were devised.

#### EMIGRATION.

The number of immigrants who settled in the Province during the past year is not so large as in the preceding year, but I am glad to say that they have on the whole been of a somewhat better class, and have been better fitted to earn a livelihood for themselves than many who came to the Province in the previous year. Owing to the present abundance of labour and scarcity of employment in all parts of the Province, you will be asked to appropriate for the purposes of settling immigrants a sum considerably less than the expenditure in recent years. You will be glad to learn that, notwithstanding the inducements offered by other sections of the Dominion, the volume of immigration into the newer portions of the Province has been large, and has considerably exceeded that of the preceding year.

#### INCREASED ACCOMMODATION FOR THE INSANE.

Notwithstanding the increased accommodation which has been provided for the insane during the past few years, it is my duty to inform you that a further expenditure for a similar purpose is again necessary. Additional buildings at Orillia for the idiotic are also required, the present buildings being insufficient for the proper care and custody of those now in confinement, but there being also numerous applications for admission, which for want of room it has been impossible to comply with.

The important subject of the extension of the franchise will, I trust, receive your careful attention.

#### EDUCATIONAL MATTERS.

Owing to the changes made in the Acts respecting Public, High, and Separate Schools since the consolidated Acts of 1878, it is desirable that another revision should be made. Bills for this purpose will be submitted, containing amendments, which, I trust, will simplify the law, and at the same time extend still further the advantages of the system of education which has contributed so much to the intellectual life and vigour of our people. The subject of Higher Education has received special attention from my Government during the recess, and considerable progress has been made towards a federation of the Universities of the Province, from which valuable results may be expected.

#### NEW LEGISLATION.

Among other measures in preparation for your consideration are: a Bill for extending the jurisdiction of the county courts; a Bill for further promoting the efficiency of the administration of justice in the province; and a Bill for simplifying and titles transfers of real estate in certain cases.

#### THE BRIBERY COMMISSION.

The judges appointed under the act of last session to enquire into certain attempts to corrupt members of the Legislative Assembly, have made their report, which with the evidence I will cause to be submitted for your information.

#### REPORTS, ESTIMATES, ETC.

The reports, also, of the various departments of the public service for the past year will be laid before you.

The estimates for the current year have been prepared with a view to economy and efficiency having regard in every case to the many objects of public interest which it is desirable to aid and foster.

I feel assured that you will devote yourselves with earnestness and assiduity to the consideration of the subjects which I have mentioned, and to all other matters affecting the public interests.

#### THE SPEAKER'S REPORT.

After the floor of the Chamber had been cleared of visitors the Speaker announced that he had received the reports of the Judges in East Simcoe, East Middlesex, Muskoka and Parry Sound, Cardwell, West Middlesex, and South Renfrew.

#### NEW WRITS, &c.

The SPEAKER reported that he had caused new writs to be issued for Muskoka and Parry Sound, and South Renfrew, a notification of a vacancy in Lennox, and the certificates of election of J. W. Dill for Muskoka and Parry Sound and G. D. Hawley for Lennox.

#### THE NEW MEMBER.

At this stage Mr. J. W. Dill was introduced to the Speaker by Mr. T. B. Pardee and Mr. G. W. Ross. He was received and took his seat amid applause.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS.

Mr. MOWAT moved the first reading of the Bill for the Administration of Oaths of Office to Justices of the Peace. Carried.

#### TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

Mr. MOWAT moved that the Speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor be taken into consideration to-morrow. Carried.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. MOWAT—I have another motion to make which I am sure will be received with great pleasure by both sides of the House when I announce that our friend Dr. Dowling has been elected by a majority of 701. (Cheers.) I move that Select Standing Committees be appointed for the following purposes—Privileges and Elections, Miscellaneous, Private Bills, Standing Orders, Public Accounts, Printing, and Municipal Laws. Carried.

#### THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The SPEAKER presented the Report of the Librarian.

The House adjourned at 4:05.

# ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

## Fifth Parliament—Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

Thursday, Jan. 29.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

#### DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

Mr. AWREY rose amid loud and prolonged cheers to move the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. He said:—In rising to move that a humble address be presented to His Honour the Lieut.-Governor in reply to the Speech from the Throne I do so with mingled feelings of regret and pleasure. Regret that the task has not been placed in abler hands, and pleasure on account of the peculiar circumstances under which we meet. Session after session this Legislature has met and remonstrated against the encroachments of the Federal Parliament upon the rights and privileges of this Province. This session we can make the claim and make the boast that victory has been inscribed upon the banners of Provincial rights. (Applause.) In the Speech from the Throne we are called upon to congratulate ourselves upon the fact that the vexed question of the Boundary, so far as referred to the Privy Council, has been settled. It is unnecessary for me to refer at length to the different phases of this question. You know that session after session we have remonstrated against the efforts of the Federal Parliament to deprive us of the advantages of the award of the arbitrators, and the opposition joined with the Liberal party