

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Opening of the Third Session of the Fifth Parliament.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

A Large Gathering and Unusual Interest Manifested.

January 28 / 1886
(By Our Own Reporters.)

The third session of the Fifth Parliament of Ontario was opened with the usual ceremonies yesterday. A guard of honour from "C" School of Infantry, with a band, was drawn up in the front of the buildings, while at the rear two guns, under the command of Captain Mead, stood ready for service. At three o'clock the helmets of the Gov.-General's Body Guard under Capt. Denison, forming the escort for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, appeared. The guns blazed away a salute, and as the Lieutenant-Governor passed in front of the guard of honour they presented arms, while the band played the National Anthem. The chamber was crowded to the doors, and it was remarked that the gathering was larger than had been seen for many years. Among those on the floor of the House were Mrs J B Robinson, Misses Robinson, Col Denison, D A G, Col Gzowski, A D C to the Queen; Col Millson, Brigade-Major; Col Otter, Lt Seyres, Capt Geddes A D C to the Lieut-Governor; C Bendelari, Italian Consul; George Musson, Consul for Sandwich Islands; B Homer Dixon, Consul for the Netherlands; Hon Alex Mackenzie, Mrs Mowat, Mrs A M Ross, Archbishop Lynch, Bishop Sweatman, Mrs. Sweatman, Mayor Howland, Mrs. Howland, Mrs. Col. Gzowski, C S Gzowski, Jr., and Mrs. Gzowski, Hon. Edward Blake and Mrs. Blake, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev T. W Joliffe, Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. E H Dewart, C J Campbell, H W Darling, John Hallam, Sheriff Jarvis and Mrs Jarvis, Dr. Cassidy, Dr. Oldright, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Burton, Dr. Bryce and Mrs. Bryce, James Innes, M.P., and Mrs. Innes, Mrs. Moss, widow of the late Chief Justice Moss, J L Morrison, Mrs J K Macdonald, Mrs. Thomas Hodgins, Mrs. Bendelari, J K Kerr, Q.C. and Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. James Macleannan, Mrs. W Mortimer Clark, the Misses Gzowski, Mrs and Miss Grant, Mrs. Hugh McMahon, Mrs. G W Badgerow, Mrs. Stephen Richards, George McMurrich, Wm Ryan, Mrs Wm Ryan, Mrs Chadd, Miss Carrol, Mrs Rooney, Mr and Mrs R B Linton, Rev A J Broughall, Miss A Freeman, Miss G Freeman, Miss Belle Freeman, Mrs Notman, Mrs Ivering, Miss Monk, Rev H A Broughall, Ald Davis, Mrs Hess, Mrs Gibbons, Miss Evelyn Morris, St Louis, Mo; Mr V Cronyn and Mrs Cronyn, London; Mrs J M Gibson, Hamilton; W H Bartram, London; Miss Grey, London.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

His Honour entered the Chamber accompanied by Capt. Geddes, A.D.C., and proceeded to read the Speech from the Throne, of which the following is a report:—

MR. SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY:—

It is once more my agreeable duty to convene you for the discharge of the high public functions devolving upon this House; for your annual review of Provincial administration; for such measures in legislation as may keep pace with the rapid progress of this great Province; and for providing the supplies necessary to administer the Government and give effect to your enactments.

THE REBELLION.

Immediately after the rising of the House last year, the attention of our people was anxiously drawn to the North-west Territory by most unhappy occurrences. That vast territory, like the intervening Province of Manitoba, is allied to Ontario by the closest ties of affection and kindred. Many of the pioneers in those distant settlements are the sons of your constituents, or lately were themselves your constituents, and their hardships and dangers touch very directly the hearts and homes of Ontario. When the Volunteers were called out to restore order, it was gratifying to observe the spirit in which our Ontario youth answered the summons, and undertook what in every civil strife must needs be a most painful duty. While sincerely deploring the necessity for their services, we all felt a natural and just pride in our citizen soldiers as we witnessed their patient endurance on the march, and

their unflinching courage in action. When tranquillity was restored, it was again gratifying to observe the alacrity with which they returned to their civil duties, and resumed the avocations of peaceful industry.

ONTARIO'S PROGRESS.

I am rejoiced to see by the official statistics that Ontario continues to maintain the lead of all Provinces and States on the continent in agricultural industry. The field crops of the past year have, with two or three exceptions, been very bountiful; though low prices and a wide-spread disease in the potato have not permitted our farmers to realize the usual profits of some former years. I notice with pleasure that the increased attention which is given to mixed farming, as well as to live stock and to dairy products, has widened the basis of our agricultural prosperity, and greatly limited the injury arising from the failure of a single crop or a single branch of this most important of the occupations of our people.

FARMERS INSTITUTES.

The recent organization of Farmers' Institutes by the Commissioner of Agriculture has furnished most important agencies for the exchange of valuable experience, and for the diffusion of scientific principles and methods among our whole farming community. These Institutes have been largely attended and highly appreciated; the professors of the Agricultural College have personally interested themselves in the proceedings, and have established between College and Institutes cordial relations of the greatest mutual advantage. In order to secure the permanent affiliation of practical husbandry with scientific research, a measure will be submitted for the formation of an advisory board of farmers whom the Commissioner may consult in the management of the College and Experimental Farm.

LICENSING JURISDICTION.

I congratulate you upon the result of the appeal taken to the Imperial Privy Council by the Government of Canada, respecting the Dominion Liquor License Acts. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have declared these Acts to be wholly null and void. Thus their Lordships have not only sustained the Provincial jurisdiction to the extent adjudged by the Supreme Court of Canada, but have sustained the full contention of Ontario, and have declared the entire subject of tavern, shop, vessel and wholesale licenses to belong exclusively to Provincial jurisdiction.

TIMBER GRABBING.

Notwithstanding the decision of Her Majesty in Council in 1884 determining in favour of the Province the long-pending dispute respecting our westerly boundary, the settlement of the territory (now called the Rainy River District) and the development of its resources, have been further delayed by a claim, recently set up, that all the Crown Lands in this territory belong to the Dominion as Indian Lands, though in the case of every other Province all lands similarly situated are admitted to belong to the Province within which they lie. The Dominion Government having covered large tracts of the awarded territory with licenses to cut the timber, my Government, to preserve the Provincial domain from further waste, applied for and obtained an injunction against some of the licensees, the effect of which has been to deter, so far as known, all Dominion licensees and other trespassers from further operations in the territory. The Court granting the injunction decided that in Ontario, as in all the older Provinces, the title to such lands lies, not in the Dominion, but in the Provinces. An appeal from this decision is still pending. A measure will be submitted to you for the opening and settling of the lands of the Rainy River District, to take effect as soon as the claim of the Dominion Government has been abandoned or set at rest by the tribunal of last resort.

DOMINION ACCOUNTS.

I regret that notwithstanding the earnest efforts of my Government no progress has been made towards a settlement of accounts between Ontario, the Dominion, and the Province of Quebec. In view of this further delay, and of the apparent uncertainty as to the time when a settlement may be arrived at, my Government deem it inadvisable to any longer postpone paying to the municipalities entitled the interest on the Land Improvement Fund derived from the sale of school lands prior to Confederation, the principal, though not yet received, having been advanced by the Province to the Municipalities in 1832. Provision for this purpose will be made in the estimates.

SETTLEMENT OF NEW DISTRICTS.

The early settlement of lands recently made accessible by railroads and highways continues to receive the earnest encouragement of my Government. The past year witnessed a partial revival of the mining in-