

dust, and our valuable deposits of minerals and metals are again attracting attention.

TIMBER SALES.

I congratulate you upon the liberal bonuses received at the timber sale, deemed necessary last fall, of a limited area of scattered and exposed limits upon the north shore of the Georgian Bay.

SMALLPOX AND BOARD OF HEALTH.

An unusually severe visitation of small-pox in the commercial metropolis of the adjoining Province excited much sympathy with our afflicted neighbours. The virulent character of the epidemic occasioned my Government the most anxious and watchful solicitude on account of our close business relations and constant intercourse with that city. Prompt and energetic measures were taken through our Provincial Board of Health to maintain a vigilant quarantine on the frontier, and to insist on the examination and vaccination of passengers, and the disinfecting of railway carriages and merchandise. Local Boards rendered effective service as well in enforcing general vaccination among our own people as by other precautionary measures. In devising and carrying into effect the preventive measures necessary, the enlarged powers conferred last session by the Public Health Act were of eminent service. The result of the vigorous action taken has been that nowhere within our limits did the epidemic obtain any dangerous foothold, and that our towns and villages generally have enjoyed complete immunity from the dread disease.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTES.

During the recess I issued a Commission for the consolidation of the Provincial Statutes now again dispersed through many volumes. Substantial progress has been made in this important work, and it is hoped that a report by the Commissioners may be ready for submission to the House during the present session. Bills will be laid before you embodying improvements in the law recommended by the Commissioners or suggested in their discussions.

NEW MEASURES.

Other measures are to be submitted for your consideration: including a Bill for the auditing of the public accounts for the Province, a Bill for increasing the usefulness and efficiency of Mechanics' Institutes, a Bill for the amendment of the law relating to the estates of deceased persons, a Bill respecting the liability of employers for injuries suffered by their workmen.

ANTI-ASSISTED IMMIGRATION.

I regret that in many branches of industry the present supply of labour seems so far to exceed the demand as to depress wages and render employment uncertain. Under these circumstances my advisers continue to regard it as unwise for this Province to stimulate the immigration of the working classes from abroad, lest the hardships of the present situation should be aggravated.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

I had hoped that the past year would have witnessed active operations on the projected Parliamentary and Departmental Buildings, but unexpected difficulties in the plans have intervened. I derive, however, much pleasure from the confident anticipation that early in the present season these much needed buildings will be in actual course of erection.

INCREASED ASYLUM ACCOMMODATION.

The urgent need of increased accommodation for the lunatic and idiotic of our population was recognized last session, and appropriations were voted for additional buildings at Hamilton and Orillia. It was found, however, that before the intended structure at Hamilton could be made available some interim accommodation for lunatics must be provided in order to the immediate relief of our gaols and overcrowded asylums. The Department was so fortunate as to secure, under a five years' lease, the use of Regiopolis College as a branch asylum, which has been placed under the management of the officers of the Rockwood Asylum. After some repairs and slight alterations, very suitable accommodation was thus provided for one hundred and fifty patients. This will, it is hoped, be found sufficient for the public wants until necessary permanent provision is made.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The reports of the various Departments of the public service for the past year will be laid before you. There will also be submitted the first report of the Master of Titles on the operation of the Land Titles Act of last session; and the report of the Commissioners appointed to enquire into complaints made against the Warden of the Central Prison.

The estimates for the current year have been prepared with a view to economy and efficiency, due regard being had to the varied requirements of this great and progressive Province.

I feel assured that your legislative

labours will, as heretofore, be marked by earnestness of purpose, and by a sincere and disinterested consideration of the public welfare.

THE SPEAKER'S REPORT.

After the floor of the House had been cleared,

The SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges for the trial of Election Petitions, their certificates and reports relating to the elections for the County of Lennox, the electoral district of Muskoka and Parry Sound, the east riding of the County of Northumberland.

The several certificates and reports were then read by the Clerk.

NEW WRITS.

The SPEAKER informed the House that he had issued his warrants to the Clerk for new writs for the following electoral districts:—Algoma East, Algoma West, East Kent, Lennox; and the following persons had been elected for vacancies:—Robert Ferguson, Kent; George Douglas Hawley, Lennox; Charles Drury, East Simcoe; Robert Adam Lyon, Algoma East, and James Conmee, Algoma West.

THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The SPEAKER reported that, to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, the reading of which was dispensed with.

INTRODUCED.

At this stage Mr. James Conmee was introduced to the Speaker by Hon. A. S. Hardy and Mr. Awrey.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS.

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

TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved that the Speech of His Honour the Lieut.-Governor be taken into consideration to-morrow. Carried.

Hon. O. MOWAT moved that Select Standing Committees be appointed for the following purposes:—On Privileges and Election, on Railways, on Miscellaneous Private Bills, on Standing Orders, on Public Accounts, on Printing, on Municipal Law. Carried.

THE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The SPEAKER presented the report of the Librarian.

The House adjourned at 4 o'clock.

NOTICES.

Notices have been given for the following Bills:—

Hon. O. Mowat—For the amendment of the law relating to the estates of deceased persons.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—To secure compensation to workmen in certain cases.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—To amend the Act respecting compensation to the families of persons killed in accidents and in duels.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—To further amend the Assessment Act.

Hon. C. F. Fraser—To further amend the Municipal Act.

Hon. A. M. Ross—For the creation of an Advisory Board in connection with the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

Hon. A. M. Ross—Relating to the auditing of the public accounts of the Province.

Hon. G. W. Ross—Relating to Mechanics' Institutes.