

Bills."

Mr. Speaker then said:—

May it Please Your Honour:—

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subjects, the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, in session assembled, approach Your Honour at the close of our labours with sentiments of unfeigned devotion and loyalty to Her Majesty's person and Government, and humbly beg to present to your Honour's acceptance a Bill intituled "An Act for Granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money to defray the expenses of Civil Government for the year 1886, and for other purposes therein mentioned," thus placing at the disposal of the Crown the means by which the Government can be made efficient for the service and welfare of the Province.

To this Bill, the Royal Assent was announced by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in the following words:—

"His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor doth thank Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, accept their benevolence, and assent to this Bill in Her Majesty's name."

HIS HONOUR'S SPEECH.

His Honour was then pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

In relieving you from your responsibility as a Legislative Assembly for another year, I desire to express my appreciation of the able manner in which you have discharged your duties, and the earnestness with which you addressed yourselves to the various measures which I promised to submit to you at the opening of the session.

Besides a large amount of private bill legislation, you have passed useful measures on important subjects, not, I think, surpassed in variety in any former session of the Legislature of the Province.

AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.

I have given my assent with great satisfaction to the Bill respecting Agriculture and Arts, in which the legislation of former years is simplified, improved, and consolidated. The provision for appointing an Advisory Board of experienced farmers to assist in the management of the Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, will, I have no doubt, strengthen public confidence in the management of this institution, and also promote its efficiency and usefulness.

THE NEW DISTRICTS.

By the measure for the settlement of the Rainy River District, another step has been taken to find homes for many of our people, who might otherwise be induced to settle on the prairies of the Western States. I am glad to learn that the fertility of the District thus opened up compares favourably with the lands in the older portions of the Province.

SANITARY MEASURES.

I cordially approve of your legislation for the prevention of contagious diseases. I attribute our immunity from smallpox during the past year in a large degree to the wholesome measures of a former session. The increased powers now given to municipalities, with respect to vaccination and otherwise, will still further aid in preserving the public health, and in enforcing such precautionary measures as experience has shown to be necessary in dealing with all forms of epidemic diseases.

COMPENSATION TO WORKINGMEN.

The Act by which workmen may receive compensation for injuries suffered through the negligence or default of their employers, will, I am confident, prove a great boon to those whose occupations are attended with great personal risk. The security which the same measure affords to their families will doubtless relieve many who would otherwise be exposed to great suffering and privation.

THE FRANCHISE.

By your amendments to the Franchise Act, many persons whose avocations require them to be absent from their homes for several months at a time, will be entitled to vote at Parliamentary Elections, whilst the facilities afforded workingmen to poll their votes, by the extension of the noon recess to two hours, will enable them to discharge an important duty to the State without inconvenience to themselves or their employers.

THE LICENSE LAWS.

I was glad to concur in the Bill further improving the License Laws. The sale of liquors by unlicensed houses, and the too frequent violation of the laws against selling intoxicating drinks on Sunday, have led to crimes and excesses which all good citizens deeply deplore. I sincerely trust that the stringent provisions of the new Act will mitigate these evils, and array the moral forces of society on the side of law and order.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The consolidation of the several Acts passed during former years respecting Separate Schools, and the improvements which you have introduced, will, I am sure, be of service to those charged with the administration of this part of our school system.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

The value of Mechanics' Institutes, in providing facilities for mental improvement to many whose resources would not admit of any expenditure upon books and magazines, has been recognized in England and Canada as an important factor in the education of the people. I am glad that you have passed further legislation for their improvement, and that in conjunction therewith you have also increased the facilities for the establishment of evening classes for the study of Art and Industrial Drawing.

SIMPLIFYING THE LAW.

I have had pleasure in assenting to the Bill abolishing to a large extent the old distinction between real and personal estate; and to the Bill for further simplifying the laws respecting the transfer of property. I was glad also to assent to the Statute Law Amendment Act, by which you have made many important improvements in the statutes of the Province, in view of the new consolidation now in preparation of the whole body of the statutory law.

NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

I have assented with pleasure to the Bill containing provisions needed in the interest of private owners whose property is required in order to carry out the patriotic object of permanently securing to the public the territory around the Falls of Niagara, that grandest of natural wonders, committed by Providence to our care.

I thank you for the supplies which you have voted for the public service. They will be expended with all the economy consistent with the public requirements.

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.