

evenly between members and to protect the rights of the minority—a minority smaller now than in the last Parliament. He congratulated the House upon the choice they would make if they elected, as he believed they would elect unanimously, the hon. member for Haldimand as Speaker. (Cheers.)

The Clerk put the resolution, which was passed without a dissenting voice, and the Clerk then declared Hon. Jacob Baxter duly elected as Speaker of this House.

The announcement was received with cheers, which were renewed when a few moments later the new Speaker ascended to his place.

The SPEAKER, on taking the chair, responded:—Hon. gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,—I desire to thank you most heartily for the honor which you have conferred upon me by unanimously electing me to the chair of this House. The Attorney-General and the hon. member for East Wellington have spoken of me in altogether too flattering terms. I only trust that I may in some small degree warrant their good opinion. It shall be my aim at all times to act fairly and impartially between hon. members on both sides of the House. I feel that I am placed in a responsible position, but so far as I am able I shall endeavor to do my duty. As the duties of the chair will be new to me, I shall be com-

pelled to ask the indulgence of hon. members on both sides, and to solicit their assistance so far as they may be able to give it to me. I know that my duties in this position will be all the more embarrassing to me from the fact that the chair was so ably filled during the last two Parliaments by my predecessor, the Hon. Col. Clarke, member for East Wellington. I shall use my utmost endeavors to act fairly to merit the approval of hon. members on both sides of the House, and again I thank you.

The Lieutenant-Governor then re-entered the Chamber attended by his suite, and the Speaker, after the usual form, announced his election and claimed on behalf of the House the recognition of the privileges of the House, the customary formal reply being given on behalf of the Lieutenant-Governor by the Provincial Secretary.

The Lieutenant-Governor then delivered the following

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE:—

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—

I have great pleasure in welcoming you for the first time to your Legislative duties as members of a new Parliament.

The year on which we have entered is one of special interest throughout the British Empire as being the jubilee year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty, who for half a century has so fulfilled the duties of her exalted station as to secure the devoted loyalty and affection of her people.

I regret that I am unable to announce to you any progress towards the final settlement of the boundaries of the Province. The legislation advised by their Lordships of the Imperial Privy Council for the confirmation of their decision has not yet received the concurrence of the Dominion Government; and my despatches of 1884 on the subject, and on the subject of our northern boundary, are still unanswered.

Soon after the last session of the Provincial Legislature the Court of Appeal unanimously affirmed the judgment of the Chancellor of Ontario negating the claim of the Dominion Government to the lands and timber in the territory within our boundaries as determined by Her Majesty in Council; but litigation has, notwithstanding, proceeded against the

Province, at the public expense, and an appeal to the Supreme Court has been brought, which has been argued, and now stands for judgment. There has been some recent correspondence between the two Governments which will be laid before you.

The Dominion Government having declined to agree to any method of placing beyond question the proper jurisdiction to deal with the subjects embodied in the Provincial Factory Act of 1884, I thought it right to assume the jurisdiction without further delay, and to issue proclamation calling the Act into effect. Some further legislation is found to be needed for the effectual and reasonably safe working of the Act, and will be brought to your attention.

I am pleased to notice the prominent place which was taken by this Province at the Indian and Colonial Exposition last year by means of the magnificent display there made of the manufactures and natural products of the Province, as also by the attractive and much commended exhibit of the Education Department, evidencing the advanced position which the Province holds in educational science and appliances.

Amongst our agricultural products, the exhibit of cheese and butter forwarded by the Ontario Department of Agriculture attracted much attention, and cannot fail to be of great value to this growing and already important department of agricultural industry. For the success of this exhibit much credit is due to the zealous assistance of the officers of the Provincial Dairy Associations. The splendid exhibit of Ontario fruit, collected mainly by the officers of the Fruit Growers' Association, will do much to remove erroneous impressions in the Mother Land in regard to the severity of our Canadian climate. The Provincial Bee-Keepers' Association also was enabled, through the liberal assistance voted last session, to make a honey exhibit which reflects credit upon the Province.

I am glad to learn that the mineral resources of the Province are being steadily developed; that new and valuable discoveries have been made during the past year, especially in our Northern and Northwestern districts; and that mining operations have made hopeful progress.

The commissioners for consolidating and revising the public statutes of the last ten years have nearly completed the work, embodying the same in two volumes, the first of which will be laid before you at once and the second on an early day. These volumes embrace amendments which the judicial or professional experience of the respective commissioners has enabled the commission to suggest; and I trust that you will find it practicable to adopt at this session the legislation necessary to give to the public the benefit of the work during the present year.

For several years there has been much discussion as to the best means of promoting the higher education of the people, particularly in the department occupied by the universities of the Province; and it is gratifying to observe that, notwithstanding some differences of opinion as to the methods of attaining this end, there is no such difference as to the duty of placing within the reach of every citizen, who may wish to avail himself of its facilities, a course of university education equal to that furnished by the best universities of Europe or the United States. A bill having this object in view will be laid before you.

Amongst the measures to be submitted to you is a bill for the gradual extension of the Lands Titles Act to the whole Province as the public exigencies may render expedient and