

the local authorities desire. The report of the Master of Titles on the operations of the Act in the County of York and City of Toronto will be laid before you.

Measures will also be submitted for your consideration respecting the appointment and jurisdiction of police magistrates, and to provide amongst other things for scientific instruction in the Public and High schools of the Province as to the nature of alcohol and its effects upon the human system.

Your attention is invited to the important subject of prison labor, and therein to the question whether the present system of letting out the labor of prisoners confined in the Central Prison to companies or private persons by contract may not, with advantage to the discipline and reformatory influences of the prison, and without disadvantage to the public, be abolished by law to take effect upon the expiration of existing contracts.

Since the last Session of the Provincial Legislature, tenders were advertised for and received for the erection of the new Departmental and Parliament Buildings; and it was found that the needed accommodation will require a somewhat greater expenditure than was expected. To avoid injurious delay, a contract has been entered into for certain parts of the work, subject to a condition requiring your approval of the contract. Papers relating to the subject will be laid before you.

With the view of giving effect to the patriotic sentiment of our people, and following in this respect the example of the neighboring State of New York, the proceedings authorised by the statute of a former session for ascertaining the cost of expropriating the land in the neighborhood of the Falls of Niagara have been taken and are nearly completed; and a measure will be submitted for your consideration dedicating to the public in permanence the land on the Ontario side of the great world-wonder, and containing provisions for securing that object without material cost to the Provincial Treasury. A report from the Commissioners will contain all useful information bearing on what is proposed.

The public accounts for the past year will be promptly laid before you, and you will be pleased to learn from them that the expenditure has been less than was provided for by the estimates, and that the receipts have exceeded the amount anticipated.

The estimates for the current year will at an early date be submitted for your approval. They will be found to have been prepared with all the economy consistent with the demands of the public service.

I trust that the Legislative labors of this first session of the new Parliament may be characterised by the same patriotic care and intelligence as in the case of previous Parliaments.

The Lieutenant-Governor having retired.

#### OATHS OF OFFICE.

Mr. Mowat presented the customary formal resolution for the first reading of a Bill relating to oaths of office to be taken by those appointed justices of the peace, which was carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1ST. MARCH.

Mr. MOWAT—I beg leave to move that when this House adjourns it do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 1st March next. I think it is the feeling on both sides of the House that we could not make effectual progress with the public business while the elections are going on, and the Government therefore proposes to the House that we should adjourn. Then the question arises to what day after the election we should adjourn. After making inquiry

amongst the members on both sides of the House it seems to me that the day I have named would meet with most general acceptance—one week after the elections are over.

Mr. MEREDITH—Mr. Speaker, you will permit me to say what it would have been my pleasing duty to say at an earlier time had opportunity offered, that I congratulate you heartily as the presiding officer on your election to the place you occupy. I do not know that a more fitting selection could have been made by the leader of the Government. (Cheers.) I have had the pleasure of sitting in the House with you for nearly fourteen years, and I concur very heartily with the observations of the Attorney-General, both in regard to the feelings entertained toward you by members on this side of the House and the expectations he entertains as to the discharge of the duties of your office. I can assure you you will receive the most hearty sympathy and support in the discharge of your important duties. I would not let this opportunity pass without saying a word in regard to the gentleman who has occupied the position of Speaker of this House. He discharged the important duties intrusted to him in a manner which not only proved entirely satisfactory to the members of the House, but also to endear himself to them personally. There were one or two occasions on which this side of the House differed from the opinion he held, but I am bound to admit that the subjects on which differences arose were such that a difference of opinion might fairly arise upon them. I agree with the Attorney-General that no progress could practically be made with the public business in view of the election so soon to be held for the Dominion of Canada. It would be desirable that the work of this House should go on at once, in the interest especially of those who have occupations which will be interfered with by the session lasting until a late period through business not being proceeded with now. But no man can shut his eyes to the fact that no substantial progress can be made in view of the excitement attending the election and in view of the interest which members, who are citizens of the Dominion, take in the election for the Dominion. The Attorney-General has, I think, made a fair compromise as to the time the House should adjourn.

The resolution was carried.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. MOWAT moved for the appointment of the customary standing committees. Carried.

#### SUPPLY.

Mr. SPEAKER read an address from the Lieutenant-Governor, transmitting estimates of expenditure to cover the time up to the passing of the Supply Bill—\$150,000, the items to be submitted as part of the ordinary estimates.

On motion of Mr. A. M. Ross, the House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. Gibson, Hamilton, in the chair, and passed the estimates. The committee rose and reported, asked leave to sit again. The report was received by the House, and the committee given leave to sit again on 1st March.

The House then went into Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. Gibson again in the chair, and considered the appropriation of the money.

Mr. MEREDITH—Is it proved that the treasurer has that much money? (Laughter.) The resolution was passed in committee and reported, the report being received by the House.

The House adjourned at 4:20 o'clock.