

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE

Sixth Parliament --- First Session.

(By Our Own Reporters.)

TORONTO, March 1.

The session of the Legislature was resumed after two weeks' adjournment.

The Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock.

On the order for the consideration of the Speech from the Throne,

Hon. O. MOWAT said:—The House is unexpectedly thin, in consequence, as I believe, of the snowstorm. There are, I believe, but two members from the East, and one of those who is absent is the member for Prescott, who was to have seconded the Address and who has telegraphed that he is on his way, but cannot possibly be here until to-morrow morning. I don't think we will lose any time, having regard to the business of the House, if we commence the debate on the Address, and perhaps end it to-morrow, instead of to-day. If, therefore, it is the general opinion of the House, I would be disposed to move that the House adjourn until to-morrow.

Mr. MEREDITH—I do not rise to make any objections to the motion of my hon. friend. I would not attribute the absence of the hon. members to the cause the Premier has suggested. I understand there has been a recent battle, and perhaps the hon. gentlemen are taking care of the dead and wounded after the contest. But even if they are engaged in so generous a work as that, that is all the greater reason why we should adjourn that they may have an opportunity of being present at our deliberations.

An Hon. Member—That fight took place some time ago. (Laughter.)

Mr. HARDY—It is evident the wounded have somewhat recovered. (Renewed laughter.)

The motion was carried and the House adjourned at 3:20.

NO. 8..... Return to an Address

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No. 9..... A Return from the Lon

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TORONTO, March 2.

REPORTS.

Hon. A. S. HARDY presented the following:—

Commissioner of Public Works, annual report.

Inspector of Insurance, annual report.

University of Toronto, annual report.

COMMITTEES.

On motion of Hon. Mr. MOWAT, committees were appointed (1) to strike Standing Committees, (2) to assist Mr. Speaker in the care of the library.

THE ADDRESS.

Mr. GUTHRIE, on rising to move the Address, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was received with loud applause. In opening he expressed the regret which he was sure was shared by all, that the Lieutenant-Governor who had opened the Legislature had probably addressed them for the last time, at any rate in an opening speech. As Lieutenant-Governor that gentleman had performed the duties of his office to the acceptance and satisfaction of all parties—(cheers)—not alone what may be regarded as his public duties, but his semi-public and social duties as well. And towards this House and towards those who were responsible for the government of the Province, His Honor had conducted himself with the strictest regard for constitutional usage and with that impartiality and fairness to be expected of one who bore a name so honored on the Bench and at the Bar and throughout the land. (Hear, hear.) While they regretted the severance of this tie, it was a satisfaction to know that a gentleman had been selected as successor to the present Lieutenant-Governor who was in every way worthy of that high position. (Cheers.) Sir Alexander Campbell was a gentleman who by his character and his abilities possessed the respect alike of his political friends and his political opponents. (Loud cheers.) The second paragraph of the Address referred to the Jubilee of Her Majesty. While such an event as the attainment of the fiftieth year of a monarch's reign would, in the case of any ordinary monarch be an event of more than usual interest, in the case of Her Majesty it is an event for deep and universal congratulation. Her Majesty's reign had been not only protracted but pre-eminently distinguished, and it was not to be wondered at that throughout her Empire and throughout the civilised world people were preparing

ON THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION

to express their admiration for her as a woman and a sovereign. Her Majesty had been distinguished not only for soundness of judgment and sympathy of heart and purity of life, but also for having conducted, sometimes against her own personal predilections, the affairs of state in entire consonance with the British constitution. She was the first monarch who had given full scope to the parliamentary system of Government. Referring to Her Majesty's reign, he dwelt upon the victories won in war and the greater victories of peace in invention, discovery,