

Friday March  
ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Sixth Parliament, Second  
Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

THURSDAY, March 1, 1888.

The Speaker took the chair at three p.m.

The following bills were read the first time :—

To regulate the sale of seed grain—Mr. Freeman.

To provide for the incorporation of cheese and butter manufacturing associations—Mr. Wood (Hastings).

To amend the Assessment Act—Mr. Garson.

To amend the Act respecting ditches and watercourses—Mr. Harcourt.

THE REVISED STATUTES.

Mr. MEREDITH said that it was impossible to obtain copies of the Revised Statutes at Osgoode Hall, although all the Courts were sitting.

Hon. O. MOWAT said he had given orders for a supply of copies to Osgoode Hall, and would see that they were supplied.

THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS.

Hon. O. MOWAT said that on consideration he thought it best to have the debate take place upon the resolutions as a whole. This was the course adopted in the case of the resolutions of 1864.

Mr. MEREDITH—Swallow them whole?

Mr. FRASER—They are wholesome.

Mr. MOWAT said that if a member approved of some resolutions and disapproved of others he could point that out in his speech.

Mr. EVANTUREL, in continuing the debate, remarked that although a Frenchman speaking in the English language, he felt that he was not running any great risk in following the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. H. E. Clarke). A certain paper published in this city had lately remarked that the Conservative side of the House contained no member of any ability save and except the member for London alone. Now, he did not agree with that. He thought it was a most unfair accusation to make against many members on the back benches of the Opposition, whose ability and eloquence he frequently had had reason to admire; and if the hon. member for London had placed the hon. member for Toronto in a prominent place on the front row, he felt convinced that it was not because he had no men of ability with whom he could fill up the front row, but because he felt it was due to the great city which that hon. gentleman represented that he should be given this prominent position on the Opposition benches. The hon. gentleman then referred to Mr. Meredith's charge that Quebec had acted disloyally in electing the Mercier Government, because of the lines upon which that Government was elected. The people of Quebec were as loyal as any in the Dominion. It had been said with truth—and he was proud to repeat it—that but for the French Canadian people and their action at the time of the American rebellion the British flag would not now be floating over Canada. Quebec disloyal! French Canadians are true to the British flag! Why, at the time of the Northwest rebellion he had himself two brothers in command of regiments that were scattered amongst the tribes of the Northwest for the protection of Canada and the British Crown; and in this they were doing nothing but what the French people of Canada had been doing ever since they had come into allegiance to the British Crown. If Quebec were disloyal how was it that the majority of its representatives at Ottawa were supporting the Dominion Government at the present time. If they were disloyal why was it that so many of the English-speaking people of Quebec Province had lent their assistance to the French Canadians in the election of Mr. Mercier as Premier of Quebec? The hon. member also defended Nova Scotia against the charge of disloyalty, contending that that Province had never been in favor of Confederation, and had in reality been unwillingly forced into it.

If any Province should take the lead in this matter it was the Province of Ontario, which for many years had been hampered by attacks upon Provincial rights and which had successfully resisted those aggressions. If the Dominion Government had properly carried out the B. N. A. Act he would have preferred the provisions of that Act to any of the resolutions of the conference, but he accepted those resolutions as the next best thing in view of the fact that the B. N. A. Act had not been respected. He was