

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Sixth Parliament, Second Session.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

FRIDAY, March 23, 1888.

There was a very slim attendance when the Speaker took the chair yesterday afternoon.

A bill to incorporate the Port Arthur Water, Light & Power Company had been introduced and passed through all its stages, when it was discovered that it conferred upon the company certain powers which the Government did not deem it just that they should have. It was therefore decided that the Lieutenant-Governor should withhold the royal assent to this bill, and that a second bill, embodying the unobjectionable features of the first should be introduced and passed through all its stages. This was the only business transacted at yesterday's session.

At three o'clock the Lieutenant-Governor, without any firing of cannon and without any military display except a guard of honor furnished by "C" Company, entered the Chamber and took his seat on the Throne.

The Clerk Assistant then read the titles of the bills that had passed as follows:—

1. An Act respecting Trinity church To.

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly then said:—

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor doth, by advice of his Executive Council, withhold her Majesty's assent to this bill, as since the passing thereof it has been found that by inadvertence the bill gives to the company thereby proposed to be incorporated important powers not mentioned in the published notices of the intention to apply for the Act, which powers may seriously affect, and it is asserted do seriously affect, the rights of persons who, before the passing of the bill, had no notice that such powers were to be applied for, and it is contrary to the intention of the Legislative Assembly in passing the bill that the same should give such powers without all persons interested in opposing the same having an opportunity of doing so agreeably to the practice of the Legislative Assembly in that behalf.

Mr. Speaker then presented the Supply Bill, to which the Royal assent was announced.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

His Honor then delivered the following speech:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,— In relieving you from further attendance upon your legislative duties, I desire to express my appreciation of the diligence and zeal with which you have applied yourselves to the business of the session now about to close.

I trust that experience will show the wisdom of the bill which you have passed for giving (with few exceptions) to every male citizen, who is twenty-one years of age, and a resident of the Province for a specified time, a vote for the election of members of this Assembly.

I have noted with much satisfaction the bill which you have passed for the early closing of shops and for the limitation of the hours of labor therein by children and young persons. I am sure that the powers conferred upon municipalities by this bill will, if carefully exercised, promote the physical health and the moral and mental improvement of many whose daily tasks, unduly prolonged, deprive them of needed rest and relaxation.

I am much gratified with the measures which you have adopted for the more convenient and efficient administration of justice in Manitoulin and the adjacent islands and in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound. As the settlements in the Districts of Muskoka and Parry Sound now cover nearly the whole area of these districts their further development can best be promoted by means of the ordinary municipal machinery which, in the older portions of the Province, has been found so useful to all classes of the community; and I shall be glad to learn before long that the inhabitants of these districts have availed themselves of the municipal powers which you have placed at their disposal.

The measures which you have passed relating to our educational institutions, to the municipal and assessment laws, to the transfer of personal property, to the administration of justice throughout the Province, to the Executive authority in Provincial affairs, and to various other subjects, will, I have no doubt, subserve the public interest, and facilitate the ends which these measures were designed to promote.

The large number of important private bills which you have passed, for purposes not provided for by the general laws, manifest the ever-increasing needs of an active population.

I observe with interest that the resolutions adopted at the Inter-Provincial Conference held in Quebec in October last have met with your approval. While it is not desirable that constitutional changes should be made, until experience has shown that they are necessary, it is unquestionably your privilege to advise such amendments as in your judgment are in harmony with the Federal character of the Constitution, and are at the same time calculated to remove friction between the Province and the Dominion.

Your proposal to inquire, by Royal Commission, into the extent of our mineral resources and the best means for promoting their development, is a movement of which I heartily approve. I trust that the inquiry will result in the introduction of new capital into the Province, and the establishment of prosperous settlements in districts at present unoccupied.

I have assented with pleasure to the bill for the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture. The large export of farm products, and the almost illimitable extent to which the soil may be made to contribute to the wealth of the country, amply justify the most energetic efforts on the part of the Legislature, as well as a liberal expenditure of public funds, to promote the development of the agricultural resources of the Province.

I thank you for the liberal appropriations which you have made for the public service. The supplies which you have granted will be expended with care and in the public interest.

*Bevelo K. ...*