

SAT FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

The Legislature Disposes of  
Formal Business.

A GALLERY FOR THE PEOPLE.

A Number of Annual Reports  
Submitted.

INSTRUCTION OF THE BLIND AT BRANTFORD  
AND OF THE DEAF AND DUMB AT  
BELLEVILLE—THE LIBRARY.

There was a brief sitting of the Ontario legislature yesterday, at which some of the formalities preliminary to the active work of the session were disposed of. When a great batch of petitions had been laid on the table, Mr. Marter introduced a bill to amend the liquor license act by prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors by retail. It received its first reading. Upon the motion of Sir Oliver Mowat a committee of twelve was appointed to strike the select standing committees of the house. The attorney-general also secured the passage of a motion for the appointment of the following committee to act with the speaker in the control and management of the library and of the building:—The attorney-general and Messrs. Harcourt, Ross, Clancy, Guthrie, Gibson (Huron), Meredith, O'Connor, Preston and Wood (Hastings).

Upon the motion to adjourn Mr. Clancy called the attention of the treasurer to the fact that the public accounts had not been distributed to the members.

Mr. Harcourt said that there must be some mistake, as he had given instructions for their distribution. He promised to see to the matter at once.

Mr. Meredith called attention to the rules governing the admission of strangers to the galleries of the house. He understood that a ticket was required to admit to the public gallery. There should be one gallery at least open to the public without any ticket of admission.

Sir Oliver Mowat said that he agreed with Mr. Meredith in this.

THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY.

The speaker laid on the table of the house the report of Librarian Preston in regard to the legislative library. Mr. Preston says that the removal of the library to the new parliament buildings has furnished the occasion for re-classification of the books and readjusting the

internal arrangements in such a manner as will tend to the convenience of the members of the legislature. The library is indebted to the thoughtful efforts of Sir Oliver Mowat for being able to secure an exceedingly valuable addition of pamphlets and publications in regard to Canadian affairs. The collection embraces over two hundred bound volumes, numbering altogether 1,367 papers. To the student of Canadian history is here offered information from authentic and original sources of an intensely interesting and instructive character. An opportunity will now be had to arrange the valuable collection of files of Canadian newspapers possessed by the library, dating as early in the history of the country as the first publication in the province, April 13, 1793, so that those who are desirous may, without inconvenience, be given access to them.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Inspector Chamberlain has made a most satisfactory report of the work being carried on by Superintendent Mathieson and his able staff at the Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Belleville. During the past official year 285 pupils were under instruction in the institution—158 males and 127 females. From the opening of the institution, in 1871, to the close of the past year 943 pupils have received the benefits of its care and instruction. In his annual report to the inspector of prisons, Mr. Mathieson states that the deaf and those concerned in their education have made arrangements for a series of conferences at the World's fair, at which the most eminent instructors and authorities will present papers and discuss questions of interest. As representatives are expected from nearly all European countries, as well as from the United States and Canada, the meetings will be of unusual interest. The arrangements are in the hands of active and capable persons, who have already accomplished a good deal toward ensuring success. There will be two distinct conferences, having separate programmes and dealing with separate subjects. One will be composed of officers and teachers of the deaf who can hear and speak, and the other will be composed of deaf persons who are similarly employed. This latter gathering will furnish the best possible example of what has been accomplished in the education of the deaf during recent years, and what the social and intellectual status of this class now is.

(Mr. Mathieson further states:—

"Experiments have recently been made with the phonograph to test its usefulness in aiding the education of the deaf. The trials have been mainly in the direction of recording progress in articulation, and it is claimed that by its continuous and systematic use dormant hearing power may, in a measure be restored. The success so far has not been so marked as to justify its general introduction into institutions for the deaf."

The maintenance of the institution cost in 1892 \$41,672, as compared with \$43,927 during 1891.