

associated with
Parliaments, and
habits, and if hard
anything Mr. Balfour
the honor. He had been a
member, and he and those as-
sociated with him on that side of the
House would welcome him to the posi-
tion. They were sorry he was in poor
health, and hoped he would soon be re-
stored. He hoped Mr. Balfour would
have a pleasant time in his Speaker-
ship.

The motion was then carried, and the
new Speaker, now the Hon. Mr. Bal-
four, took the chair and made a brief
speech acknowledging the honor con-
ferred upon him by the House in choos-
ing him Speaker. Those who had been
associated with him in the House for
twelve years knew that he would try
fearlessly and impartially to discharge
the duties of so honorable an office. He
trusted he would have the advice and
counsel of the leaders of both sides of
the House, and not only their advice
but their assistance, and that of all the
honorable members in maintaining the
members' rights and the dignity of Par-
liament. He thanked the members for
their kindness, and hoped that during
the time in which he held the position
he would do nothing to forfeit their con-
fidence.

A fifteen-minute adjournment was
then made, at the end of which Mr. Bal-
four once more took the
chair and the gubernatorial pro-
cession re-entered. In an ancient
formula Mr. Balfour announced to the
Lieutenant-Governor that he had been
elected Speaker of the House, and pray-
ed that if he should err his Honor would
consider it as his fault and not that of
the Assembly, whose servant he was.
He then claimed all rights and privi-
leges, especially those of free speech
and free access to his Honor's person.
His Honor solemnly promised to grant
these boons, and then with the custom-
ary formalities read the speech from the
throne, as follows:—

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the
Legislative Assembly:

In opening this, the first session of
the eighth Parliament of the Province,
I am glad to welcome you as the repre-
sentatives of the people assembled for
the despatch of business.

While the past year was unfavorable
to the agricultural interests in some re-
spects, the prices of many products, es-
pecially grain and stock, remaining
unusually low, it is very gratifying to
know that increased interest has been
taken in improved methods of farming
and in the reports and publications of
the Department of Agriculture. Various
agricultural associations and organiza-
tions have been making increased de-
mands for instructors. The special
dairy work in connection with the
Agricultural College at Guelph has been
prosecuted with very satisfactory re-
sults, and I am pleased to learn that
last year proved to be the most success-
ful year in the history of the college.

From time to time public attention
has been directed to our northern dis-
tricts as suitable for settlement by an
agricultural population. At the pre-
sent time considerable interest is be-
ing manifested in this direction, and it
is proposed to establish, with your ap-
proval, at a moderate expense, a pion-
eer dairy farm to attract further at-
tention to these new districts, and also
to prove their adaptability to agricul-
ture.

During the past year the Rainy Lake
region has come into notice as a gold
field. Many explorers have been at-
tracted to it, a number of promising lo-
cations have been taken up and parti-
ally developed, and it is expected that
several mills for treating ore will be in
operation this year. The prospect of
gold mining in this district will no doubt
promote settlement of the rich agricul-
tural lands in the Rainy River valley.

A bill will be laid before you contain-
ing some supplementary provision
which the experience of the last general
election has indicated to be desirable
in the election laws. The registration
of voters act of last session with re-
spect to cities having worked satisfac-
torily, you will be asked to consider the
propriety of extending its operations
to towns.

Your attention will be invited to a
measure designed to lessen the number
of appeals in the courts of the Province
and otherwise to simplify the proceed-
ings of the Superior Courts;
a measure to provide, in matters of Pro-
vincial jurisdiction, that where jurors
are not unanimous ten jurors may give

22
a verdict, and some other measures of
law reform.

You will further be asked to consider
bills for extending the benefit of the
factory act and the children's protec-
tion act; for revising and consolidating
the acts relating to agriculture, and the
acts relating to mechanics' institutes
and free libraries.

The Supreme Court of Canada having
held that the Province has no power to
pass a prohibitory liquor law, my Gov-
ernment is taking the necessary pro-
ceedings for an appeal to her Majesty's
Privy Council upon this question, and
the appeal is expected to be heard and
disposed of before the end of the pres-
ent year.

In accordance with the promise made
to the House last session, I appointed
a commission to collect and report the
facts bearing on the views which have
been expressed with respect to the mode
of remunerating and appointing cer-
tain Provincial officials now paid by
fees and with respect to the extent of
the remuneration they should receive,
including in regard to the said matters
respectively the practice and experience
of other countries. The commissioners
have pursued their task with diligence
and have made full inquiry into the
matters referred to them. Their report
is about completed and will soon be
placed in your hands for your consid-
eration, with a view to such legislation
as may appear to be proper.

The question of the maintenance of
Government House at the expense of
the Province will no doubt receive your
earnest attention; and I trust that the
policy which may be adopted will be
such as may prove to be generally satis-
factory.

Since the last session the main build-
ing of the Brockville Asylum has been
completed, and patients were admitted
before the end of the year, relieving
thereby the crowded condition of some
of the other institutions.

I am pleased to be able to inform you
that considerable progress has been
made during the past year by the arbi-
trators to whom were submitted all
questions relating to the unsettled ac-
counts between the Dominion and the
Provinces of Ontario and Quebec and
between the two Provinces, and that all
the parties interested have shown their
sincere desire to have the differences
between them settled speedily and ami-
cably.

The public accounts for the year just
closed will be placed in your hands at
a very early day. You will be glad to
know that the total expenditures of the
Province were kept well within the ap-
propriations, and that the actual re-
ceipts were considerably in excess of
the estimate.

The estimates for the current year
will, without delay, be submitted for
your approval. They will be found to
have been prepared with a due regard
to economy and the necessities of the
public service.

The session will I trust be noted for
the wisdom and prudence of your deli-
berations, and for measures calculated
to promote the best interests of the
Province.

After the speech had been finished
and the Lieutenant-Governor had read
ed some formal business was transac-
ed. The writs and Judges' certificates
in the cases of London, West Algoma,
Kingston, South Perth, West Wellin-
gton and East Northumberland were
laid before the House, and Sir Oliver
Mowat introduced the formal bill re-
specting the oath of office to Justices of
the Peace, which is every session intro-
duced on the opening day. The con-
sideration of the Queen's speech was
set for to-morrow, and the appointment
of select standing committees ordered.
Then on motion of Sir Oliver Mowat the
House adjourned till 3 o'clock to-mor-
row afternoon.