

Administrator was to retire, and presently of the national anthem below announced his departure. At the same time the Speaker resumed the chair and informed the House that "to prevent mistakes" he had obtained a copy of the speech from the throne which he would read. The people gasped when they heard the proposition, but relief came quickly to them in the form of the magical word "dispense."

To assert the traditional right of the Legislature to deal with matters other than those specifically referred to in the speech from the throne, the Premier introduced a formal bill to provide for the administration of oaths of office to persons appointed as Justices of the Peace. The bill was given its first reading.

A motion was adopted fixing to-day as the time for taking into consideration the speech from the throne. A formal motion providing for the appointment of select standing committees was adopted and the House adjourned.

#### MR. BLAKE'S PORTRAIT.

Unveiling of Mr. Wily Grier's Painting of Mr. Edward Blake as Premier of Ontario.

Upon the adjournment of the House Mr. Hoskin stepped forward to the Speaker's dais, and on behalf of the Toronto General Trusts Company presented to the Legislative Assembly Mr. Wily Grier's magnificent portrait of Hon. Edward Blake. Mr. Hoskin said:—

"A committee from the Toronto General Trusts Company, consisting of its Vice-Presidents, Dr. Meredith and Mr. W. H. Beatty, the Speaker of the House of Commons; its Managing Director, Mr. Langmuir; Mr. George Gooderham, Senator Cox, Sir Frank Smith, Mr. Jaffray and myself, have the honor to wait upon the members of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of presenting the portrait of the second Premier of the Province of Ontario—the Hon. Edward Blake.

"The hon. gentleman was the first, and for fourteen years continuously, President of the Toronto General Trusts Company, in the formation of which he took a leading part. Seeing from his experience in connection with trusts estates which came under his notice professionally the great need for such a company, which was the first of the kind called into existence; and upon his retiring from the position of President, because of his absence for the time being from the Province, the Directors desired to mark their esteem for him and their appreciation of his services in some lasting way; and to that end it was concluded, with his approval, to present his portrait to the Province; and we are here to-day, sir, for the purpose of asking you to accept it in the name of the Legislative Assembly.

"The portrait represents Mr. Blake speaking in the old Legislative chamber, one of the scenes of his former triumphs; on either side of him will be observed the portraits respectively of the late Alexander Mackenzie and Archibald McKellar.

"The artist, Mr. Grier, I may add, is entitled to much credit for the excellent way in which he has executed his work.

"Any words of mine as to Mr. Blake's standing, ability and character will be superfluous—you all know him as well as I do. He is one of Canada's greatest sons—an honorable man, a scholar, a statesman, a lawyer—one who has occupied the highest places in the legislative, scholastic and professional worlds. For many years the Chancellor of the University of Toronto, for many years the Treasurer or head of the Law Society of this Province, once Premier of Ontario, and formerly the Minister of Justice for the Dominion of Canada; and while his voice is not now heard in our legislative halls and courts, yet it is frequently and effectively heard at Westminster and in that High Court of the empire, her Majesty's Privy Council.

"Apart from the ability to discharge the varied duties pertaining to these high positions, he has manifested great financial skill, as evidenced by his connection with the affairs of the Toronto General Trusts Company and by his having been recently chosen to represent at Westminster the views of those who are interested in contending that there has been an inequality in taxation.

"We respectfully ask that his portrait may be placed near that of our great distinguished friend, Sir Oliver

Mowat, in the hope that soon will follow those of the first and fourth Premiers of this great Province, all which will fittingly adorn the walls of this magnificent building, which is a lasting memorial to the name of the late Christopher Finlay Fraser."

The portrait, which hangs on the west side of the chamber, was unveiled at the proper moment amidst loud applause. It is a valuable addition to the collection of portraits which adorn the main corridor of the buildings. It represents Mr. Blake as Premier of the Province, which position he held in 1871, when he was 37 years of age. He is represented as making his initial speech as Premier. On his right hand is the late Hon. Archibald McKellar and on his left the late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who are listening attentively to his address. Part of the figure of the late Mr. Galbraith is seen immediately behind Mr. Blake. The attitude of Mr. Blake's hands will be recognized by those who are familiar with Mr. Blake as a Parliamentarian. Mr. Grier has been accurate in point of truth to the locality in which the picture is represented, the old Parliament buildings on Front street. The picture is a work of very great merit and will enhance Mr. Blake's reputation as a portrait painter.

#### HON. MR. EVANTUREL

Hon. Mr. Evanturel expressed the gratification it afforded him to receive the splendid gift on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. There was, he said, not a hamlet within the boundaries of Ontario, within the boundaries of Canada, where the name of Edward Blake

was not honored as that of one of the greatest sons of our country. (Applause.) After writing for himself a brilliant page in the annals of our Province, Edward Blake had crossed the water to throw lustre upon the Canadian name in the British House of Commons. The colors would have faded from the picture when the name of that illustrious son of our Province would be forgotten. The Legislature of this Province, re-echoing the voice of the people, had at all times been anxious to honor those who had performed great public services. The hon. Commissioner of Public Works had been able to ornament the surroundings of these buildings with two bronzes, two statues of two great Canadians, who to-day stood side by side, but during their lives had combatted one another's views for the benefit of their country—Hon. George Brown and Sir John A. Macdonald. A trust company had been the promoter of this presentation; they could not have named a greater trust than to place the portrait in the hands of this Legislature. There would be no claimant for this estate, and when those now living handed it over to those who would follow them they would be able to say, "We were the contemporaries of this great man." He desired to thank Dr. Hoskin again for the gift made to the Province through its Legislature.

#### HON. GEO. W. ROSS.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross also spoke briefly, expressing thanks for the portrait. The Premier, he said, had assigned to him the pleasant duty of accepting this portrait on behalf of the people of the Province of Ontario. He was only sorry that that duty had not been assigned to one who could have performed it more fittingly. When Mr. Blake entered the Assembly of this Province they met as the representatives of the people in another place. Thirty years had passed since then, and of those who sat with him but one remained to-day, the trustworthy, popular member for Haldimand, Hon. Jacob Baxter. Of those who sat with him in the second Parliament, in which he was Premier, but one remained, the straightforward, high-minded member for East Huron. "I had almost called him the Hon. Thomas Gibson," Mr. Ross continued, "for if integrity and merit give that title I think he deserves it." When Hon. Mr. Blake entered the Legislature he was met by a disorganized party; old party lines had been broken in the debates and negotiations which led to Confederation. But Mr. Blake devoted himself to the task of organization, and before one-half of the session was passed he had organized an Opposition as aggressive and progressive as any Government could desire. He had to oppose a Government of great ability led by Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald, a skilled and well-trained man. He was supported by such men as Hon. M. C. Cameron, Hon. E. B. Wood and Sir John Carling. The task assigned to Mr. Blake was