

Parliament Buildings, August 8, 1898.

The session of the Legislature this afternoon and evening was essentially a new members' session. The debate on the address in reply was resumed by Mr. J. R. Stratton, who was followed by Messrs. Hoyle, North Ontario; Lumsden, Ottawa; McLaughlin, Stormont, and S. Russell, East Hastings, all new members, who made their maiden efforts amid encouraging cheers from their fellow-members. Mr. Hoyle offered an amendment adding to the amendment moved by his leader words respectfully expressing the hope and desire of the Legislature that his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will "without delay take steps to put an end to such an unusual and undesirable state of affairs" as now exists by virtue of the Minister of Agriculture and Commissioner of Crown Lands, who were defeated at the polls, retaining their portfolios pending the trial of the protests they have entered.

Before proceeding with the business of the day the Attorney-General, referring to some comments made by Col. Matheson at a previous sitting which escaped his notice at the time, informed the House that Hon. Mr. Bronson retired from the Government in January last, when he found that his health would not allow him to represent the City of Ottawa any longer in the House. The Attorney-General also introduced the bill amending the act relating to Provincial fisheries, which was foreshadowed in the speech from the throne.

Before proceeding with the orders of the day the Attorney-General rose to make an explanation in reference to a statement which was made by the honorable member for South Lanark (Mr. Matheson) on Friday in respect to Hon. Mr. Bronson. The Attorney-General said that perhaps he should have mentioned to the House at an earlier stage of the session that the hon. gentleman retired from the Government in January last, when he found that his health would not permit him to again become a candidate for the City of Ottawa.

The Attorney-General introduced the bill to amend the act relating to the Provincial fisheries, which was read a first time.

The Debate Resumed.

Mr. J. R. Stratton, West Peterboro', resumed the debate upon the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne. He commenced by congratulating Mr. Speaker upon his re-election, and joined in the general expression of regret at the early departure of the Governor-General and his consort, who he was sure would upon his return to Great Britain carry with him the good wishes of Canadians

and who would render good service to Canada in making her resources known. Referring to Lord Minto, whose name has been mentioned as Lord Aberdeen's successor, he was confident that, although perhaps but little known, he would to the best of his ability discharge his duty as administrator creditably. He congratulated the leader of the House upon the result of his appeal to the people. With his colleagues upon the Government side of the House, he paid but little attention to the abuse heaped upon their leader because hon. gentlemen opposite had condemned in the strongest terms possible his predecessor in almost similar terms. He rejoiced that his leader had shown that he has lost none of the fine intellect that he is possessor of, or of that readiness to detect the weak points in the armor of his opponents, and his supporters were delighted with the way in which he had defended the position of his Government. His hon. friend the leader of the Opposition also had every reason to congratulate himself upon the appeal that he made to the country, and that the appeal was made at the time it was, for the cry that it was time for a change had seized the popular mind in the Dominion election, and the Opposition made it one of the principal arguments in the Provincial contest. (Applause.) The confidence of the Government that the electors of this Province would not be led away did not cause them to put up the strongest fight of which they are capable. It was a matter of congratulation to the party that under the circumstances the result, with the organization they had, was so favorable. He did not believe the liquor interests of the Province had been given to the support of either one party or the other, but that hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House had received the support of those interested in that business. Neither did he believe that the Government had received the active support of the Government at Ottawa in the campaign, as asserted by hon. gentlemen opposite. Had they received the active support of the Ottawa Government the result of this assistance would, he thought, have been practically illustrated by the number of hon. gentlemen opposed to the Government who were returned. (Applause.) Referring to the comments by hon. gentlemen opposite who, alluding to the large number of 30,000 visitors said to have visited Guelph Agricultural College, wanted to know what the visitors thought of what they saw there, he was not, he said, prepared to say what their opinions were, but if they had seen anything of which they did not approve hon. gentlemen opposite would have learned that fact through the columns of the press. The best proof of the fact that the college was well administered was to be found in the absence of any complaint from those who went to the college and farm to inspect and learn what was to be learnt there.