



# OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

If the ladies of Ontario felt any resentment at the lack of franchise privileges they did not display it yesterday when they filled the Legislative chamber at the opening of the second session of the eleventh Parliament of the Province. The Government was inconspicuous among the palms around the steps of the throne, private members were undiscernible, even the representative of the Crown was but slightly distinguished in the brilliant picture presented by the crowded scene. Almost all the seats were occupied by ladies, and their costly and rich-tinted raiment rose in great banks of color from the narrow scarlet carpet strip on the floor of the House over the steep galleries almost to the roof. There was a faint prevailing tinge of green in many shades of the fashionable line, and when the military uniforms were assembled about the table these formed a bright knot of color among the ladies' costumes. This brightness was reflected in dots of crimson here and there, with dark purple and gold and lavender, while a number of black gowns lent depth to the general tone. While perhaps not quite so gorgeous as last year, the whole effect was one of great beauty. The first event to attract attention was the entrance of Mrs. Mortimer Clark, escorted by the Premier, and followed by Miss Clark and Miss Elsie Clark. The assembly rose in greeting, and almost immediately the first gun of the salute of fifteen for the Lieutenant-Governor sounded dully from outside. At the moment Hon. Geo. W. Ross, leader of his Majesty's loyal Opposition, came in and took his seat, his desk, like that of the Premier, being decorated with a vase of roses and narcissi. A few moments more and the military procession entered. His Honor was escorted to the building by a detachment of Royal Canadian Dragoons, under Lieut. McMillan, and was accompanied by Major J. F.

Macdonell, his secretary, Lieut. Young, R. C. D., his personal aide-de-camp, and Brigadier-General Otter, A. D. C. to his Excellency the Governor-General. The guard of honor consisted of 100 men of the 48th Highlanders, under command of Capt. Cosby, and the band of that regiment was also present. The salute was fired by the Toronto Field Battery, under command of Capt. Richardson. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor walked beside Hon. J. P. Whitney and proceeded slowly towards the throne. Seating himself and wearing his plumed hat, he read the speech, which bid fair to rival a Presidential message in length. The reading was received with waving fans on the part of the ladies, and as soon as it was concluded all rose once more while his Honor retired. The throng in the corridors caused an almost unseemly crush at the door during the reading of the speech.

## The Speech From the Throne.

The speech from the throne was as follows:—

"Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

"I take great pleasure in meeting you again as representatives of the Province in Parliament assembled.

"Our very earnest thanks are once more due to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest of the year that has passed, which even excels the one that called for our gratitude last year. With this harvest, the market conditions have been such as to maintain the prosperity which our farmers have enjoyed in recent years. This has been noticeable in the dairying industry, the output of which has been very large. The evidences of steadily increasing enterprise and activity on the part of our people which have been apparent for several years past are to be seen on all sides at the present time, and afford good reason for congratulation and thankfulness.

## Ontario Agricultural College.

"The past year has been the most successful in the history of the Agricultural College from the standpoint of the number of students, the number of farm visitors and the amount of work done. For the first time in its career, the total number of students of all classes exceeded one thousand. The Macdonald Institute has apparently taken firm hold on the appreciation of the public, and farmers' daughters have come to its halls in numbers that promise a very bright future for the institution. You will be asked to provide funds for increasing the teaching facilities of the college in various departments.

## The Increase in Immigration.

"The past year has shown a large increase over previous years in the number of immigrants settling in Ontario. Preparations are being made to receive and settle a larger number during the present year, who will be directed to the farms of the Province. With increased facilities and an improved system, it is confidently expected that the immigration and colonization work of this Government will reach the highest mark yet attained. The funds appropriated are be-

ing used solely to assist in providing farm and domestic help.

## Earl and Countess Grey.

"Since the last meeting of the Legislature, his Excellency, Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada, accompanied by Countess Grey and their estimable family, have visited several sections of the Province, and the seat of Government has been honored by their presence on two occasions. The people of the Province have noted with satisfaction the great interest taken by his Excellency in all matters affecting their welfare and happiness. The extensive experience gained by his Excellency in the various public positions which he has occupied renders his opinions on such questions of the greatest possible value; while the interest manifested by the Countess Grey in all movements of a philanthropic and social nature has been a source of great satisfaction.

## The T. & N. O. Railway.

"You will be pleased to learn that the operation of the first section of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway for the past year has been very satisfactory,—the income being largely in excess of the expense of operation,—and that the construction of the extension of this road has been proceeded with in the most energetic manner.

"The growing importance and value of the mineral interests of the Province call for the most careful consideration and management, and necessary amendments to the mining law will be submitted to you for your consideration.

"Since the last session, an agreement has been arrived at with the Dominion Government for the negotiation, on equitable terms, of a treaty with the Indians who occupy large portions of the Province not now under treaty.

## Many Important Bills.

"Among the measures to be submitted to you for your consideration, in addition to the amendments of the mining law above mentioned, will be: Bills, respecting County Councils; respecting the Department of Lands and Mines; amending and consolidating the liquor license act; amending the volunteer land grants act; revising and amending the railway act, the street railway act, and the electric railway act; amending the agricultural and arts act; amending and consolidating the several acts relating to companies; revising and amending the acts relating to public schools, and the act respecting the Department of Education; respecting the University of Toronto; and amending the supplementary revenue act, 1899, providing for the taxation of railways.

## Electric Power.

"The extraordinary possibilities which the future may have in store with reference to electric power are still attracting increased attention on the part of scientific and practical men. It is expected that the report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into and report upon hydraulic and electric power in the Province will be laid before you before the close of the session. A mass of information has been collected, which will, no doubt, be of great value in the future consideration of this very important question.

## The University Commission.

"In the month of October last a commission was appointed to report upon