

ONTARIO FOR HIGH ART.**PREMIER WILL MOVE TO APPOINT
A SELECT COMMITTEE.**

Four-minute Session of the Local House
—Petitions Against Liability for
Damages From Defective Roads—
Liberal Caucus Thursday.

Actual business in the Legislature yesterday afternoon after prayers had been said occupied exactly four minutes. The Honorable the Speaker found it necessary to desire honorable members to write their names on the backs of their petitions before presenting them. Having presumably complied with this reasonable request, nearly all the honorable members present, who were not more than enough to "make a House," endeavored simultaneously to catch the Speaker's eye. The mob was resolved into a procession, and the several representatives presented a series of petitions, most of which requested the repeal of section 606 of the municipal act. The petitioning municipalities were of one consent in wishing to be relieved of the liability for damages from defective highways which this section imposes.

The House adjourned on motion of the Premier.

Premier Whitney will move on Wednesday for the appointment of a Select Committee to direct the expenditure of a sum to be set apart for art purposes. This is understood to be in connection with the proposal to decorate the interior of the Parliament buildings with a series of frescoes illustrating scenes in Canadian history.

Lieut.-Colonel Munroe will inquire tomorrow if the Government will introduce or permit any amendments to the assessment act at this session.

Mr. W. H. Hoyle has a bill to amend the assessment act. Mr. Hoyle wishes to eliminate the word "trade" from certain clauses which assessors have interpreted to include cattle men and others not intended. Mr. Hoyle has also some amendments to income clauses.

Mr. C. N. Smith will ask if it is the intention of the Government to open the mineralized section of the Gillies timber limit in the Temiskaming mining division to the prospectors. Also what arrangement, if any, has been made with the timber licensees, and when will the limit be thrown open?

Mr. Smith has also given notice that he will ask if it is the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce legislation which will have the effect of compelling the refining of nickel within the Province.

Messrs. A. G. MacKay and C. N. Smith, the members for North Grey and Sault Ste. Marie, respectively, have accepted an invitation to be present at the meeting of the East Elgin Reform Association, to be held on the 25th inst.

Hon. Geo. W. Ross will entertain the members of the Opposition at luncheon at the Parliament buildings on Thursday. A Liberal caucus will follow the luncheon.