

erly after two
can file into the
at three o'clock,
and the rest of the
ment filed into the
erty full master,

inary opening for

the Speaker
Meredith, and Bell, occupied

of the Speaker's

all their old

proximity, while
mind the retired

of the House
order. Silence

addressing the

the first duty of a
was to elect one
over the. Com-

choose a Speaker.

why he thought it

change and con-

Col. Clarke, member

the Speakership.

General pointed

Col. Clarke

and he felt sure

but hon. gentle-

men with him in

the hon. gentle-

manly qualified for

his seat amidst

both sides of the

unanimously.

to the Speaker.

the members for

He promised he

impartially, and

ormed to meet to

for formal opening

who will then de-

lers of the Govern-

supporters at a dim-

Jan. 8th.

The First Session

of Ontario took

iliar, which was

ceremony incident

very largely attend-

opening hour, the

the galleries were

an unusually large

the members, with

vacated their seats

out of which was

huddled together

chamber, the ladies

in the councils of

Honor proceeded to

the members

pleased to open the

the Throne.

Assembly:

in meeting you on

the Legislative As-

embly since the general

manifested in the op-

for a full discussion

the quietness and or-

rections were every-

striking proofs of

the public spirit of the

to congratulate

the effects upon the

of year's abundant

that an increased

uses of lumber has

to a revival in the

industry.

at summer of pay-

the Thunder Bay

victory declared by

part of the Province

Lake Superior

Woods—and I have

my visit was not

age. I commend to

arts relating to the

other sections of the

northern portions of

from the Stipendary

under the provisio-

n, and which will be

no longer delayed.

The report of the Architect, with plans

and estimates for the construction of new

buildings on a more eligible and healthy

site will be laid before you. The value of the

present site for other purposes will naturally

reduce the cost of the new structure

while the price of material and labor is

favorable at this time for such an undertaking.

It appears to me therefore to be

worthy of your very serious consideration,

whether the erection of an edifice, com-

mensurate with the needs of public service,

and creditable to the Province, should be

no longer delayed.

The annual reports of the several De-

partments will be submitted for your infor-

mation in connection with the report of the

Minister of Education. It is satisfactory to

observe that the improvements introduced

within the last two years into the system of

training teachers through the agency of the

Normal and County Model Schools have

been attended with the best results to the

public school education.

The public accounts of receipts and ex-

penditure will be laid before you. The esti-

mates for the current year will on an

early day be presented for your approval.

They will be found to be framed with all

due regard for that economy which is con-

sistent with the demands of the public ser-

vice.

I trust that on this last session of the

Legislative Assembly during which I am

likely to be occupying the position of

Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the work

accomplished may be so permanent and

useful a character, as to leave in the minds

of all who are engaged in, or identified

with it, a feeling of true and lasting satis-

faction.

His Honour then bowed, and withdrew.

The floor of the House having been

cleared, Mr. Speaker entered the House

and business was commenced. The first

order was prayers, which were read by Mr.

Speaker.

Mr. Speaker laid on the table of the

House reports of the judges who tried the

elections in Dufferin, West Hastings,

South Norfolk, Stormont, South Went-

worth and Russell. He also announced

that he had procured a copy of his

Honour's speech "in order to prevent

mistakes."

Mr. Mowat introduced the formal mo-

is universally recognized. You will be asked to provide for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into various matters affecting this great industry, and especially to ascertain by what means increased efficiency may be given to the efforts of the Government and Legislature in its behalf.

Experience in the working of the Free Grant Act has shown that the absolute relinquishment of the rights of the Crown to the pine timber upon the issue of the patent has encouraged a wasteful treatment of our fine forests, and has been attended with loss to the revenue without corresponding benefit to the locator. You will be asked to consider a measure designed to protect the public interests in these respects.

The great condition of the agriculturists of Great Britain leads to the expectation that a considerable immigration of farmers and farm laborers to Canada may be anticipated during the present year. Care will be taken by the government to place the claims and advantages of the Province of Ontario favorably and prominently before that portion of the population of the United Kingdom.

In view of the satisfactory results that have attended past efforts towards the fusion of law and equity procedure in this Province, you will be invited to consider a measure by which consolidating the Superior Courts of law and equity, and providing for the adoption of a uniform and improved system of practice and pleadings, will complete the work of assimilation. Some extension—with due safe-guards of the jurisdiction—of the Division Courts appears to be called for by public opinion, and a Bill with that object will be laid before you.

From proceedings in the Dominion Parliament at its last session, the early abolition of the Dominion Insolvency Law appears to be imminent, and in view of that event it may be desirable that a measure for the equal distribution of the property of execution debtors should be placed on the Statute book of Ontario without delay.

The frequent and serious accidents, at least in many instances with loss of life, to brakemen employed on railways, suggest the importance of some legislation making it the duty of Railway Companies to provide means by which the damages of this necessarily perilous avocation may be diminished. I invite your earnest attention to the subject.

Certain of the statutory exemptions from the burdens of municipal expenditure have been felt to be a grievance in some of our municipalities. A Bill on this subject will be proposed for your acceptance, and at the same time you will be asked to consider some other in the incidents of local taxation.

The requirements of the Legislature and Public Departments have long since outgrown the accommodation afforded by buildings erected at a time when the population of Ontario comprised but little over 200,000 souls, and when the business transacted was proportionately limited. As long since as the year 1873—and again in 1877—the Government Architect called attention in his reports to the Commissioner of Public Works for 1879, when the House adjourned.

Mr. Mowat laid on the table the Preliminary Estimates, which were referred to a Committee of Supply.

Mr. Hardy presented the Report of the Committee of Supply for 1879, when the House adjourned at 4:40.

Tuesday, Jan. 12th. 1879.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 p.m.

A number of petitions having been presented, the Attorney General moved the appointment of a committee to strike the standing committees.

Mr. Wood gave notice that he would on Monday move the House into Committee of Ways and Means.

Mr. Meredith asked whether the return made for last session of the appeals for conviction under the Masters and Servants' Act would be brought down this session.

Mr. Hardy replied that he would make inquiry and see why it had not already been placed before the House.

The House adjourned at 3:50.

Wednesday, Jan. 13th. 1879.

The speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock. A number of petitions having been presented, the Attorney General having been appointed, the Attorney General in reply to Mr. Crofton, the member for Northumberland, for the purpose of securing the names of the members of the County Councils, and otherwise altering the constitution of these councils, was under the consideration of the Government.

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tions providing for the first reading of the bill for the administration of oaths of office to Justices of the Peace; for the taking of the speech into consideration to-day; for the printing of the votes and proceeding at the order of the Speaker only; and for the punishment of members guilty of corrupt practices.

The motions were all carried.

The House adjourned at four o'clock.

TORONTO, Jan. 9.

The House met at 3 o'clock when Mr. McLaughlin, member for West Durham, rose to move an Address in reply to the Speech. He touched upon several topics, more especially the commercial improvement due to the late bountiful harvest, the brightening prospects of the lumber industry, and the new territory acquired under the North West Boundary survey.

Mr. Waters of North Middlesex, seconded the address in a vigorous speech of some length, the most significant part of which was his frank testimony in favor of the necessity of new Parliament buildings.

Mr. Mowat rising to respond was received with loud and continued cheering. The House adjourned at 4:40.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1879.

The Speaker took the Chair at 3 p.m