



**"HARK! HARK! THE DOGS DO BARK, THE BEGGARS ARE COMING TO TOWN!"**

**THE ONLY GENUINE DOCUMENT.**

FOR many years the right of our Provincial administration to call itself a "Reform" one has been a standing joke among advanced men of both political parties. Its few forward steps have been taken very timidly and with no great length of stride. Progressive legislation came from it as one extracts juice from a lemon—by the squeezing process. Old abuses, antiquated customs and time-worn precedents were permitted to flourish, and every advanced suggestion was taken into "serious consideration," never to come out. All this is to be changed. With another four years' lease the members of the Government feel that they owe the country something more than a grudge, and we are at last about to have "a movement as is one." It is not needful that GRIP should say how or where he picked up the document of which the following is a copy. The fondness shown by birds of his feather for bright objects will suffice to explain in what way his attention was caught. To see was to grip, to grip was to appropriate, to appropriate was to print—hence the following copy of The Speech from the Throne,\* as it is to be, or may be, or should be, delivered at the proper time and place:

*Members of the Legislature of Ontario:*

GENTLEMEN,—I am delighted to welcome this new Parliament, and to wish you all a Happy New Year.

\* The speech recently printed in GRIP was spurious. This is the only authentic one.

You will find everything well advanced in the shape of preparatory work, so that the country will not lose about one thousand five hundred dollars a day for two weeks, as has hitherto been the case. This will effect a saving of at least \$20,000. Your attention will be directed to the consideration of many important bills, as my advisers have determined to deserve the name of a Reform Administration—at last.

A measure will be introduced rendering it impossible for any member or ex-member of this assembly to accept any office of emolument in the gift of the Government, as it is quite plain that such prospective rewards affect the independence of the House, and, anyhow, if any rewards are to be given they should be given to some other fellows, and not to those who have already been hoisted into prominence by the popular vote.

A bill supplementary to this will also be presented making sheriffs, registrars, county court clerks, etc., elective by ballot of the people, as is now the case with municipal and legislative representatives (the B.N.A. or any other Act to the contrary notwithstanding), as the public won't stand the prevailing order of things much longer without kicking up a racket about it.

A Civil Service Bill will demand your attention. This will provide for proper examinations, and appointments in order of merit. It will also have regard to the promotion system, and will provide for the instruction and advancement of medical practitioners to take charge the insane, as was the case in anti-Confederation day