

replied to by the Governor in one of the briefest speeches ever listened to on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. 'Gentlemen of the House of Assembly, I thank you for your address.' The expense of Hansards would not be very considerable if the legislators of the present day followed the example of such brevity as this.

Any one looking over the Journals of the 2nd Session of the 10th Parliament will see that there was a liberal bill of fare provided. Every member had one or more Petitions, and altogether there were one hundred and fifty-one presented, some of which read strangely in the light of the present day. Among them was one from Addington, 'praying that means may be adopted, to secure to these Provinces the trade of the West Indies, free from the United States competition.' Another from the Midland District, 'praying that an Act be passed to prevent itinerant preachers from coming over from the United States and spreading sedition,' &c. And another from Hastings, to dispose of the Clergy Reserves. 'Mr. Mackenzie gives notice that he will to-morrow, move for leave to bring in a bill to establish finger posts,' and a few years later these 'finger posts' could be seen at all the principal cross-roads in the Province. Among the bills there was a tavern and shop license bill—a bill establishing the Kingston Bank with a capital of £100,000; a bill authorizing a grant of £57,412 10s, for the relief of sufferers in the American War, and one authorizing a grant to the Kingston Benevolent Society, and also to the York Hospital and Dispensary established the year before. Among the one hundred and thirty-seven bills passed by the House of Assembly, nearly one hundred were rejected by the Legislative Council, which shows very clearly to what an almost deadlock the two Houses had come. In other respects there was nothing remarkable about the Session. The really most important thing done was the

formation of Agricultural Societies, and the aid granted them. But one can see in looking over the returns asked for and the grievance motions brought forward from time to time, the gathering of the storm that broke upon the country in 1836-7, and, however much to be deplored, it hastened, no doubt, the settlement of the vexed questions which had agitated the public mind for years. The Union of the two Provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, followed in 1841, and in 1867 Confederation took place, when our Province lost its old appellation, and was to be known henceforth as the Province of Ontario; the keystone Province of the Confederation.

It was during this year that the name of Robert Baldwin first appears in the list of members, and of the forty-five persons who represented the Province at this time, I do not know that one survives. The death of George IV. this year brought about a change; the House was dissolved, and an election ordered for October, over which there was considerable excitement, and a good many seats changed occupants, but the Family Compact was returned to power.

A general election in those days was a weighty matter, because of the large extent of the constituencies and the distance the widely scattered electors had to travel, often over roads that were almost impassable, to exercise their franchise. There was but one polling place in each county, and that was made as central as possible for the convenience of the people. Often two weeks elapsed before all the votes could be got in, and during the contest it was not an uncommon thing for one side or the other to make an effort to get possession of the poll and keep their opponents from voting. This led frequently to disgraceful fights, when sticks and stones were used with a freedom that would have done no discredit to Irish faction fights in their palmiest days. Happily,