

sion of 1832-3, a motion was made in the legislature to grant £100 to be expended on plans and estimates for an asylum, but it failed to pass. Next session, 1833-4, a motion was made to grant £6000 for the erection of an asylum, but this also was voted down. In 1835 there was another notice of motion to establish an asylum, but it was not proceeded with. In 1836 a motion to grant £10,000 to defray the expense of building an asylum was made, but did not carry. The same session, a notice of motion for the erection of an asylum by a tax on banks was recorded, but never presented. Again, in the session of 1836-7, notice of motion was given to procure plans and estimates for a suitable building for the insane, but the motion was never made. Finally, on March 15th, 1839, a resolution authorizing a grant of £3000 toward the erection of a lunatic asylum was put and carried by a large majority. An act framed in accordance with this resolution was passed April 24th, and on May 11th received the assent of His Excellency, Sir George Arthur, then Lieutenant-Governor of the province.

TORONTO ASYLUM AND ITS BRANCHES.

That the need of accommodation for the insane was urgent, and that there was no disposition on the part of the people to await the erection of an asylum proper ere this truly afflicted class could be cared for, had been evidenced by the fact that on February 8th, 1840, the House of Assembly had presented an address to the Governor-General of British North America, reading as follows:

"May it please Your Excellency, we, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of Upper Canada, in Provincial Parliament assembled, humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to direct that a suitable building be provided for, with as a temporary asylum for the many unfortunate persons afflicted with lunacy in this Province, and beg leave to assure Your Excellency that this House will make good the expense that may be incurred thereby, and in affording relief to such subjects of distress."

At the beginning of the ensuing year, the urgency of the case was made still more apparent when the old York jail, erected in 1824, was abandoned. In its basement cells there had been con-