

General, this day, in the Legislative Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, as followeth :—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

In calling you together to resume the performance of your constitutional duties, I desire to express my thankfulness to a beneficent Providence that I am enabled to congratulate you on the general prosperity and contentment of the people of this Province, and the continuance to us of the inestimable blessing of peace.

Outrages have been committed on the commerce and territory of the *United States of America* by persons who, after the perpetration of these acts, have sought refuge on Canadian soil.

In order to prevent the organization of any such enterprises within this Province, and also to enable me to discharge in an effective manner my duties towards a neighbouring power on terms of friendship with Her Majesty, I have seen fit to organize a system of detective Police on the frontier line of the *United States*, and with the same design I have called out for permanent duty a portion of the Volunteer Force of the Province.

Similar considerations have suggested the propriety of arming the Executive Government with stronger powers than it now possesses for dealing with persons, who, while availing themselves of the right of asylum which has always been allowed on British soil to political refugees from all foreign countries, may be unmindful of the implied obligations which, by their residence amongst us, they contract to obey our laws and to respect the declared policy of our Sovereign.

A Bill framed for this purpose will be laid before you, and I ask for it your early consideration.

I am happy to be able to inform you of the zeal and alacrity displayed by the members of the Volunteer Force when called upon to turn out for active service.

Their conduct shows that the present population of *Canada* has not degenerated from the manly virtues which characterize the races from which it derives its origin, and that it may be relied on, under all circumstances, to respond to the call of duty, either for the maintenance of internal order, or to repel foreign aggression.

The Commissioners appointed under the provisions of the second chapter of the Consolidated Statutes of *Lower Canada* to frame a Civil Code, and also a Code of Civil Procedure for *Lower Canada*, have completed the former part of their duty; the results of their labours shall be laid before you, and I am informed that the Code of Civil Procedure is in a very advanced state.

The completion of the Codification of the Civil Law, in both French and English, cannot fail to be of great benefit to the inhabitants of *Lower Canada*, by enabling the people of all origins to read, in their own languages, the Civil Law under which they live, and which hitherto has only been accessible in a language which is not the mother tongue of a portion of the people whose civil rights are regulated by it.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

The expenditure rendered necessary by calling out the Volunteers for active service, and which was unforeseen when the Estimates of the current year were agreed to, will necessitate a supplementary vote for that service.

I have desired that an estimate for this purpose shall be laid before you.

I am happy to be in a position to inform you that the financial legislation of last Session has been attended with beneficial results.

The Revenue has largely increased, and there has been a contemporaneous extension of the trade of the Province.

I have directed the Estimates for the next financial year to be laid before you, and you will find that they have been framed with a due attention to economy combined with efficiency.

Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen :

At the close of the last session of Parliament I informed you that it was my intention,