

at the International Exhibition to be held in Dublin during the present year. I anticipate your hearty coöperation in promoting such a national object, when the papers upon this subject shall have been brought under your consideration.

19. Some modification of the law passed last Session for the better encouragement of Education will be laid before you, and no doubt you will gladly endeavor to render more available and better adapted to the wants of the country, certain provisions of a measure which so materially concerns the education of the great body of the people. I count on that important subject receiving the most enlightened consideration at your hands.

20. In accordance with the Act passed last Session providing for the extension of the Railway to Pictou, that work was put under contract, and will be completed with all possible dispatch.

21. Proposals for the construction of Railways to the border of New Brunswick and to Annapolis, will also require your consideration.

22. The grant of last Session on account of Saint Peter's Canal has been expended, and a full Report on that work will be laid before you at an early day.

23. I regret to be obliged to inform you that the crowded state of the Hospital for the Insane has made it impossible to provide adequate accommodation for the care of those who unfortunately need an asylum of that description. I trust the appeal thus made to the sympathy of the Legislature will lead to the extension of an Institution so indispensable.

24. You will be gratified to learn that the traffic on the Provincial Railways continues to exhibit a marked and steady improvement over any previous year, and that the increasing sale of the Crown Lands, and extended working of the Coal and Gold Mines, all evidence a high degree of prosperity.

25. These fortunate circumstances, enhanced as they are by the continuance of peace, will no doubt facilitate your discharge of those public duties for which I have called you together, and must awaken in us all a grateful recognition of the indulgent bounty of that Providence, which has bestowed so many blessings on this Province.

26. I now declare this Session opened.

The House of Assembly then withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire soon after.

Bill pro forma read.

Mr. Ritchie presented a Bill relating to Highways,—which was read a first time.

Speech reported.

Ordered, That the said Bill be read a second time, at a future day.

The President reported His Excellency's Speech, and the same being read by the Clerk,

Address in answer moved.

Mr. Holmes moved, that an Address be presented to His Excellency in answer to his Speech, which he read in his place, and afterwards delivered it to the Clerk, who read the same as follows:—

To His Excellency

Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell,

Knight, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Lieut. Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, and its Dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

THE ADDRESS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

Address.

We, Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia, thank Your Excellency for the Speech with which you have been pleased to open the present Legislative Session.

We beg respectfully to tender to Your Excellency our cordial good wishes, upon your assumption of the Government of this Colony; we confidently