

THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER.

SESSION, 1866.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Monday, April 9th, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor Dundas, came down to the Council Chamber, at 3 o'clock, when he was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly of this Island with the following

SPEECH:

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I am happy again to meet you, and to have recourse to your assistance and advice.

In accordance with the notice given by the Government of the United States, the Reciprocity Treaty between that Power and Great Britain has terminated. It will be for you to consider what measures should be adopted in regard to such commercial interests as are affected by the abrogation of this Treaty.

At the suggestion of Her Majesty's principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a Council was summoned by the Governor-General for the purpose of furnishing an opinion to the Imperial Government in the negotiation of commercial treaties. A Delegate was sent to represent the interests of this Island at this Council. The report of its proceedings will be laid before you.

It was also deemed expedient that this Island should be represented on the mission which has been sent to the West Indies, Brazil and Mexico. The object of this mission is to ascertain in what manner the trade of the British North American Provinces with these countries can be extended. I have not yet learned the result of this mission.

The general prosperity of the past year has been marred by the civil disturbances which took place in several parts of this Colony. Misled by ignorant or designing men, tenants were induced to form themselves into an association with the avowed intention of withholding payment of their rents, unless their landlords consented to sell their lands on such terms as this association chose to dictate.

The law was openly and systematically set at defiance, and it became necessary to use extraordinary measures to enforce it. A requisition was, therefore, made for a detachment of Her Majesty's troops, to aid the civil power, and the authority of the law has been firmly and impartially maintained.

Papers on these subjects will be laid before you.

In the Preamble of the Act under which the Barracks in this City were sold, you pledged the Colony to provide suitable accommodation for any troops that might be stationed here. New Barracks have, therefore, been erected, and you will be asked to concur in a measure for appropriating the money arising from the sale of the old barracks towards the expenditure incurred in building those at present occupied by the troops.

I have recently concluded the purchase of another Estate from one of the proprietors. It is my intention to continue to buy out the rights of the landowners, whenever I am enabled to do so on reasonable terms.

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have given directions that the Public Accounts for the past year be laid before you.

The Revenue is the largest which has ever been collected in this Island, and would have been more than sufficient to meet the expenditure, had it not been for the extraordinary outlay which was caused by the measures necessary for the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the lawless association to which I have alluded.

The Estimates for the present year will also be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy.

Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

You will, I am sure, have observed, with just pride, the loyalty and the spirit which your fellow subjects in the neighbouring Provinces have displayed, when threatened by piratical attacks at the hands of lawless men. I know that, should an emergency ever unfortunately occur in this Island, I could rely with confidence on a like spirit in its inhabitants.