

the Honourable *William Cayley*, Member for the County of *Huron*; having previously taken the oath, according to law, and subscribed, before the Commissioners, the roll containing the same, took their seats in the House.

Public Officers
Oath Bill.

Ordered.—That the Honourable Mr. Attorney General *Draper* have leave to bring in a Bill to indemnify certain public officers and others, who may not have taken the oaths of them, by law required.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time.

Mr. Speaker
reports Speech.

Mr. *Speaker* then reported that, when the House did attend His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, 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, and is as followeth:—

Speech.

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council, and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The duty of opening this Session of Parliament has necessarily devolved upon me as Administrator of the Government, in consequence of the lamented departure of the late Governor General. But I am commanded at the same time to make known to you that the Queen has been graciously pleased permanently to designate me as Her Majesty's future Representative in this Province.

In announcing to you the fact of my having thus become the Successor of Lord *Metcalf*, you will, I feel assured, concur with me in the expression of sincere regret at the painful cause which has removed this distinguished Nobleman from a Station, the Duties of which, he discharged with a zeal and ability, that on every occasion won for him the highest approbation of his Sovereign, and the respect and gratitude of the People over whom he presided as Her Representative.

The several Addresses to the Queen which were adopted during the last Session of the Legislature, have been laid at the foot of the Throne. It will be my pleasing duty to announce to you Her Majesty's gracious Replies.

I should under any circumstances have directed your early attention to the condition of the Militia Law. But the unsettled state of the Negotiations which have been for some time past carried on between the Imperial Government and that of the *United States of America*, renders it imperative upon me to press more immediately on your consideration the necessity of a reorganization of this arm of the public defence. I feel the most unbounded confidence that the loyalty and patriotism of every Class of Her Majesty's Subjects in *Canada* will be conspicuous, as they have been heretofore, should occasion call for their services to aid in the protection of their Country; but a well digested and uniform system is indispensable to give a fitting direction to the most zealous efforts. At the same time I feel warranted in assuring you that, while our Gracious Sovereign will ever rely on the free and loyal attachment of Her Canadian People for the defence of this Province, and the maintenance of British Connexion, Her Majesty will be prepared, as Her Predecessors have always been, to provide with promptitude and energy, corresponding with the power and resources of the Empire, for the security of Her North American Dominions.

The subject of the Civil List, which was brought under your consideration by my predecessor, will doubtless engage your attention, when I trust to your wisdom to make such a Provision as will enable Her Majesty to give effect to your wishes, by recommending to the Imperial Parliament the requisite changes in the Act of Re-union.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Financial Accounts of the Province for the past year will be immediately laid before you. The estimates for the service of the current year will be likewise submitted for your early consideration.

The necessity of providing for the prosecution and completion of the public improvements undertaken with the sanction of Parliament, will form a subject for your deliberation.

It affords me pleasure to be able to inform you that the Revenue of the past year has not fallen short of the expectations which were entertained of its amount, and I rely on your willingness to make such provision for the public service, as a due regard to the interests of the people may require.

Honourable Gentlemen, and

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

Since your last meeting, the ancient City of *Quebec* has been subjected to unexampled calamity in the successive fires which laid waste its buildings. Measures, rendered indispensable by the exigency, were adopted by my Predecessor, which will be sent down for your approval.

The sympathy and benevolence of different portions of the British Empire, were roused into active exercise by the knowledge of the severe infliction with which it had pleased Divine Providence to permit the Citizens of *Quebec* to be visited, and we have the strongest reasons for appreciating the noble generosity which has been exhibited, and which has proved how truly the inhabitants of *Canada* are felt by the people of *Great Britain*, to be Brethren and fellow subjects of the same mighty Nation. It will be for your wisdom to consider what further measures it may be proper to adopt, for the restoration of what has been thus destroyed.

The last intelligence from the Mother Country indicates a most important change in the Commercial Policy of the Empire. I had previously taken occasion to press upon Her Majesty's Government a due consideration of the effect, that any contemplated alteration might have on the interests of *Canada*. But until we have a fuller exposition of the projected Scheme, which a few days will probably bring to us, it would be premature to anticipate that the claims of this Province to a just measure of protection had been overlooked.

In these and the various other subjects affecting the prosperity of *Canada*, which may occupy you, I offer my hearty co-operation; and I earnestly trust that under the direction of an all-wise Providence, we shall be enabled to pursue a course calculated to promote the best interests, and to foster the rising growth of this rapidly advancing Colony.

On motion of Mr. *Smith*, of *Frontenac*, seconded by the Honourable Mr. *DeBleury*,

Ordered, That the Clerk be directed to charge to the contingencies of the House, the postage on all letters not exceeding one ounce in weight, and on printed papers, to and from Members of this House, during the present Session, provided that when Petitions to this House are enclosed, the postage thereon shall be charged, without restriction as to weight.

On motion of the Honourable Mr. Attorney General *Draper*, seconded by the Honourable Mr. *Cayley*,

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government, this day de- considered.