

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,

AND GENERAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST
PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA,

COMMENCING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 1859.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 1859.

THE FOURTH SESSION of the Twenty-first Parliament for the Province of Nova Scotia, was this day opened with the usual formalities.

At half-past two o'clock, P. M., His Excellency the Right Honorable the EARL OF MULGRAVE, Lieutenant-Governor, came in state to the Council Chamber, and, being seated, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod received His Excellency's command to let the House of Assembly know "It is His Excellency's will and pleasure they attend him immediately in this House," who being come with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with a Speech to both Houses as follows :

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

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

Since the prorogation, communications have been received from the Colonial Office and the Governor-General, on the subject of a Federal Union of the North American Provinces, which will be placed before you at an early day.

I am happy to inform you that your Address to Her Majesty on the Inter-Colonial Railway was very graciously received.

The correspondence with the Imperial Government, Canada, and New Brunswick, which induced me to send a Delegation to England, will be submitted, with the Report of the Delegates, for your information.

You will be glad to learn that during the recess the Railways to Windsor and Truro have been completed and opened for traffic, embracing sixty miles more than were previously in operation.

Full Reports of every thing connected with these great Public Works will be placed on the table without delay.

During the past Summer I had the pleasure of visiting several portions of this fine Province,

and intend to avail myself of future opportunities to become personally acquainted with those sections of the country I have not already seen.

When in Cape Breton, I visited the St. Peter's Canal, and directed a further examination and report to be made upon that work, which will be laid before you.

The Hospital for the Insane has been so far completed and furnished as to be ready for the reception of patients, a number of whom are now experiencing the benefit of that Institution.

While we have reason to thank Almighty God for an abundant harvest, I regret to learn that some distress has been experienced by a portion of our hardy and industrious population, from a partial failure of the Fisheries.

Although, as was expected, a slight deficiency in the Revenue has resulted from the paralyzed condition of trade everywhere, I am happy to find indications of decided improvement already exhibited in the healthier tone of commercial transactions, both here and abroad, from which we may confidently anticipate an increase in the Revenue of the current year.

The increased liability devolved upon you in connection with the Public Works, renders it imperative that, in making your annual appropriations, due regard should be had to economy, in order that you may preserve unsullied the credit of the Province, upon which your character as a people depends.

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

The accounts for the expenditure of the past, together with the estimates for the present year, will be placed before you.

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

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

Your attention will be invited to several useful measures intended to facilitate the business and promote the interests of the Province, and which will, I doubt not, receive your careful consideration.