

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went to the Council Chamber :—

And being returned,

Mr. Speaker laid before the House,

Returns from the Registrars of the Counties of *Durham* (East Riding), *Simcoe*, *Peterborough* and *Norfolk*, of Fees and Emoluments received for the year ending 31st December, 1862, in accordance with Sec. 76, Cap. 89, of the Consolidated Statutes for *Upper Canada*. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 7.)

Also, General Statement and Returns, of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the District of *Joliette*, for the years 1858, 1859, 1860 and 1861, and in the Districts of *Richelieu* and *Saguenay*, for the year 1862. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 8.)

Also, Statements of affairs of the *Northumberland* and *Durham* Savings Bank, on the 17th January, 1863,—and of the Queen Insurance Company of *Liverpool*, on the 1st July 1862, and Annual Report of the Provident Life Assurance and Investment Company of *Toronto*, for the year ending 31st August, 1862, with a Supplementary Report, dated 5th December, 1862. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 9.)

Also, Accounts of the Trustees of the *Montreal* Turnpike Trust, for the year 1862. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 6.)

Ordered, That the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Macdonald* have leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the administration of the Oaths of Office, to persons appointed as Justices of the Peace.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time; and ordered to be read a second time, on Monday next.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor 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,

And Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :

It affords me much satisfaction to meet you again in Parliament, and to avail myself of your assistance in the enactment of measures for the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of the Province. The period of the year, at which you have been convened, will, I trust, be found generally convenient, and such as will afford ample time for deliberation upon the subjects which may be brought under your notice before the commencement of the commercial and agricultural business season.

I congratulate you upon the spirit of loyalty and patriotism which has been manifested throughout the country in the enrolment of Volunteer Militia Companies, and on the zeal and activity displayed by the Volunteers and the Drill Associations in rendering themselves efficient for active service, should their assistance in defence of the Province be unhappily required. A Bill will be submitted to you containing amendments in the existing Militia Law, having for their object to improve the system now in force for the defensive organization of the people.

A measure for the more fair adjustment of Parliamentary Representation, in each section of the Province, will be laid before you.

You will also be asked to consider a Bill for the more equitable settlement of the relation between Debtor and Creditor, and to afford relief to Insolvent Debtors.

Other measures of public utility in relation to the Administration of Justice, to the Registration of Titles, and to the law respecting Patents for Inventions, will be submitted for your consideration.

Shortly after the close of the last Session of the Legislature, I appointed Commissioners to enquire into the state of the Public Buildings at *Ottawa*, and especially into the expenditure already incurred in respect to them. This investigation has, I regret to say, been unavoidably protracted. A report, however, has been recently received, which will be laid before you, and steps have been taken, based upon that report, with a view to the resumption and speedy completion of the works.