

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

THURSDAY, 21st JANUARY, 1886.

AT A LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, HOLDEN AT HALIFAX, ON THURSDAY, THE 21st JANUARY, A. D. 1886.

P R E S E N T :

The Hon. The Chief-Justice,
The Lord Bishop,
T. N. Jeffery,
S. B. Robie,
Charles R. Prescott,

The Hon. Samuel Cunard,
Henry H. Cogswell,
Peter McNab,
James Tobin,
Joseph Allison.

PRAYERS.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor came to the Council Chamber, attended as usual, and being seated, sent a Message by the Deputy-Secretary of the Province to command the House of Assembly to attend His Excellency in the Council Chamber immediately—the House of Assembly attended accordingly with their Speaker, when His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech :—

His Excellency the Lt. Gov. comes to the Council Chamber House of Assembly attend

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

IT affords me great pleasure to meet you again in General Assembly. Since our last meeting I have visited many parts of this beautiful and interesting Province, and was much gratified with its appearance, and the industry manifested by its inhabitants. Speech

I have the satisfaction to congratulate you that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, an abundant Harvest has spread plenty throughout the country ; and I have also the satisfaction of informing you that the affairs of this Province are now generally in a state of steady and progressive improvement, with regard to Trade and Agriculture. The Fisheries on our coast have been more productive this season than for some years past. This important branch of industry and commerce should be encouraged and protected, as it is a source of wealth to those engaged in it, and also to the Province. I anticipate that these indications of reviving prosperity will continue to increase ; and I hope, by our joint endeavours and exertions, to advance the public good.

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

I shall direct the Public Accounts of last year to be laid before you for your inspection ; and I trust that you will find the supplies granted to His Majesty have been faithfully applied. I shall also direct the usual Estimates to be submitted to you ; and I confidently rely upon your making the necessary provision for the services of the year.

*Mr. President, and Gentlemen of His Majesty's Council,
Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly :*

I have again to recommend to your favorable consideration, a more effectual system for the improvement of the Great Roads and Bridges, leading from the Capital through the Province : experience shows that the sums annually allotted to this service, restricted as they have been by local divisions in the expenditure, cannot, upon so extended a line, produce a beneficial effect : the present system is admitted to be defective, as the labour of one year is, in many instances, scarcely perceptible on the return of another.

Concurring entirely in the resolution expressed by you in the last Session, I have directed reports of the state of the different Main Post Roads to be prepared and laid before you ; and I confidently trust that you will adopt measures to remedy the existing evil.

The Union of King's and Dalhousie Colleges having formerly been brought to your notice during the Session of 1832, by the then Governor ; and His Majesty's Government being desirous of bringing this protracted and important measure to a settlement, have instructed me to submit the subject again to your consideration ; and they confidently trust that the House of Assembly will relinquish their claim, made last Session, upon Dalhousie College, that there may be sufficient Funds for establishing and maintaining an United College upon liberal principles ; so that the means of facilitating the diffusion of the higher Branches of Education may be attainable by all classes. I feel assured that, to facilitate this desirable object, you will be disposed to meet the wishes of His Majesty's Government. I expect that I shall have occasion to communicate with you further on this subject during the present Session—in which case I shall do so by Message.

The Act with regard to Common and Grammar Schools being about to expire, the important subject of Public Education, will demand your earliest attention.

I submitted a Message to you last Session, accompanied by an Act of the Imperial Parliament, regarding a general arrangement of the Post-Office, and the internal Postage in the North American Colonies.—As the Act in question was intended to come into operation on the 1st January, in the present year, I trust you will give the subject, also, your early attention.