

Bill to provide for the administration of the Oaths of Office to persons appointed to be Justices of the Peace, in this Province.

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.

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,
Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I have thought it right to call you together at this season, because I believed it to be the wish of the Country that your task of legislation should not be delayed until a later period of the year, and because it is at once the desire and the duty of the Executive Government, to profit by your advice and assistance when it may be most conveniently afforded.

In referring to the labours of your last Session, I cannot help congratulating you on having settled the disputed question of the Clergy Reserves. You will find, I believe, a large balance of funds arising from this source, available for distribution among the Municipalities, but I think it likely that your assistance as Legislators may be required to give full effect to the fair and equal allotment of these sums.

In *Lower Canada*, the Act for the abolition of the Seigniorial Tenure, promises in like manner to close a long pending controversy by an equitable adjustment of existing claims. No time has been lost by me in acting on the powers conferred by this law, and I trust that you will be satisfied with the progress which has been made.

The subject of a change in the Constitution of the Legislative Council by rendering it Elective, will again be brought before you.

A measure for the organization of a Provincial Police, capable of being applied by the Crown, for the prevention of crime, and the speedy apprehension of offenders, deserves your attentive consideration.

The increasing wealth and prosperity of the Country demand increased protection for property, and the advance of civilization in *Canada* should be marked by the strict enforcement of Law, and by the perfect sense of security from outrage.

It is to you that I must look for the power of ensuring these great objects.

I have spoken of our increasing prosperity. No mark of its existence can be stronger than that afforded by our extended lines of Railway. Nor is this progress confined to one Section of the Province. Eastward to *St. Thomas*, and westward to *Guelph* and *Hamilton*, these lines, at once the sign and the cause of progress, are already completed. I may congratulate you on the fact that since your last meeting, nearly two hundred and fifty miles have been got into working order, whilst it is hoped that not less than two hundred and fifty more will be finished before next year.

Legal reforms are needed both in *Eastern* and *Western Canada*. One measure at least will be submitted to you, having reference to this important subject. It may not be possible in the present Session to effect all that you desire; yet I trust that some progress will be made in simplifying the procedure and facilitating the working of our Courts, by the adoption of practical amendments.

I should see with great satisfaction the adoption by you of any general measure which tended still more to abridge your legislative labours in providing for the incorporation, and for laying down the conditions of private institutions of every kind.