

Mr. Speaker then said,

“ *Gentlemen,*

Speaker makes acknowledgments.

“ Having deferred making my acknowledgments to the House for the honor done me in my election as Speaker until this stage of our proceedings, I have now to address you on that subject.

In resuming the chair of this House, which by the kindness and confidence of the representatives of the people of Nova Scotia I have had the honor to occupy during the last six years, I beg on this the present occasion of my election to the honorable office of Speaker of this branch of the Legislature, to tender to the members of this House my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the honor they have at this time conferred upon me. To discharge in all respects aright the duties of so important and responsible an office is an elevation of official merit, which I can scarcely venture to hope to reach; but if an honest purpose and a firm determination on my part at all times and under all circumstances to be governed by a courteous and honorable impartiality in my official intercourse with this body, and the faithful interpretation and application of the rules of Parliament and of this House to the best of my ability, can be regarded by the House as any equivalent for the higher degree of official excellence to which I have adverted, be assured gentlemen that to this extent at least, I shall strive to justify the choice which you have this day made, and for which I would again assure you I feel most truly and deeply grateful.”

Speech of Governor reported.

Mr. Speaker then reported that his Excellency had in the council chamber, been pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had for greater accuracy, obtained a copy, which he read to the House as follows :

*Mr. President, and honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

1°. In meeting this Parliament for the first time, it gives me much pleasure to be able to congratulate you upon the prosperous condition of the province.

2°. You will be gratified to learn, that, notwithstanding the diminution of royalty on coal, and although the distilleries have not been in operation during the last nine months, the revenue has exceeded that of any former year, fully realizing the estimates submitted to the Legislature.

3°. It is matter of congratulation, that, while under existing arrangements, the operations of the General Mining Association have considerably increased, new and valuable discoveries have been made in our mineral resources, which are stimulating provincial enterprise, attracting foreign capital, and bid fair at no distant day to introduce vigorous and healthy competition, by which trade will be largely extended, and the revenue increased.

4°. A Commissioner was appointed under the Act relating to the management of the Indian reserves, and some progress has been made in their adjustment, the report of which will be laid before you.

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

5°. The public accounts and estimates for the current year, will be submitted for your consideration.

*Mr. President, and honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council ;*

*Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly ;*

6°. The entire absence of any organized land force for the defence of the province, has induced me during the recess, to authorize the formation of volunteer companies throughout