

ment of peace will lead to a constantly increasing development of friendly relations between our people and the citizens of the great Republic.

The circumstances which rendered it necessary to place a portion of the Volunteer Militia of the Province on permanent duty, having ceased to exist, the force has been recalled, and I have to express my feeling of satisfaction at the readiness with which the men responded to the call of duty, and the general good conduct which they exhibited during the period of their service.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :*

I have directed that the estimates for the current year, and the statement of the expenditure which has been incurred chargeable against the vote of credit of last Session shall be laid before you.

You will find with reference to both that economy has been combined with a due regard to efficiency.

*Honorable Gentlemen and Gentlemen :*

I have not failed to transmit to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for presentation to Her Majesty, the Addresses to which you agreed during the last Session, in favor of a Federal Union of the Colonies of *British North America*.

I have desired that the reply of the Secretary of State shall be communicated to you, and I trust that mature examination of the project will, ere long, induce the Legislatures of the other Provinces to concur with you in giving their sanction to a measure which has been adopted as a great feature of Imperial policy, and has been twice noticed with approbation in Her Majesty's Speeches from the Throne.

On motion of the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Macdonald*, seconded by the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *Cartier*,

*Ordered*, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, to both Houses of the Provincial Legislature, be taken into consideration to-morrow.

*Ordered*, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof, and that no person but such as he shall appoint do presume to print the same.

*Resolved*, That Select Standing Committees of this House for the present Session be appointed for the following purposes :—1. On Privileges and Elections.—2. On Expiring Laws.—3. On Railways, Canals, and Telegraph Lines.—4. On Miscellaneous Private Bills.—5. On Standing Orders.—6. On Printing.—7. On Contingencies.—8. On Public Accounts.—9. On Banking and Commerce.—10. On Immigration and Colonization ; which said Committees shall severally be empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the House, and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon ; with power to send for persons, papers and records.

*Resolved*, That if anything shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate ; and all Members returned upon double Returns are to withdraw until their Returns are determined.

*Resolved*, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavored so to be, by bribery or any other corrupt practices, this House shall proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such bribery or other corrupt practices.

*Resolved*, That the offer of any money or other advantage to any Member of the Legislative Assembly, for the promoting of any matter whatsoever, depending or to be transacted in the Provincial Parliament, is a high crime and misdemeanor, and tends to the subversion of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker laid before the House,—General Statements and Returns of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, in the Districts of *Rimouski*, *Montreal*, and *St. Francis*, for the year 1864. (*Sessional Papers*, No. 1)