

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES,

*And General Proceedings of the SECOND SESSION of the TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT of the PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA, commencing on Thursday, February 5, 1857.*

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,

THURSDAY, Feb. 5th, 1857.

At 2 o'clock, his Excellency Sir Gaspard LeMarchant having arrived at the Legislative Council Chamber, by message commanded the attendance of the House. His Excellency was pleased to open the Session with the following Speech:—

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

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

I meet you again in Parliament with feelings of undiminished pleasure, and I trust that your deliberations will result in measures promotive of the best interests of this thriving and loyal Province.

Animated by true British feeling, and warmly interested in the conduct and progress of the late War, though happily exempted from its disasters and burthens, the people of this Country, in common with their fellow-subjects in every part of the Empire, have reason to be deeply grateful for its successful termination, and I am sure will unite with us in a fervent prayer that the benign and sustaining influences of peace may long continue to advance and extend the prosperity and happiness of the Nation at large.

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

The Accounts for the past, and the Estimates for the current year, will be forthwith submitted to you.

*Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

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

Our exemption from pestilence of every kind during the past year, through the protection of a merciful Providence, demands our deepest gratitude.

The labours of the husbandman within our borders in the past season have been richly rewarded; and the ready sales and remunerating prices of all kinds of farm stock and produce, I am happy to find, have contributed largely to his well-being and comfort.

I confidently feel that the recent importations of improved Stock will result in general advantage to the farming classes, and hope that you will be disposed to encourage, by liberal grants, an object of such vital importance to the agriculture of the Province.

I regret to learn that the Fisheries, more especially in the autumn, have disappointed the hopes of the hardy and enterprising body who derive their subsistence from that great branch of Provincial industry.

I am happy to acquaint you that the Revenue has somewhat exceeded that of last year, and gives continued proof of the increasing prosperity and active industry of the people.

The extension of the Provincial Railway has been vigorously prosecuted. The stream of eastern traffic has been tapped at the Grand Lake, and it is confidently hoped that ere the close of this year the line will be open to Windsor and Stewiacke.

The Accounts of the expenditure and liabilities incurred in these large operations will be laid before you at an early day, and will satisfy you I trust of the integrity and prudence with which the Works have been conducted.

The Reports and Accounts of the Lunatic Asylum, which will also be before you, will shew that the building of that Institution has favourably advanced during the past season.

It was thought advisable that a further Survey should be had of the St. Peter's Canal by an experienced Engineer. The Report of the gentleman who was employed will be presented at an early day, and I invite your attention to a subject of such prominent interest