

No country having a large commercial population could long afford to dispense with a law by which those unfortunate in trade could obtain a discharge of their liabilities and become again active and useful members of society.

The Bill respecting Insolvency contains all provisions necessary for the establishment of Courts for the purpose of granting complete and final certificates of discharge to that class of persons, and has received the careful consideration of the most able lawyers and experienced mercantile men of the House.

I beg to present to Your Excellency the Bill of Supply for the Service of the current year, to which I respectfully solicit Your Excellency's assent :

The Honorable the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly then presented the following Money Bill:—

“ An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Civil Government, and for certain other expenses connected with the Civil Service, from the end of the year 1863, to the thirtieth day of June, 1865.”

The Clerk of this House did thereupon say :

“ In Her Majesty's name, His Excellency the Governor General thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.”

The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery then read the title of another Bill to be passed, as follows :

“ An Act for the relief of *James Benning*.”

To this Bill the Clerk of this House did thereupon say :

“ His Excellency the Governor General doth reserve this Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon.”

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to deliver the following Speech:—

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council :*

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :*

I congratulate you on having brought to a close the labors of this protracted Session, and on the large number of important measures, both of a public and private nature, which you have been enabled to pass.

I trust the Act respecting Insolvency will place the relations of Debtors and Creditors on a satisfactory basis, and will give relief to the honest but unsuccessful trader.

I have had great pleasure in giving Her Majesty's assent to the Act for the effective Audit of the Public Accounts, and for the more complete prevention of any expenditure of public money without the previous sanction of Parliament.

The discoveries of mines of the precious metals, within our territory, have rendered necessary new regulations in reference to the management of that part of the public property, and I confidently expect that the enactments of the Gold Mining Bill of this Session will be found effectual for the protection of the Revenue, and will stimulate the development of this important branch of the Provincial resources.

I rejoice to observe that you have adopted a measure for the improvement of the Jury system of *Lower Canada*, and I feel assured that the administration of Justice generally throughout the Province will be simplified in procedure, and reduced in cost by the other measures of Law Reform which you have matured.

*Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly :*

The system of taxation which you have adopted will, I am convinced, lead to an equalization between the Revenue and the Expenditure of the Province within the next financial year.

This result of your labors cannot fail to have the happiest effect upon the credit of *Canada* abroad, and will tend to promote the growth of public confidence at home.

The provision you have made for the Militia and Volunteer Forces will, I trust, raise that important branch of the Public Service to an improved state of efficiency.