

THE  
PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER,  
SESSION, 1863.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE.

On Tuesday, March 3, His Excellency Lieut. Governor Dundas came down to the Council Chamber, at 3 o'clock, to open the first Session of the Twenty-second General Assembly of this Island. The Members of the House of Assembly having previously taken the oaths required by law, were summoned by message from His Excellency to attend at the Bar of the Council Chamber, when Mr. Cooper, clerk of the Legislative Council, by command, directed the members of the Legislative Council to choose a President, and the members of the Assembly to repair to the Assembly Room to elect a Speaker.

The Members of the Assembly having returned, the Hon. Mr. McAulay, addressing Mr. McNeill, the Clerk, proposed the Hon. Mr. Haviland to be their Speaker, which was seconded by the Hon. J. C. Pope. No other Member having been proposed, the Hon. Mr. Haviland was taken from his seat by the Hons. Messrs. McAulay and Pope, and conducted to the Speaker's platform, and standing on the upper steps he returned his humble acknowledgements to the House for the great honor they had conferred on him, by choosing him to be their Speaker.

The Hon. Mr. Haviland then took the chair, when, on being summoned, the Speaker elect, and the House went up to the Council Chamber, whereupon his Excellency having approved of the choice of Speaker which the House had made, opened the Legislature with the following

SPEECH:

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

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

Her Gracious Majesty the Queen has been pleased to announce to Her Parliament, that she has given Her consent to a Marriage between His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

I am confident that you will receive this announcement with the greatest pleasure, and that you will heartily unite in expressing to Her Majesty your congratulations on an event so conducive to Her own happiness, that of Her family, and the welfare of the Nation.

The remembrance of the visit of His Royal Highness to this Island, gives additional interest to this Marriage.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, has laid before the Queen the Petition passed by the Legislature last Session, praying Her Majesty to use Her influence to obtain for this Island privileges in respect of Shipping, similar to those which have been conceded by the French Government to the Province of Canada.

I am requested to inform you that the question of extending these privileges to Vessels built in any of Her Majes-

ty's North American Provinces, is under the consideration of the Government of France.

The Colonial Minister has intimated to me that the Commissioners appointed by the Queen, to inquire into the differences existing between Landowners and their Tenants, have exceeded their Powers in the Report which they have made.

His Grace is consequently unable to advise Her Majesty to assent to two Acts, passed during last Session, and intended to give validity to that Report.

Papers on the subject will be laid before you.

I am confident, that you will deliberate on a question of such interest to your constituents, and the Colony, with a determination to use your utmost endeavours to obtain a solution of those differences, which have so long retarded the prosperity of this Island.

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

I have directed the Estimates of the present year, and the Public Accounts for the past, to be laid before you.

I observe with regret that the Expenditure for the year 1862 has largely exceeded the Revenue.

The Revenue has fallen short of that of the preceding twelvemonth. This without doubt, is in a great measure owing to the derangement of our Commerce, the result of the continuance of the unhappy struggle in the neighbouring Republic.

I would direct your attention to the sum which is annually expended on Education. This item alone absorbs nearly one half of the Revenue, and it is, moreover, an Expenditure ever increasing with the Population.

The proceeds of the Assessment on Lands, specially devoted to this service, are altogether disproportionate to the Expenditure which it entails.

The necessity for reducing that item of Public Expenditure, or of raising an additional Revenue to meet it, is imperative.

You will, I am confident, bestow a careful consideration on the Financial condition of the Colony generally, with a view to adopting such measures, as may be deemed necessary to equalize Revenue and Expenditure, and to maintain, unimpaired, the Public Credit.

*Mr. President and Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

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

I have been desired by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle to invite you to give your earnest consideration to the system by which Money Votes are initiated in the House of Assembly.

In the Mother Country, and in several of the Colonies under Constitutions similar to your own, the Executive Government is directly responsible for the Financial condition of the country.