

A Board of Works has been established, in accordance with the provisions of the Act passed for that purpose, and though it has encountered many of the difficulties incident to the working of new institutions, yet under its superintendance several useful Public Works have been commenced, and others carried on, or completed.

Trusting that your deliberations may be guided by the Wisdom of an overruling Providence to the promotion of the best interests of your fellow colonists, I now leave you to the performance of your legislative labors.

Hon. members of the House of Assembly having returned to their own room, His Honor's speech was read from the Chair.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD, a member of Her Majesty's Executive Council, laid on the table the returned Writ for the election of a member for the First District of King's County, in the place of Hon. Joseph Hensley, who had accepted the office of Assistant Judge.

Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Brecken, and Hon. Mr. McAulay objected to the business of the Session being proceeded with, until the Government had informed the House what changes had taken place in the Executive during the recess, and what member thereof should be addressed as Leader of the Government in this branch of the Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Laird, Hon. P. Sinclair, and Messrs. Reilly and G. Sinclair, in reply, contended that the Government should not be called upon to make any announcements or explanations at this stage of the proceedings; that it would be improper to give the desired information to the House until new members had taken their places; and that, if the Opposition had only patience to wait a little, their wishes would be gratified.

Hon. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION maintained that the course the Government was pursuing was irregular, and he would therefore move the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this House cannot proceed with the public business of the Colony until they are made acquainted with the various changes that have taken place in the Executive Council during the recess, in consequence of the elevation of the Honorable Joseph Hensley to the Bench.

When the Speaker put the question on the resolution, to the House, there appeared for it—Hon. Messrs. Haviland, Duncan, McAulay; Messrs. Brecken, Owen, Yeo, Prowse, Ramsay—8.

Against it—Hon. Messrs. Laird, Callbeck, Kelly, P. Sinclair; Messrs. McNeill,

Bell, G. Sinclair, Reilly, Arsenault, Kickham, McMillan, McCormack Howat, Cameron—14.

The Writ was then read by the Clerk, and James A. McLean, Esq., the member elect for the said First District of King's County, having appeared at the bar, was introduced to the Speaker, and took the usual oaths and his seat.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD laid a similar Writ and return on the table for the election of a member to represent the Fourth Electoral District of Queen's County, in place of Hon. Benjamin Davies who had accepted the office of Colonial Secretary, which was read by the Clerk, whereupon Mr. Davies, who had been re-elected, came forward, and, after complying with the customary forms, took his seat.

The following, among other Committees, were then appointed:—

*To prepare Draft Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech*—Messrs. Reilly and Bell, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. G. Sinclair, McNeill, McMillan, and McLean.

*Public Accounts*—Mr. G. Sinclair, Hon. Mr. Kelly, Messrs. Bell, Yeo, Cameron, Owen, Prowse.

Hon. COL. SECRETARY said that he was now in a position to inform the House respecting the changes which had taken place in the Government during the recess. The Executive as at present constituted stood thus: Hon. R. P. Haythorne, President; Hon. George Coles, Hon. William W. Lord, Hon. Andrew A. McDonald, Hon. George Howlan, Hon. Henry J. Callbeck, Hon. Alexander Laird, jun., Hon. Peter Sinclair, and Hon. Benjamin Davies. The Leader of the Government in this House was Hon. Mr. Howlan, and, during his absence, he (Mr. D.) would discharge the duties of the position to the best of his humble ability.

On motion of the Hon. Col. Secretary, Mr. David Laird was appointed Reporter to the House for the Session, with power to choose his own Assistants.

The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, March 4.

House met about 4 o'clock.

Reporting.

Hon. the SPEAKER read a letter which he had received from Mr. D. Laird, Re-