

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

OF THE

HON. CHRISTOPHER DUNKIN.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

FRIDAY, 14th February, 1868.

AFTER THE RECESS,

Hon. Mr. CHAUVEAU reported a message from His Excellency, with the estimates for the 18 months, commencing 1st July, 1867, to 31st December, 1868.

Hon. Mr. DUNKIN rose about eight o'clock to make his financial statement. He said :

MR. SPEAKER,—I regret very much that I am compelled, feeling that on this occasion I must say more than I have the physical capacity to repeat in two languages—possibly more than I have the physical capacity to utter in the language more familiar to me—to ask the House to listen to me this evening in the English language only. I hope the House will excuse my omission as not voluntary on my part. I think it will believe the omission is not due to want of will, but to want of physical ability, as I have stated. [Hear, hear.] I will endeavor, should occasion offer, as it very probably will in the course of the discussion on the supplies, to repeat in French any explanations which any hon. member may desire. Under ordinary circumstances,—if I were at all able to undertake the labor of speaking in both languages,—I would do so with the greatest pleasure.

I cannot address the House on the occasion of presenting the motion which I shall have to place in your hands, without so deep a feeling of the embarrassment of my position as obliges me to allude to it, even in the first sentences of my speech. It is not merely that I have to discharge a very grave and arduous duty for the first time ; it is not merely that I feel I have to do this under circumstances, I may say of hurry and pressure, which are not quite ordinary ; it is not merely that the duty I have to discharge is new to me, or that this Legislature is met for the first time. There is even more on the present occasion to be considered than all this. The circumstances under which we meet render this motion in the strictest sense of the word a new one. Everything connected with the procedure may be said to be new ; new, in the sense of the political institutions which bring