

that great work, the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, which has once already been so near successful completion. When this gigantic undertaking shall have been accomplished, the ancient and loyal Colony of Newfoundland will be the foremost of the children of the United Kingdom, as it were, to clasp the hand of the Mother Country in closer communication, and, let us hope, for the future, in more dignified, while not less affectionate relations, than before. The prominent position she will so occupy should excite among her people a noble ambition to emulate those virtues and cultivate that character which has made the Parent State great among nations. Rejecting unworthy and narrow minded views of local questions, let all classes strive, in amicable rivalry, for the promotion of good to the community in which their fortunes are embarked; providing, in temperate and independent public opinion, that effective regulation of the conduct of public affairs, whether by one party in the state or another, which forms no mean element in the success of constitutional forms of Government.

Gentlemen, I leave you now, after this formal opening of the Legislative Session, to discharge the duties which especially devolve upon you. In doing so I am sure you will join with me in the prayer that the Almighty Ruler of all events may bless your labours, will direct them for the good of the people whose interests are in your keeping, and crown your deliberations with results promoting the good order, the peace, and the prosperity of the community to which we belong.

On motion of Mr. WYATT, seconded by Mr. WHITEWAY,

*Resolved*,—That a Select Committee be appointed to prepare a reply to the Gracious Speech with which His Excellency has been pleased to open the present Session of the Legislature.

*Ordered*,—That Mr. WYATT, Mr. WHITEWAY, Mr. E. D. SHEA, Mr. WINTER and Mr. CASEY, do form the Committee.

The Hon. ATTORNEY GENERAL gave notice that, on Wednesday the 15th day of February next, he will move the House into Committee of the whole on the subject of a Confederation of the North American Provinces.

Mr. RENOUF gave notice that, on to-morrow, he will ask the Hon. Acting Colonial Secretary to lay on the table of the House a copy of all Correspondence between the Government and that of Canada, on the subject of Colonial Confederation; also, copy of Instructions furnished the Delegates, Messrs. Shea and Carter, to the Quebec Conference, and the Report of said Delegates.

Also, to ask the Hon. ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY for copy of Correspondence from Dr. Stabb, Manager of the Lunatic Asylum, to the Government, in December last, complaining of the visit of inspection made by the Representatives of St. John's West to that Institution, twelve months ago.