

The importance can hardly be overrated, of the prospect thus opened to us, and of which practical experiment has already demonstrated the value, of developing the mineral wealth of the Colony. Means of employment would then be afforded to numbers of the people who now are without any alternative on failure of the fisheries. And we might hope, under such circumstances, that the revenue would be relieved from those constantly recurring drafts for Poor Relief which have almost entirely paralyzed all effort for legitimate public improvements.

I appointed Commissioners for the purpose of carrying out the object which you had in view in your grant, to enable the representation of the industry and products of this Colony at the International Exhibition of Arts and Industry, to be held at Paris during the next summer. The Commissioners have been active in the discharge of the trust confided to them, and a collection has been forwarded to Paris illustrative of our staple products and our mineral resources, which, as regards the latter especially, I hope may be the means of attracting aid in their effective utilization.

I shall lay before you Despatches from the Secretary of State, in which he recommends some amendments to be made in certain Acts passed during the last session, before they are submitted for confirmation by Her Majesty in Council; and I have no doubt that you will give that attention to his suggestions which their importance deserves.

Several measures of public interest will be submitted for your consideration. I confidently trust in your solicitude for the interests of the people, confided to your care; and assure you of my cordial desire to co-operate with you for the public good.

On motion of Mr. PINSENT, seconded by the CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF WORKS,

*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. PINSENT, the CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF WORKS, Mr. KAVANAGH, Mr. GLEN, and Mr. PROWSE, do form the Committee.

*Ordered*,—That the House, at its rising, do adjourn till Monday next.

Mr. PROWSE gave notice that, on to-morrow, he will move for the appointment of a Committee on Contingencies.

Also, that on to-morrow he will move for the appointment of a Select Committee on the Reporting, Printing and Publishing of this House.