

to His Excellency on all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as their words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

*Ordered*, That the Honorable Mr. Attorney General *J. S. Macdonald* have leave to bring in a Bill to provide for the administration of the Oaths of Office to persons appointed as Justices of the Peace.

He accordingly presented the said Bill to the House, and the same was received and read for the first time; and ordered to be read a second time, on Monday next.

Mr. Speaker reported, That when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General, this day, in the Legislative Council Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Provincial Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had, to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy, which he read to the House, as followeth:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I have called you together at this unusual season, because I desired, as soon as was practicable after the dissolution of the last Parliament, to obtain your advice and assistance in reference to the public affairs of the Province.

Although the period of the year at which you are now assembled is one that renders it difficult for many of you to leave your other avocations, in order to give attention to your Parliamentary duties, I am persuaded that you will cheerfully co-operate with me at the present time in considering such Legislative proposals as the exigencies of the public service may demand.

Measures of importance, the progress of which in the late Parliament was interrupted by the dissolution, will again be submitted to your notice.

I would specially direct your attention to the existing Militia Law, which requires extensive amendment, in order to place this important arm of the public defence in a condition of efficiency.

The large increase which has occurred in the Volunteer Force, and the offers of service which I continue to receive from new Companies, are gratifying proofs of the patriotic zeal which animates the whole community in reference to the subject of public defence.

The interest which has been displayed in the formation of Drill Associations, and the manifest desire of the youth of the country to perfect themselves in the use of arms, are satisfactory evidences that the people of *Canada* are prepared to submit to any personal sacrifices which can reasonably be demanded of them, in order to enable them, in the most efficient manner, to put forth their strength in defence of their institutions and their homes, should circumstances ever require from them such an exhibition of patriotism.

I trust to your wisdom to give a proper direction to the excellent spirit by which the people are animated, and to your liberality to supply the means by which practical advantages may be obtained from it.

A Bill for the equitable adjustment of the relations between Debtor and Creditor, and to afford relief to insolvent Debtors, will be laid before you.

Certain alterations in the Laws regulating the Administration of Justice will be submitted for your approbation.

The existing Laws affecting the Registration of Titles to Real Property in *Upper* and *Lower Canada*, and concerning Patents for Inventions, as well as the Laws relating to the encouragement of Agriculture, will also claim your attention.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

The Estimates for the current year, for which provision was not made by the late Parliament, together with such additional Estimates as may be necessary at the present time, will be laid before you without delay.

The last Session of Parliament having abruptly terminated without the grant of the usual Supplies for carrying on the Government, I have been obliged to undertake the responsibility of authorizing advances out of the public chest to defray certain indispensable charges. Statements will be submitted to you, from which you will perceive that these advances have been strictly limited to the unavoidable requirements of the public service.