

Speaker reports
a copy of his
Excellency's
speech;

The Honourable the Speaker informed the House, that he was in possession of a copy of his Excellency's Speech, which he read, and it was again read (*pro forma*) by the Clerk, and is as follows:—

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council; and
Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

The speech.

I have deemed it right to assemble you at the earliest period which the circumstances of the Province, and the duties imposed upon me by the Imperial Act for the Union of the Canadas, under which this Legislature is constituted, have admitted; and it is with sincere satisfaction that I now meet you to deliberate on the great and important interests committed to our charge.

A subject of Her Majesty, an inhabitant of this Province, has been forcibly detained in the neighbouring States, charged with a pretended crime. No time was lost by the Executive of this Province in remonstrating against this proceeding, and provision was made for ensuring to the individual the means of defence, pending the further action of Her Majesty's Government. The Queen's Representative at Washington has since been instructed to demand his release. Of the result of that demand I am not yet apprised, but I have the Queen's commands to assure Her faithful subjects in Canada of Her Majesty's fixed determination to protect them with the whole weight of Her power.

Arrangements were completed during the course of last summer by which, under the directions of the Treasury, the rates of Postage between all parts of this Colony and the United Kingdom were greatly reduced; and a more speedy and regular conveyance of letters between different parts of this Province has since been established by arrangements made by the Deputy Post Master General under my directions. A Commission has been appointed by me to inquire into and report upon the whole Post Office system of British North America, and I confidently anticipate that the result of its labours will be the establishment of a plan securing improvements in the internal communication by Post within the Colony, equal to those which we have already obtained in the communication with the Mother Country.

Many subjects of deep importance to the future welfare of the Province demand your early attention, upon some of which I have directed Bills to be prepared, which will be submitted for your consideration.

Amongst them, first in importance at the present juncture of affairs, is the adoption of measures for developing the resources of the Province, by well considered and extensive public works. The rapid settlement of the Country—the value of every man's property within it—the advancement of his future fortunes, are deeply affected by this question.

The improvement of the navigation from the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Huron to the ocean—the establishment of new internal communications in the Inland Districts, are works requiring a great outlay, but promising commensurate returns. To undertake them successfully large funds will undoubtedly be required, and the financial condition of the Province as it stands at present, would seem to forbid the attempt. But I have the satisfaction of informing you that I have received authority from Her Majesty's Government to state, that they are prepared to call upon the Imperial Parliament to afford their assistance towards these important undertakings. In the full belief that peace and tranquillity will be happily re-established in this Province, under the Constitution settled by Parliament, and that nothing but a relief from its most pressing difficulties is wanting to its rapid advancement to prosperity, they will propose to Parliament, by affording the guarantee of the Imperial Treasury for a loan to the extent of no less than a million and a half sterling, to aid the Province for the double purpose of diminishing the pressure of the interest on the Public Debt, and of enabling it to proceed with those great public undertakings whose progress during the last few years has been arrested by the financial difficulties. I shall direct a measure to be submitted to you embracing a plan for this purpose, and I shall lay before you, for your information and that of the People of Canada, extracts from the despatches which convey to me this most gratifying assurance.

In immediate connexion with the outlay of capital upon public works is the subject of Emigration, and the disposal and settlement of public lands. There exist within this Province no means so certain of producing a healthy flow of Immigration from the Mother Country, and of ultimately establishing the Immigrant as a settler and proprietor within the Colony, as the power of affording sure employment for his labour on his first arrival. The assistance of Parliament, for the public works which may be undertaken here, will

in