

THE  
**PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER.**  
**SESSION, 1870.**

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### Meeting of the Legislature.

On Thursday, March 3, 1870, His Honor the Administrator of the Government, Sir Robert Hodgson, came down to the Council Chamber at 3 o'clock, when he was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-third General Assembly with the following

**SPEECH:**

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

I am happy again to meet you in your legislative capacity, and at a time generally supposed to be most convenient for the performance of your duties.

During the past summer, this Island was honored with a visit by our gracious Sovereign's third son, the Prince Arthur, and I have much satisfaction in informing you, that His Royal Highness was received with unfeigned demonstrations of enthusiastic loyalty, and his visit will, I am convinced, tend to perpetuate, in this Colony, the feeling of loyalty and attachment to our beloved Queen, and to her august family, so unmistakably evinced by all classes on that occasion.

A visit of His Excellency Sir John Young, Baronet, Governor General of British North America, preceded that of the Prince Arthur. His Excellency was accompanied by several members of His Cabinet, who availed themselves of the opportunity to discuss, informally, with members of this Government, the subject of a union of this Island with the Dominion of Canada.

Since their return to Ottawa, proposals for such an Union have been received. These proposals, together with copies of Despatches from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed to the Governor General, and to the Governor of British Columbia, bearing on the same subject, will be laid before you, and "inasmuch as they convey in earnest terms, the matured opinion of Her Majesty's Government with reference to the great scheme of confederation," I bespeak for them your calm and deliberate consideration.

Some further purchases of Township Lands have been effected, and I hope, from communications which have been received from certain absent proprietors, that other Estates may be acquired on equitable terms. Papers relating to these transactions will be laid before you.

I have much pleasure in announcing to you, that Telegraphic Communication has been completed in the manner, and to the extent, contemplated by the Act of last session. The success which has attended the establishment of the line to Alberton, induces me to direct your attention to the necessity of providing similar accommodation for the Eastern portion of the Island.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

The Public Accounts will be submitted to you. They exhibit a satisfactory state of the Revenue of the past year.

The estimates for the current year will also be laid before you. They have been framed with due regard to economy and the efficiency of the Public Service.

*Mr. President and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:*

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:*

We have great reason to be thankful to Divine Providence for the abundant returns which have rewarded the labors of our husbandmen during the past season.

Three years have now elapsed since the last general Industrial Exhibition was held in this City. Convinced of the great advantages which result from the stimulus thus applied to inventive talent, as well as to the industry of the mechanic, the manufacturer, and the cultivator of the soil,—I suggest the propriety of your organizing a similar Exhibition, to take place during the ensuing autumn.

The rapid growth of our County Towns, while it indicates increasing wealth and prosperity, points also to the necessity of making some provision for their local Government. A measure, having this object in view, will be submitted for your approval.

The large sums annually disbursed from the Treasury for Educational purposes renders it desirable to simplify the present cumbrous and expensive system of paying Teachers' Salaries. An Act for effecting this object will be laid before you.