

to proceed to England to confer with Her Majesty's Government on various questions of importance, and to conduct other negotiations on behalf of this Province. The Report of these Delegates will immediately be laid before you, and you will learn with satisfaction that a Contract has been entered into by them which, in conjunction with measures adopted by the Government of Nova Scotia, will ensure the completion of Railway Communication between Saint John and Halifax at no distant date.

"A Contract has also been completed for the construction of a Railway from Saint John to the Frontier of the United States, the works on which have already commenced and are now in progress.

"Since I last met you in Parliament, the Crown has been deprived of the services of two of its most distinguished functionaries in this Province, and I now desire to express to you my keen sense of the loss which New Brunswick has sustained in the retirement of Chief Justice Sir James Carter, and the death of Chief Justice Parker.

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"An Account of the Income and Expenditure of the past year will be laid before you. Although the Revenue was considerably less than that received in 1864, it yet exceeded the Estimate, and I am happy to inform you that, since the close of the financial year, it has steadily improved. The Estimates, which will be immediately submitted to you, have been framed with as close an attention to economy as a due regard for the exigencies of the public service and the security of the Province would permit.

*"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"I have received Her Majesty's commands to communicate to you a Correspondence on the affairs of British North America, which has taken place between Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governor General of Canada; and I am further directed to express to you the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government, that it is an object much to be desired, that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government. These papers will immediately be laid before you.

"I trust that your deliberations may tend to advance the welfare of the Province and of its people, and a pledge that this will be the case may be found in their being undertaken, as I am sure they will be, under a full sense of your grave responsibilities, and in a spirit at once of confident self-reliance and of loyal attachment to that great Empire of which New Brunswick forms a part, and her connection with which is at once her security and her pride."

Which being ended, the House of Assembly withdrew, and His Excellency was pleased to retire.

The Honorable Mr. Saunders reported His Excellency's Speech.

An Address in answer to His Excellency's Speech is moved and seconded; which being read—

ORDERED, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow.

On motion—

ORDERED, That the Journals of this House be printed daily, and that four hundred copies thereof be printed for the use of this House.